

The History of Air Transport

KOSTAS IATROU



HERMES
AIR TRANSPORT ORGANISATION

Dedicated to my wife Evgenia and my sons George and Yianni



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Preface

Commercial aviation recently celebrated its first centennial. Over the more than 100 years since the first take off, aviation has witnessed challenges and changes that have made it a critical component of modern societies. Most importantly, air transport brings humans closer together, promoting peace and harmony through connectivity and social exchange.

A key role for Hermes Air Transport Organisation is to contribute to the development, progress and promotion of air transport at the global level. This would not be possible without knowing the history and evolution of the industry.

Once a luxury service, affordable to only a few, aviation has evolved to become accessible to billions of people. But how did this evolution occur? This book provides an updated timeline of the key moments of air transport. It is based on the first aviation history book Hermes published in 2014 in partnership with ICAO, ACI, CANSO & IATA.

I would like to express my appreciation to Professor Martin Dresner, Chair of the Hermes Report Committee, for his important role in editing the contents of the book.

I would also like to thank Hermes members and partners who have helped to make Hermes a key organisation in the air transport field.

Finally, and most importantly, this book would not have been possible without the support of my family - my wife, Evgenia, and our sons, George and Yiannis.

Dr Kostas Iatrou

Director General

Hermes – Air Transport Organisation

Statistics

INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC (SCHEDULED SERVICES)

Year	Passengers (millions)	Passenger-km (millions)	Seat-km available (millions)	Passenger load factor %	Freight tonne-km (millions)	Mail tonne-km (millions)	Total tonne-km performed (millions)	Total tonne-km available (millions)	Weight load factor %
1945		10,000							
1946		20,000							
1947		24,067			355	131	2,676		
1948		26,600			552	172	3,145		
1949		30,401			749	192	3,703		
1950		35,467	58,624	61	1,012	202	4,426	7,605	58
1951		44,334	69,380	64	1,209	233	5,428	8,671	63
1952		50,668	80,043	63	1,327	263	6,176	10,175	61
1953		59,534	96,178	62	1,393	283	6,950	11,661	60
1954		65,868	108,514	61	1,472	334	7,724	13,091	59
1955		77,268	124,225	62	1,735	374	9,030	15,305	59
1956		89,935	143,437	63	1,971	404	10,400	17,537	59
1957		103,868	169,997	61	2,155	435	11,693	20,371	57
1958		107,668	183,735	59	2,208	475	12,213	21,693	56
1959		124,135	206,548	60	2,549	526	13,989	24,542	57
1960		138,069	233,225	59	2,839	617	15,650	28,300	55
1961		148,202	268,483	55	3,259	728	17,096	33,067	52
1962	156	164,669	308,370	53	3,824	819	19,163	37,723	51
1963	174	186,241	346,173	54	4,295	870	21,520	42,530	51
1964	200	216,598	387,475	56	5,192	920	25,093	49,009	51
1965	228	250,821	447,096	56	6,630	1,112	29,760	57,562	52
1966	258	290,200	503,819	58	7,877	1,547	34,908	65,989	53
1967	300	345,918	606,874	57	9,027	1,911	41,401	81,659	51
1968	341	400,573	750,137	53	11,491	2,406	47,735	98,019	49
1969	377	445,037	862,475	52	13,513	2,548	54,991	115,286	48
1970	400	484,200	880,364	55	14,635	2,780	60,655	121,311	50
1971	430	520,031	963,020	54	16,040	2,619	64,719	132,080	49
1972	472	589,195	1,033,676	57	17,516	2,509	72,939	140,267	52
1973	513	650,471	1,121,502	58	19,775	2,599	81,108	153,033	53
1974	540	690,801	1,170,848	59	20,804	2,604	86,380	159,962	54
1975	560	733,630	1,243,441	59	20,949	2,617	90,785	168,121	54
1976	604	803,325	1,338,875	60	23,296	2,735	99,864	181,570	55
1977	640	861,164	1,411,745	61	25,555	2,866	107,553	192,059	56
1978	711	985,172	1,515,650	65	28,060	2,947	121,535	205,991	59
1979	790	1,115,215	1,689,720	66	30,304	3,091	135,755	226,258	60
1980	784	1,145,326	1,817,977	63	31,789	3,323	140,099	241,550	58
1981	788	1,176,250	1,837,890	64	33,411	3,426	144,862	249,762	58

INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC (SCHEDULED SERVICES)

