

BELLANCA 17-30A SUPER VIKING Model Guide

The BELLANCA 17-30A SUPER VIKING is a single-engine piston aircraft with retractable gear. Registry data for the 17-30A family shows up to 4 passengers, up to 187 kt cruise and up to 750 nm range. The detailed source here is a club checklist for a Viking (N4880V) with a Continental IO-520D. Treat its figures as indicative and confirm them against the actual aircraft's POH.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Fuel is carried in four tanks, with a 61 gallon flight-plan total. Take off and land only on a main tank that is at least 5 gallons full.
- Family data shows up to 187 kt cruise and 750 nm range. The checklist table shows 164 kt at 75% power at 5,000 ft, burning 16.6 gph.
- The official POH has very little operational data for an aircraft this old. The checklist borrows from later manuals and pilot experience.
- Plugs foul if the mixture is left full rich on the ground. Lean after start and after landing to avoid a failed mag check.

ENGINE AND FUEL SYSTEM

The checklist covers a Continental IO-520D. Fuel is in two main tanks (19 gallons each, 15.5 usable) and two aux tanks (17 gallons each, 15 usable). Baffles slow filling, so fill each tank, wait a few minutes and refill until the level stops dropping. The airplane has 9 fuel sumps to drain on preflight.

GEAR, SYSTEMS AND PREFLIGHT CHECKS

Check gear linkages, hydraulic lines for leaks, limit switches and wiring, and strut inflation on both mains and the nose. Confirm three green gear lights and a working push-to-test red light. Inspect the brake lines, flap linkage, static retraction cable and tail stabilizer struts. Check engine oil, which the checklist lists as 8 quarts.

DOCUMENTATION AND RECORDS

The checklist says the official POH has little operational data, so ask what documents come with the airplane. A listing for a Bellanca Viking maintenance manual refers to 17-30a, 17-31a and 17-31atc models plus a spare parts catalog. It is poorly written, so confirm exactly what it covers.

SPECIFICATIONS

Engine Model	Continental IO-520D
Fuel Flight Plan Total Gal	61
Main Tank Capacity Gal	19
Main Tank Usable Gal	15.5
Aux Tank Capacity Gal	17
Aux Tank Usable Gal	15
Family Max Passengers	4

PERFORMANCE

Cruise 75pct 5000ft Kts	164
Cruise 75pct 5000ft Fuel Flow Gph	16.6
Family Max Cruise Speed Kts	187
Family Max Range Nm	750
Family Max Service Ceiling Ft	24000

V-SPEEDS

Vso Kts	54
Vs1 Kts	63
Vx Kts	70
Vy Kts	96
Vfe Kts	104
Vle Kts	145
Vne Kts	196
Best Glide Kts	89

SAFETY NOTES

- Do not intentionally run a tank dry. Restoring fuel flow takes time, and a dry tank calls for the emergency air restart procedure.
- If gear shows an unsafe light but three greens are lit, the checklist treats the gear as down and locked. Without three greens, use emergency extension.
- Air restart and power-loss procedures call for a minimum of 96 kt. Best glide is 89 kt.