

# 4.6 Cruise

## Objective

To maintain a stable and efficient flight at cruise altitude.

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## Establishing Cruise

- Aircraft levels off at cruise altitude
  - Thrust reduces automatically
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## Autopilot & Automation

- Autopilot engaged
  - Managed speed (Mach mode typically active)
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## Cruise Speed Management

During cruise, the aircraft should remain in **Managed Speed Mode** under normal conditions.

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## Standard Procedure

- **Autopilot → ENGAGED**
- **Speed Mode → MANAGED (Mach mode)**

The aircraft automatically optimizes:

- Fuel efficiency
  - Speed profile
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## Exceptions

Selected speed may only be used if:

- **ATC assigns a specific speed**
  - Turbulence requires speed adjustment
  - Operational considerations demand deviation
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## Monitoring Duties

**Both pilots:**

- Monitor flight progress
  - Check fuel consumption
  - Verify route
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## Systems Monitoring (PM)

- ECAM parameters normal
  - Monitor Mach number and fuel consumption
  - Ensure compliance with ATC instructions
  - Detect any unexpected automation behavior
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## Navigation

- Follow programmed route
  - Monitor for deviations
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# ATC Interaction

- Maintain assigned altitude and speed
  - Respond to new clearances
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# Situational Awareness

- Monitor weather
  - Anticipate descent planning
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# Key Principles

- “Let the aircraft manage efficiency – intervene only when necessary.”
  - Stay ahead of the aircraft
  - Avoid complacency
  - Continuously cross-check systems
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Revision #2

Created 2026-03-23 15:58:03 UTC by Jonas

Updated 2026-03-23 16:03:26 UTC by Jonas