Year	Passengers (millions)	Passenger-km (millions)	Seat-km available (millions)	Passenger load factor %	Freight tonne-km (millions)	Mail tonne-km (millions)	Total tonne-km performed (millions)	Total tonne-km available (millions)	Weight load factor %
1982	802	1,200,951	1,876,486	64	34,112	3,498	148,049	255,257	58
1983	836	1,251,391	1,955,298	64	37,967	3,613	156,488	260,813	60
1984	889	1,343,994	2,067,682	65	42,903	3,895	170,102	283,504	60
1985	942	1,438,073	2,178,899	66	43,074	3,977	179,118	298,529	60
1986	1,006	1,527,234	2,349,590	65	46,692	4,104	190,939	318,232	60
1987	1,077	1,670,794	2,493,722	67	52,249	4,248	209,842	344,004	61
1988	1,134	1,792,762	2,675,764	67	57,578	4,367	226,630	371,524	61
1989	1,173	1,871,643	2,752,416	68	61,839	4,576	238,868	391,587	61
1990	1,232	1,998,915	2,939,581	68	63,632	4,819	252,006	420,009	60
1991	1,200	1,946,943	2,949,914	66	63,378	4,583	247,218	419,013	59
1992	1,212	2,034,555	3,082,660	66	67,814	4,638	259,331	447,123	58
1993	1,208	2,056,936	3,164,516	65	74,121	4,726	268,408	462,772	58
1994	1,305	2,215,320	3,356,545	66	83,608	4,886	292,833	488,055	60
1995	1,380	2,372,607	3,541,205	67	90,046	5,087	314,795	524,659	60
1996	1,473	2,567,161	3,775,237	68	96,619	5,239	339,664	566,107	60
1997	1,542	2,716,056	3,936,314	69	111,402	5,412	368,536	604,157	61
1998	1,557	2,773,094	4,078,079	68	110,288	5,206	373,327	622,211	60
1999	1,654	2,953,345	4,280,210	69	117,678	5,170	396,846	661,410	60
2000	1,753	3,183,706	4,484,092	71	127,798	5,470	429,784	704,565	61
2001	1,720	3,089,899	4,464,679	69	119,874	4,803	413,153	710,100	59
2002	1,718	3,105,591	4,355,201	71	129,655	4,134	422,701	703,839	60
2003	1,773	3,162,758	4,418,693	72	136,060	4,098	433,930	724,582	60
2004	1,979	3,608,707	4,917,087	73	150,482	4,143	488,606	794,828	61
2005	2,119	3,897,404	5,200,507	75	154,244	4,213	519,388	839,812	62
2006	2,238	4,140,544	5,461,374	76	164,432	4,103	551,814	880,141	63
2007	2,434	4,480,619	5,833,780	77	172,333	4,078	588,423	938,205	63
2008	2,470	4,570,132	6,019,040	76	170,677	4,537	598,137	963,385	62
2009	2,488	4,561,413	5,948,503	77	155,819	4,620	577,747	931,795	62
2010	2,705	4,924,229	6,299,370	78	186,631	4,855	645,596	966,133	67
2011	2,870	5,248,140	6,727,814	78	187,191	5,006	677,631	1,024,558	66
2012	3,004	5,528,880	7,010,807	79	185,239	5,195	701,269	1,055,369	66
2013	3,138	5,832,564	7,338,216	79	185,975	5,586	731,033	1,093,991	67
2014	3,316	6,181,177	7,753,755	80	194,633	6,076	773,895	1,156,102	67
2015	3,556	6,644,666	8,281,130	80	197,131	6,549	821,174	1,222,698	67
2016	3,794	7,135,773	8,887,995	80	204,187	6,681	871,639	1,304,086	67
2017	4,062	7,707,118	9,477,045	81	222,996	7,449	945,904	1,385,428	68
2018	4,322	8,257,635	10,105,144	82	230,967	7,393	1,004,763	1,452,363	69

Source.— ICAO Air Transport Reporting Form A and A-S plus ICAO estimates.

1903

December

17 December | Wright brothers fly first airplane.



Source: John T. Daniels

1906

October

23 October | First flight of Santos Dumont plane 14bis in Paris.

1908

May

14 May | First airplane passenger: Charles W. Furnas, with pilot Wilbur Wright.

17 May | First use of the modern aircraft flight control system: Blériot VIII first took to the air using a joystick for elevator/aileron control, and a pivoted foot-bar for rudder control.

1909

January

7 January | First official pilot's licence issued: Issued by the Aéro Club de France, licence number 1 is issued to Louis Blériot.

March

2 March | Creation of Compagnie Générale Trans-aérienne the first French airline.

1909

Cont'd

August

| College Park Airport (KCGS), in the city of College Park, Maryland, USA is established when Wilbur Wright arrived at the field to train two military officers in the US Army.

October

16 October | The world's first commercial airline, DELAG is established.

1910

May

7 May

| First aircraft flight simulator: The aircraft manufacturer, Antoinette, completed the construction of a simulator to teach pupils to fly their monoplanes.



Source: Antoinette Aircraft Company

June

25 June

| Aero Joint Stock Company is formed.

August

27 August

| First air-to-ground and ground-to-air radio communications: Frederick Walker Baldwin and Douglas McCurdy sent a Morse radio message "Another chapter in aerial achievement is recorded in the sending of this wireless message from an aeroplane in flight" from a Curtiss biplane while in flight, which was received by a nearby ground station.

November

7 November

| The first commercial transport flight with an airplane take place when Phil O. Parmalee carried two bolts of silk on his Wright Model B from Dayton to Columbus, Ohio.

1911

January

10 January | The world's second oldest commercial airport, Hamburg Airport is born.

1912

Bucharest Baneasa Aurel Vlaicu International airport officially becomes an airport.

January | Frank E. Boland introduces his air-speed meter.

March | Heinrich Kubis begins his career as a flight attendant for DELAG.



Source: AIRSHIPS.NET

1913

Bremen Airport is established.

St. Petersburg–Tampa Airboat Line is established.

Benoist flying boat first flight.

May

13 May | The world's first four engine, the Le Grand, makes its first flight in the hands of Igor Sikorsky.

1913

Cont'd

August

30 August | Elmer A. Sperry develops the gyroscopic compass and gyroscopic stabilizer.

1914

January

1 January | In the morning, the first scheduled commercial airline flight took to the air. Taking off from St Petersburg, Florida, and flying to Tampa, the Benoist flying boat was piloted by Tony Jannus, with former mayor of St Petersburg, Abram C Pheil, as his passenger. This service ran until 5 May.



Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida

February

12 February | Sikorsky Ilya Mourometz takes off with 16 passengers aboard, marking a record for number of passengers carried.

June

30 June to 11 July | Sikorsky Ilya Mourometz sets a world record by making a trip from Saint Petersburg to Kiev and back.

1916

- Sperry Instruments Corporation introduces advanced aircraft instruments, including compass, air speed indicator, altimeter, bank indicator, angle of attack and stall warning.
- The Loughhead brothers establish the Loughhead Aircraft Manufacturing Company.
- "Giovan Battista Pastine" Ciampino airport is inaugurated on the Via Appia.

