

# Sky TV Reception in Europe

This page provides approximate satellite dish sizes for good reception of Sky TV in Europe by British Ex-pats. Dish size recommendations for Sky TV reception are based on the Astra 2D 28.2E satellite footprint and reliable digital TV reception cannot be guaranteed. Information is provided in good faith and is accurate to the best of our ability.

## BBC & ITV Reception

Good reception of BBC and ITV channels on Sky digital TV is possible in northern parts of Europe, however BBC and ITV channels are transmitted on Astra 2D at 28.2E which has a reduced coverage and footprint than many other Sky TV channels. This is because BBC and ITV Astra 2D transponders provide "spot beam" coverage with a footprint specifically aimed at the UK and Ireland, giving a weak signal in southern and eastern Europe.

## Sky TV Dish Requirements

Approximate satellite dish size requirements for reception of Sky TV in Europe are given below. For the best Sky TV reception buy a Digibox which offers the best performance in weak signal areas of Southern Europe. Compliment this with a quality, high gain satellite dish and a matching low noise LNB. A lower LNB noise figure of around 0.6dB will give best results, improving reception reliability. Digibox recommendations for weak signal Sky TV reception are given below: -

### **France, Belgium and Holland**

The Sky TV footprint should provide good reception in France and Benelux countries with just a 65cm satellite dish required - even for BBC and ITV.

### **Spain & Portugal**

For northern Spain, dish size requirements for Sky TV are 1.2m, but a 1.8m - 2.4m dish (minimum) may be needed for reliable Sky TV reception in Madrid, Barcelona and Malaga. For Portugal a 1.8m dish is the recommended dish. The island of Madeira requires a large dish of approximately 3m for reliable reception of all Sky TV channels.

The best dish for an area centred on Alicante in a radius of 150KM would be a 1.8M for reasonable reception, with a 2.4m being optimum for channels such as ITV BBC1 etc, (BBC 2 is always difficult but obtainable on a 2.4M dish,) I don't include Fortec or petal dishes in that statement.

### **Switzerland & Austria**

Sky TV reception in Austria requires a 2.4m - 3m dish. In Switzerland our recommendation is to try a 1.3m satellite dish, which should provide good reception of most Astra 28.2E channels.

## **Czech Republic**

To receive Sky TV in Prague a 1.5 - 1.8m dish is required (approximately). Eastern parts of the Czech Republic require large dishes of around 3m.

## **Sweden, Norway & Denmark**

Sky TV reception is possible in Scandinavia but for BBC channels a satellite dish size of 1.2m - 1.8m is recommended in Oslo, Norway and 1.5m - 1.8m in Stockholm, Sweden. Northern Sweden and Norway will need a large dish size of 2.4m. For Denmark, the recommended satellite dish size for Sky TV reception is ~ 1.3m.

## **Greece**

A 3.5m satellite dish may provide reception of Sky Digital, although results are uncertain and unpredictable given that Greece is on the edge of the Astra 28.2E satellite footprint.

## **Italy**

Reception of Sky digital TV in Northern Italy should be possible on a 1.2m - 1.5m dish, but further south very large dish sizes are required. For Sky TV reception in Rome, satellite dish requirements may be 3m or larger. Reception in central and southern Italy may be poor or non-existent in extreme cases. Dish size recommendations vary wildly depending on location, so some trial and error may be needed to get reliable Sky TV reception, especially in poor weather. We have read that a 1m dish works in Milan.

## **Cyprus**

Good reception of BBC and ITV channels on Astra 2D requires a dish size of 4m in many parts of Cyprus. However, smaller dishes of 2m - 2.4m will receive some of the other Sky TV channels.

## **Astra 2D Satellite Footprint**

The approximate footprint of the Astra 2D satellite can be viewed here:

[http://dastv.co.uk/docs/footprint\\_map.pdf](http://dastv.co.uk/docs/footprint_map.pdf)

We have reports of reception problems with horizontal (H) polarisation Astra 2D transponders in Eastern Europe and Scandinavia including Poland and Hungary. Other problems relate to weak signal dropout of Astra 2D channels at various times of day or night in fringe reception areas.