--- **March** | The First Conference of Pan-American Aeronautics recommended to the American republics that consideration be given to unifying their aerial legislation to formulate an international air code.

--- **June**
15 June | William Boeing takes Bluebill, the first B & W, on its maiden flight.



Source: Boeing

--- **July**
15 July | William Boeing incorporates Pacific Aero Products Co.

--- **August** | Airco DH.4 first flight.

--- **September**
19 September | The first military aircraft land in Schiphol marking the start of Schiphol's service as a military airfield.

--- **October**
5 October | George Holt Thomas founds the first British airline, Aircraft and Transport and Travel Ltd.

1917

--- First flight of AEG J.I.

--- **May**
9 May | William Boeing changes the name of Pacific Aero Products to the Boeing Airplane Co.

--- **December**
17 December | Deutsche Luft-Reederei (DLR) is established.

1918

--- **April**
1 April | Austria establishes the world's first regular international air connection when it opens its route between Vienna and Kiev. Initially, this serves only to transport airmail.

--- **July**
15 July | First flight of Felixstowe F5L.

--- **August**
18 August | Post Office Department launches the first regular airmail service between College Park, Md. and Chicago.

--- **October**
29 October | Det Danske Luftfartselskab A/S (DDL), SAS's Danish parent company, is founded.

--- **November**
1 November | Creation of the Société des Lignes Aériennes Latécoère.



Source: Air France

1919

- First flight of:
 - Airco DH.16.
 - Nieuport-Delage NiD 30.
 - Sablantnig P.III.

---Paris Le Bourget starts commercial operations.



Courtesy "Airports in the first 100 years of flight" (2003)

---Ernesto Cortissoz International Airport is the first airport in South America. The first commercial airline arrives in the Americas that year, SCADTA.

- January** | First flight of Farman F.60 Goliath.
- 8 January** | Civil aviation resumes in Germany.
- 31 January** | The UK Air Ministry issue its first aviation meteorological report.
- February**
- 5 February** | The world's first regular passenger airline service commences between Berlin and Weimar, operated by Deutsche Luft-Reederei (DLR).
- 8 February** | Henry Farman carries eleven paying passengers in a Farman F.60 from Paris to London on the world's first international commercial flight, initially known as the Lignes Aériennes Farman.
- 12 February** | The UK Department of Civil Aviation is formed at the Air Ministry.

- March**
- 6 March** | Lignes Aériennes Latécoère establishes the first line between Europe and Africa.
- 6 March** | A special Aeronautical Commission of the Peace Conference is formed under the auspices of the Peace Conference. At the first meeting, the Commission agrees to produce a set of basic principles in preparing the Convention and its Annexes.
- April**
- 6 April** | Customs examination of airline begins at Brussels.
- 13 April** | Vickers Vimy Commercial first flight.
- 30 April** | Civil flying in Britain is formally restored with the issue of Air Navigation Regulations in 1919, which authorise civil flying from 1 May.

- June**
- 14 to 15 June** | First non-stop transatlantic flight: John Alcock and Arthur Brown flew a Vickers Vimy from St. John's, Newfoundland, to Clifden, Ireland.
- 25 June** | Junkers F 13, the world's first all-metal transport aircraft and the world's first self-supporting cabin low-wing transport, first flight.



Source: Junkers

- 25 June** | Gordon Selfridge, founder of the Selfridge's department store, becomes the first businessman to charter an aeroplane exclusively for business use.
- July**
- 1 July** | Hounslow Heath Aerodrome begins operating scheduled international commercial services. First flight is to Paris Le Bourget.

21 July | Fokker founds Hollands' first aircraft factory: The Netherlands Aircraft Factory.

August

25 to 28 August

| Representatives of five air transport companies from Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, Norway and Sweden meet at The Hague and sign an agreement to form the International Air Traffic Association (IATA).

25 August | The world's first scheduled international service takes place when single-engine De Havilland DH4A of Air Transport and Travel flies from Hounslow to Paris carrying one passenger.



Source: British Airways

26 August | Handley Page Transport carries the first two women to fly on an airline service, between England and France.

...**October** | Fokker F.II first flight. It is the first commercial aircraft from the Fokker Aircraft Company.

7 October | Dutch Royal Airlines for the Netherlands and its Colonies (Koninklijke Luchtvaart Maatschappij voor Nederland en Koloniën | KLM) is founded.



11 October | The first airline meals are served by Handley Page Transport.

11 October | The Grand Council of Geneva votes for a 137-hectare "airfield" to be constructed in the commune of Meyrin.

13 October | The International Air Convention (Paris Convention) is signed by 27 states and lays down the principles and rules for air traffic, which would serve as the basis for uniform international regulations and the creation of an International Commission for Air Navigation (ICAN).

30 October | The UK Advisory Committee on Civil Aviation recommends the establishment of certain main trunk routes connecting Canada, Newfoundland, South Africa, India, Australia and New Zealand to the UK by air.

...**November** | Air Transport and Travel and Compagnie générale transaérienne join forces to operate London-Paris services.

...**December** | The Handley Page Type W is introduced on the London to Paris route and becomes the first civil airliner with a lavatory to be used on a regular passenger service.

2 December | Handley Page Type W first flight.

5 December | Sociedad Colombo Alemana de Transporte Aéreo, SCADTA is founded.

6 December | The first experimental airmail flight in China takes place between Peking and Tientsin (now called Beijing and Tianjin) with a Handley Page.

10 December | The first flight from the UK to Australia is completed when Ross and Keith Smith land their Vickers Vimy at Darwin.

27 December | The Boeing Airplane Co. B-1 mail plane, the first Boeing-designed commercial aircraft, makes its first flight.

1920

- Aero Rt. is merged with MAEFORT in Hungary.
- DDL is listed on the Copenhagen Stock Market.

---January

- 7 January** | The Boeing BB-1 seaplane makes its first flight.

---February

- 25 February** | Alan A. Griffith's analysis of the process of brittle fracture is published.
- 25 February** | Croydon Airport is the first airport in the world to introduce air traffic control.



Source: NATS

---March

- | Handley Page Transport in Cricklewood installs the first radio direction-finding equipment in an aircraft.
- 29 March** | London's airport is moved from Hounslow Heath to the much larger and better equipped airfield of Croydon Aerodrome.

---April

- 23 April** | La Compagnie Franco-Roumaine is established.

---May

- 17 May** | Air Transport and Travel, together with KLM, inaugurate Croydon to Amsterdam service.

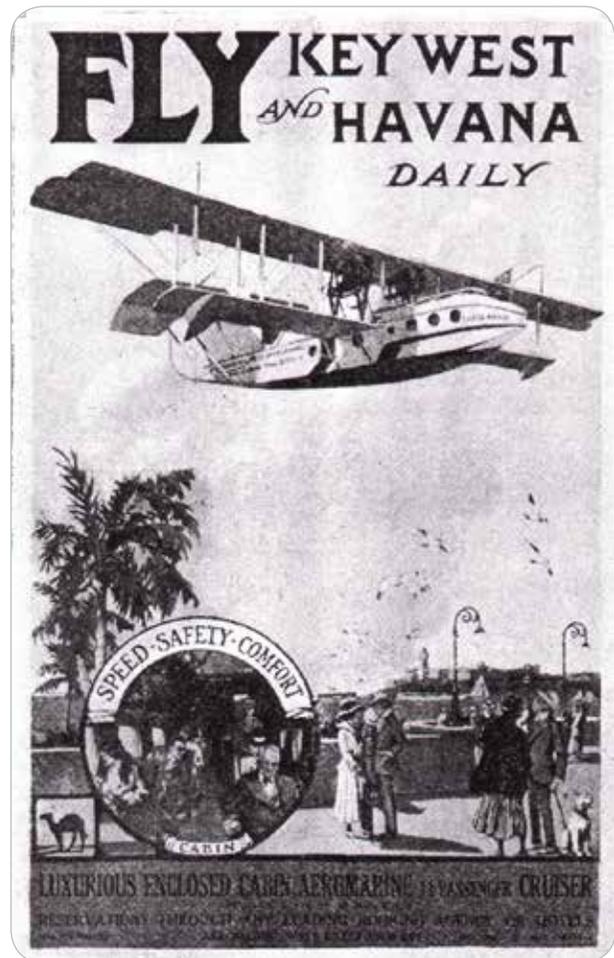
---July

- 1 July** | Belgium establishes the first internal air service in any European colony with the Lara-Ligne Aérienne Roi Albert in the Belgian Congo.
- 22 July** | Donald W. Douglas and David R. Davis form the Davis Douglas Co.

- September** | Geoffrey de Havilland creates the de Havilland Aircraft Company.

---November

- 1 November** | The U.S. Post Office awards a contract for the first international airmail to Aeromarine. In addition, Aeromarine becomes the first scheduled U.S. international passenger airline (Key West to Havana).



- 16 November** | Papers formally establishing Queensland and Northern Territory Aerial Services Ltd (Qantas) are signed.
- 19 November** | Sydney Airport is founded by Nigel Love.
- December**
- 12 December** | Air Transport and Travel cease its operations.
- 12 December** | Blériot-SPAD S.33 first flight.

1921

....**January** | The first automatic pilot system, known as the Aveline Stabilizer, is installed in a British aircraft by Handley Page Transport.

....**February**

24 February | The first wholly Douglas-designed, Douglas-built aircraft, The Cloudster, makes its first flight. It is the first airplane to lift a useful load exceeding its own weight.



Source: Boeing

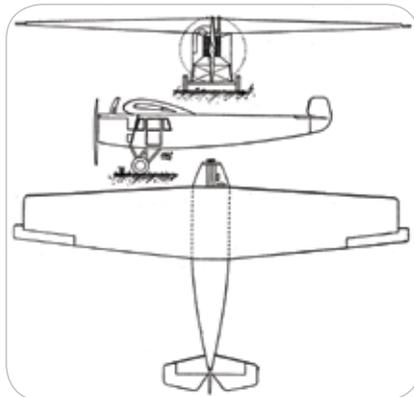
28 February | Due to subsidised European competition, all British airlines cease operations.

....**March**

19 March | A temporary UK government subsidy is granted, enabling British air services to restart. Handley Page Transport operates the first subsidised London to Paris service.

....**April**

| Fokker F.III first flight.



Source: Les Ailes newspaper

....**June**

1 June | Air to ground traffic control is established, when air patrols report information to the police and the Automobile Association on Derby Day.

8 June | A USD-9A, a modified Airco DH.9A, flies with a pressurised compartment in place of the original one cockpits.

16 June | Blériot-SPAD S.46 first flight.

....**Summer**

| First flight of Dornier Komet I.

....**July**

| Donald W. Douglas incorporates The Douglas Co.

....**August**

| First in-flight movie. Aeromarine shows a movie promoting Chicago (HOWDY CHICAGO).

....**Late**

| Airco DH.9C first flight.

....**December**

| Aeromarine: World's first airline baggage label.



The only preserved copy of Aeromarine West Indies Airways' baggage label from December 1920 the world's first. Removed from an old suitcase in the 1940s, its original background colour was light blue. (Image from "Nostalgia Panamericana" by Don Thomas, 1987)

1922

...Experimental Design Bureau Tupolev is established headed by Andrey N. Tupolev.

...First permanent airport and commercial terminal solely for commercial aviation opens at Flughafen Deauville.



Courtesy "Airports in the first 100 years of flight" (2003)

January

1 January | Instone introduces uniforms for pilots and staff, believed to be the first airline service uniforms.

April

2 April | The Daimler Airway begins operations from Croydon to Paris using 'cabin boys' on their aircraft.

7 April | The first airliner collision takes place when a French Farman Goliath of Grands Express flies into the path of a de Havilland DH.18 operated by Daimler Airways. Traffic density leads to a mid-air collision. Flying rules become a necessity.

May

| Radio Position Fixing used in Croydon Airport-based procedure is approved by the Air Ministry with associated NOTAM. This is a new system using aircraft radio transmissions to fix an aircraft's position- an essential first step in establishing a radio based global air navigation network. G.J.H "Jimmy" Jeffs, Croydon Civilian Air Traffic Officer, is one of the great innovators in developing the new discipline. Issued with Air Traffic Control Licence No.1.

June

9 June | The first airliner night flight is made

by Grands Express, from Le Bourget in France to Croydon.

July

11 July | International Air Convention and ICAN enter into force.



Source: ICAO

August

27 August | Passengers on a flight from Geneva to Paris can hear a concert broadcast by radio on board.

October

2 October | The need for a register classifying aircraft is encouraged by the French Government by a Decree which instructs the Bureau Veritas to exercise technical control in construction and operation of French civil aircraft.

November

12 November | Franco-Roumaine inaugurates the first transcontinental air passenger service: Paris – Strasbourg – Prague – Warsaw – Vienna – Budapest – Belgrade – Bucharest (Baneasa) – Istanbul.



Source: www.timetableimages.com

1923

...First flight of Farman F.120.

...Construcciones Aeronauticas S.A. (CASA) is founded.

...Fred Mockford, Croydon's Senior Radio Officer, coined the distress phrase "Mayday, Mayday, Mayday".

...Boston Municipal Airport's, now Boston-Logan's, first runways are laid down in a T-shape, a first in runway design.

...The first airport building at Brussels is built of wooden packing cases. In December of the same year, Sabena receives permission to build a new airport terminal. [1]

March

17 March | Open joint stock "DOBROLET" (The Russian Society for Voluntary Air Fleet) is established.

May

23 May | Sabena is founded.

June

23 June | Handley Page Transport Ltd carries 79 passengers in one day.

July

30 July | de Havilland DH.50 first flight.

August

21 August | Ground-mounted electric beacons are first used in USA to illuminate flight direction.

September

12 September | The charter establishing the company Aero O/Y is signed in Helsinki.

October

6 October | Czechoslovak State Airlines is founded.



[1] Courtesy "Airports in the first 100 years of flight" (2003)

1924

...The Huff Daland Dusters crop-dusting operation, a predecessor to Delta Air Lines, is founded in Macon, Ga. This is the world's first commercial agricultural flying company.

...A four-passenger DH.50 with an enclosed cabin is introduced by Qantas on the Charleville-Cloncurry run, marking the introduction of post-war commercial aircraft to Australia.

March

31 March | Imperial Airways is incorporated. The new airline is formed from the fleets of The Instone Airline Limited, The Daimler Airway, Handley Page Transport Limited and British Marine Air Navigation Co Ltd (operating a Southampton to Guernsey flying boat service).

April

11 April | Fokker F-VII first flight.

23 April | Stout 2-AT Pullman first flight, the first all-metal aircraft certified in America.

May

5 May | The German airline Deutsche Aero Lloyd establishes a partnership with the Colombian company Sociedad Colombo

– Alemana de Transporte Aéreo – SCADTA to create the Condor Syndikat.

26 May

| Tupolev ANT-2 first flight. The first domestic all-metal aircraft.



Source: Tupolev

June

2 June

| AB Aerotransport (ABA) commences operations.

July

1 July

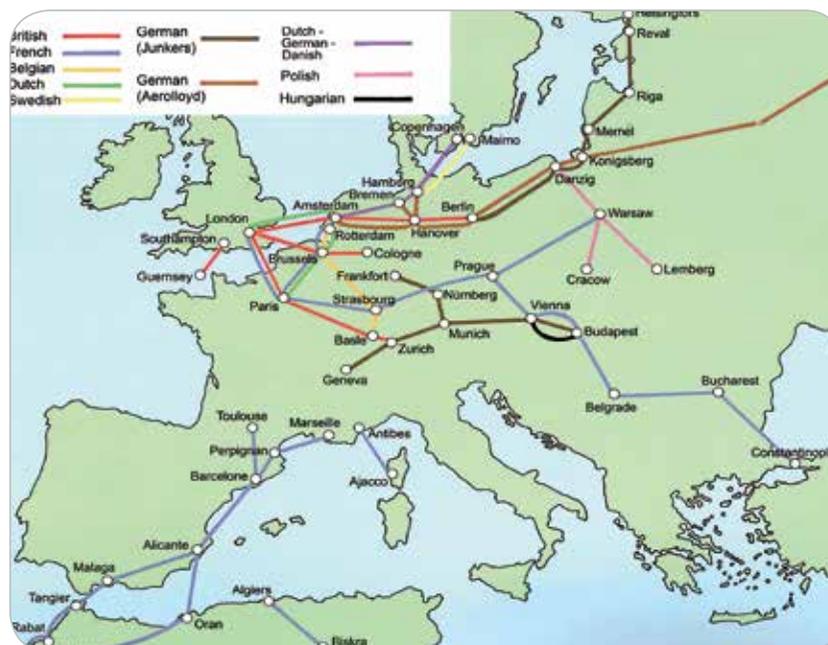
| The U.S. Post Office Department opens regular day-and-night air-mail service between New York and San Francisco.

August

October

1 October

| KLM initiates its first intercontinental flight, from Amsterdam to Batavia (Colonial Jakarta) in a Fokker F-VII.



Source: Dana Bell, 2008, *European Air Services*

1925

---First flight of Fokker Universal.

---Cleveland Airport (CLE) opens and becomes the first municipal airport in the U.S.

February

2 February | The U.S. Air Mail Act, commonly known as the Kelly Act, provides for transportation of mail based on contracts between the Post Office Department and individual air carriers.

10 February | Dornier Merkur I first flight.

March

| A number of German airlines begin to offer in-flight movies in the shape of short single-reel silent films projected onto a small screen at the front of the cabin.

18 to 19 March

| The 13th General Meeting of the International Air Traffic Association (IATA) reviews the excessive formalities and restrictions imposed by European Customs Administrations with respect to aircraft operating international services and concludes that this situation greatly hampers the development of commercial aviation. A Resolution is adopted to approach the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) with a view to securing its collaboration toward the removal of these difficulties. Also adopted, a Resolution indicating that children under three years of age will be carried free, provided that such children are taken on the knees of the passenger who accompanies them and do not occupy a separate seat.

April

16 April | The Mayor of Atlanta signs a five-year lease on an abandoned auto racetrack and commits the City to developing it into an airfield. Flights are operational in 1926. [1]

20 April | Copenhagen Airport is inaugurated.

Mid

| Junkers G 24 first flight.



Source: Atlanta airport

July

6 July | First Douglas mail plane, the M-1, starts manufacturer's flight trials.

7 July | The Boeing Model 40 mail plane makes its first flight.



Source: Boeing

13 July | Western Air Express is founded in Los Angeles.

August

25 to 26 August

| The 14th General Meeting of the International Air Traffic Association (IATA) concludes that there is a need to collaborate with international institutions interested in matters pertaining to the development of scheduled international air transport services.

October

27 October

to 6 November

| The First International Conference of Private Air Law is convened in Paris to examine the question of the responsibility of the airlines and to undertake the immense work of the coding of private air law; the final protocol of this Conference asks for the creation of a special committee of experts (Comité International Technique d'Experts Juridiques Aériens, C.I.T.E.J.A.).

1926

....First flight of Buhl Airster C-A3.

....“Radio operators” are put in charge of radio transmissions.

....Sleeper seats are introduced by Luft Hansa, known as the “flying sleeping car”, on trunk routes from Berlin to London, Malmo and Vienna.

....January

6 January | Founding of “Deutsche Luft Hansa AG”.

25 January | Stinson Detroiter first flight.

....March

13 March | Alan Alan Cobham completes Imperial Airways’ route survey that began on 16 November with a flight from the UK to Cape Town and back in the Armstrong Siddeley Jaguar-powered DH.50J G-EBF0. The outward flight was London – Paris – Marseille – Pisa – Taranto – Athens – Sollum – Cairo – Luxor – Assuan – Wadi Halfa – Atbara – Khartoum – Malakal – Mongalla – Jinja – Kisumu – Tabora – Abercorn – Ndola – Broken Hill – Livingstone – Bulawayo – Pretoria – Johannesburg – Kimberley – Blomfontein – Cape Town.



Source: British Airways

....May

20 May | U.S. President signs into law the Air Commerce Act, which places the administration of commercial aeronautics under the Department of Commerce.

31 May | The International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA) is founded.

....June

11 June | The Ford Trimotor makes its first flight.

....August

11 August | The “US Airways Division” is created - an early form of an ATS Department.

....September

1 September | Col. Lewis Brittin founds Northwest Airways.

30 September | de Havilland DH.66 Hercules first flight.

....October

| The Ibero-American Convention (also called the Madrid Convention) is created.

1 October | Alan Cobham completes 28,000 miles in 78 days with 320 hours flying time. He left Melbourne on 29 August.

....November

2 November | Northwest introduces nation’s first closed-cabin commercial plane: the 3-passenger Stinson Detroiter.

....**December** | Allan Lockheed officially forms the Lockheed Aircraft Company.

7 December | The first airway light beacon erected by the Aeronautics Branch begins operation.

7 December | The U.S. Aeronautics Branch makes its first official airworthiness inspection of an American aircraft.

27 December | Imperial Airways DH.66 Hercules leaves Croydon for a survey flight to India. The flying time from Croydon to Delhi was 62 hours 27 minutes.

31 December | The first Air Commerce Regulations of the Aeronautics Branch, U.S. Department of Commerce, become effective. The regulations require all aircraft engaged in interstate or foreign commerce to be licensed and marked with an assigned identification number. Commercial pilots are classed as either transport or industrial.

1927

...Light beacons are installed. Permanent tracks for navigation start to be established.

...Western is the first U.S. airline to pay a cash dividend to stockholders.

February

18 to 19

February

| The 17th AGM of the International Air Traffic Association (IATA) adopts the first standard format of an international air ticket and consignment note (air waybill).

March

14 March

| Pan American World Airways is founded.

29 March

| The Aeronautics Branch issues Aircraft Type Certificate No. 1 to the Buhl Airster C-A3.

April

28 April

| Spirit of St. Louis first flight.

May

1 May

| The luxury Silver Wing launches service to Paris. Service is introduced by Imperial Airways with a comfortable recognisable airliner cabin, a four-course luncheon and a bar service.

4 May

| Det Norske Luftfartselskap A/S (DNL), SAS's Norwegian parent company is founded.

20 to 21 May

| Charles A. Lindbergh makes the first nonstop solo flight across the Atlantic in an airplane, a Ryan monoplane dubbed the Spirit of St. Louis. He flew from Roosevelt Field, Long Island, N.Y., to Le Bourget Field, Paris, France, in 33 hours 29 minutes.



Source: Wordpress.com

June

4 to 5 June

| Charles A. Levine becomes the first person to cross the Atlantic by airplane as a passenger when he flies nonstop between New York and Germany.

15 June

| U.S. businessman Van Lear Black chartered a KLM Fokker F.VIIa for a flight from the Netherlands to Batavia, the first international charter flight.

28 June

| Iberia, Compania Aérea de Transporte, is formally founded.

30 June

| Boeing Air Transport (BAT), predecessor to United Airlines, is founded.

30 June

| The U.S. Aeronautics Branch announces that its first airways strip map is available for purchase.

September

1 September

| American Railway Express and major airlines begin air cargo express operations.

1 to 10

September

| First International Air Post Congress. This Conference results in an agreement that establishes airline companies as officially-recognized carriers of mail. Another provision agreed upon is that par avion labels should have a blue colour.

10 September

| The first rapid transit station to connect an airport with a mass transit system is the Berlin U-Bahn's and is built to provide direct access to Berlin Tempelhof Airport.

October

| Imperial Airways introduces second class travel on the Paris route without cabin service and with a slower flying time.

28 October

| Pan American Airways begins regular airmail service between Key West and Havana. It is also the first U.S. airline to operate land aircraft over water on a regular schedule.

...Pan American is the first U.S. airline to develop an airport and airways traffic control system, the first U.S. airline to carry emergency life-saving equipment, and the first U.S. airline to order and purchase aircraft built to its own specifications, with the Sikorsky S-38 flying boat.

...The world's first airport hotel opens at London Croydon Airport. It is called The Aerodrome Hotel.

February

14 February | The first Short S.8 Calcutta flying boat G-EBVG built for Imperial Airways makes its first flight at Rochester.

19 February | Marga von Etzdorf becomes the first female co-pilot at Luft Hansa.

20 February | The Pan American Convention on Air Navigation (also called the Havana Convention) is signed in Havana, with clauses that largely enable US-owned airlines to freely operate services within North and South America. This Pan-American Agreement is a certain success. Signed by 21 States; it is ratified by 16 of them.

May

25 May | Sikorsky S-38 first flight.

27 May | Winnipeg Airport opens. This is Canada's first international airport.



Source: Western Canada Aviation Museum

31 May to 9 June

| Australian pilots Charles E. Kingsford-Smith and Charles T. P. Ulm, make the first transpacific crossing by air. They fly from Oakland, Calif., to Brisbane, Australia, with stopovers at Hawaii and the Fiji Islands, in a modified Fokker F.VII.

June

17 to 18 June | Wilmer Stultz pilots a pontoon-equipped Fokker from Newfoundland to Wales on the first nonstop transatlantic flight by a seaplane. He is accompanied by a mechanic and by Amelia Earhart, the first woman transatlantic air passenger.

30 June | The U.S. Commerce Department's Aeronautics Branch establishes a five-member Aircraft Accident Board and succeeds in developing a practical radio navigation beacon system.

July

1 July | The U.S. Commerce Department begins using teletype machines to transmit aviation weather information.

27 July | Irish-born aviator Mary, Lady Heath is appointed as a co-pilot with KLM.

September

18 September | The Graf Zeppelin, the most successful rigid airship ever built, makes its first flight.

28 September | First flight of Consolidated Commodore.

October

1 October | Newark, the first major airport in the New York metropolitan area, opens.

December

29 December | A single, self-governing, state enterprise is founded and named LOT Airlines Ltd. (Linje Lotnicze LOT Sp. z o.o.)

- ...The Link Trainer, the first electro-mechanical flight simulator, was invented.
- ...William Green develop the first automatic pilot used on an airliner.
- ...IATA has grown from the original five members to 23 airlines. In 1929 five committees exist: Legal, Postal, Radiotelegraphic, Traffic and Cash Examination.
- ...UPS becomes the first package delivery company to provide air service.
- ...The city of St Louis hires the first U.S. air traffic controller. Archie League - pioneers the world of ATC with a red and a checkered flag.

...January

- 30 January** | Inter-Island Airways is incorporated (predecessor of Hawaiian Airlines).

...March

- 5 March** | Linea Aerea Nacional de Chile (LAN) is founded.
- 30 March** | Imperial Airways inaugurates its first through service from Britain to India (Karachi).

...June

- 17 June** | Delta's first passenger flight carries one pilot and up to five passengers.

...July

- 7 July** | Transcontinental Air Transport, becomes the first airline to offer coast-to-coast travel, with combination air-and-rail service.
- 12 July** | Chief Pilot Richard Wagner takes off for the first flight with the Dornier Do X.



Source: German Federal Archives - Georg Pahl

...August

- 8 to 29 August** | The Graf Zeppelin made the first round-the-world flight by a rigid airship, leaving from and returning to Lakehurst, N.J., in 21 days 7 hours 34 minutes.

...September

- | KLM starts regular, scheduled service between Amsterdam and Batavia. Until the outbreak of the Second World War, this was the world's longest-distance scheduled service.
- 12 September** | 18-passenger Boeing Model 80A makes its first flight.
- 24 September** | At Mitchel Field, N.Y., Army Lt. James H. Doolittle becomes the first pilot to use only instrument guidance to take-off, fly a set course, and land.

...October

- 1 October** | Allocation of radio frequencies by the U.S. Federal Radio Commission clear the way for air transport companies to develop a communications network supplementing Federal facilities.
- 8 October** | Cubana is founded.
- 12 October** | Warsaw Convention, formally entitled Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules Relating to International Carriage by Air, is signed by 23 States. This convention establishes the international liability for air carriers and the monetary limits for damage, delay and loss.
- 21 October** | A record flight with 169 people on board is made with a Dornier Do X (it took 20 years to break this record).

...December

- 18 December** | The first IATA International Scheduling Conference to coordinate airline schedules and to standardize scheduling information is held in Berlin.

1930

- ...The first airplane kitchen is invented (patented) by Werner Sell (Georg Robert Werner Sell) of Germany.
- ...A sound-locator acoustic system for detection of aircraft in-flight is developed.
- ...Mexicana becomes the first international airline to unite two foreign destinations: Brownsville and Guatemala.
- ...Pan American is the first U.S. airline to offer international air express service.
- ...TWA is the first airline:
 - to require that its pilots have a flight plan, flight log, flight clearance and cockpit check lists.
 - to fly four-engine aircraft, when the Fokker F-32 is put into scheduled service.
 - to organize a weather department and employ a professional meteorologist.
 - to develop the first automatic trailing wire antenna release device and first the elastic decible radio beacon antenna.
- ...Western uses the first directional radio compass for air navigation, and with the Boeing Aircraft Company, develops and uses the first air-to-ground radio.
- ...The world's first radio-equipped Air Traffic Control Tower regulating arrivals, departures and surface movement of aircraft at a specific airport, opens in Cleveland. Also the first runway lighting appears at Cleveland Municipal Airport.
- ...Burbank California Airport is inaugurated - one of the first examples of the 'simple terminal' design, with a standalone building separated from the hangars.



Source: Burbank Bob Hope Airport

May

15 May

| Ellen Church, a registered nurse, joins the crew of the Boeing Model 80A headed to San Francisco. She is the first world's female flight attendant.



Source: Boeing

15 May

| The U.S. Department of Commerce requires airlines to obtain a certificate of authority to operate if they engage in interstate passenger service.

October

13 October

| Junkers Ju 52/1m first flight.

25 October

| TWA is the first airline to offer all-air transcontinental service lasting 36 hours, with an overnight stop in Kansas City.

November

14 November

| Handley Page H.P.42 first flight.

December

5 December

| Fokker F.XII first flight.

31 December

| Airworthiness regulations for aircraft components and accessories become effective in U.S.

1931

...First flight of Lockheed Model 9 Orion, the first airliner to have retractable landing gear.

...Airport codes are introduced. The airports with two-letter weather station codes receive an X on the end (LA becomes LAX and Portland's PD becomes PDX), and every subsequent airport is given three letters.

...Although there is only one passenger fare on a given route, a round trip discount is introduced.

...Pan American is the first U.S. airline to develop and operate four-engine flying boats, its first Clippers, Sikorsky S-40 fleet.

February

12 February | An amendment to existing regulations in the US covering interstate airline operations requires a co-pilot on all aircraft flying a schedule of five or more hours with eight or more passengers.

21 February | In Peru, a pilot of Faucett Aviation transport is forced to deviate from his planned flight path under threat from a passenger with a weapon. This is the first recorded hijacking.

24 February | Short S17 Kent first flight.

March

26 March | Swissair is formed following the merger of Balair and Ad Astra.

28 March | Boeing Air Transport, National Air Transport, Varney Airlines and Pacific Air Transport combine as United Air Lines, providing coast-to-coast passenger service and mail service. It takes 27 hours to fly the route, one way.

June

11 June | The Handley Page H.P.42 four-engine bi-plane, a notable aircraft, is introduced by Imperial Airways on the Croydon to Paris route.



Source: British Airways

14 June

| Aerovias Nacionales de Colombia S.A. - Avianca is constituted as a result of the merger of SCADTA and the Servicio Aéreo Colombiano - SACO.

July

| David Behncke meets with 24 "key men" in Chicago to officially form ALPA.

August

6 August

| TWA is the first airline to inaugurate cargo service, with a shipment of livestock from St. Louis to Newark.

7 August

| Sikorsky S-40 first flight.

14 August

| Tupolev ANT-14 first flight. It has been credited as Russia's first all-metal aircraft, with a corrosion-resistant-steel structure.



Source: Wikipedia

October

1 October

| The U.S. Department of Commerce promulgates a regulation prescribing a cockpit crew complement of two, a pilot and co-pilot, on all scheduled air transports capable of carrying fifteen or more passengers or having a gross takeoff weight of 15,000 pounds or more.

1932

...The company that ultimately becomes Alaska Airlines is born when Linious "Mac" McGee paints "McGee Airways" on the side of a three-passenger Stinson and starts flying out of Anchorage.



Source: Alaska Airlines

...Pan American becomes the first airline to sell all-expense international air tour packages.

...RAF Sharjah opens. It is the first airport in the UAE and the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, and is used by Imperial Airways.

February

25 February | The Central Administration of the Civil Air Fleet is founded and "Aeroflot" is adopted as the official abbreviation of the country's civil aviation service.

April

| Junkers Ju 52/3m first flight. [1]

30 April | The International Aeronautical Q Code, used in air traffic communications throughout the world, is established at a meeting in London, U.K.

May

7 May | Egyptair is established.

9 May | Capt. A. F. Hegenberger flies without a check pilot to make the first blind solo flight on instruments only, at Dayton, Ohio.

21 May | Western is the first airline with airborne television reception (a one-time event). The broadcast, from an experimental TV station, features a then unknown actress named Loretta Young.

June

6 June | Armstrong Whitworth Atalanta A.W.15 first flight.

30 June | Fokker F.XVIII first flight.

October

4 October | Kharkov KhAI-1's first flight. It is the first European passenger transport aircraft to feature retractable undercarriage.

November

24 November | de Havilland Dragon DH.84 first flight.



[1] Source: Kostas Iatrou

1933

...A code for seat reservations comes into general use.

...TWA is the first airline to develop and use advanced “flight planning” for every flight, based on a thorough analysis of weather and overall operating conditions.

...January

3 January | Curtiss T-32 Condor II first flight.

...February

8 February | First flight of Boeing Model 247.



Source: Boeing

13 February | The Warsaw convention of 1929 comes into force.

19 February | Vultee V-1 first flight.

...April

12 April | The first International Sanitary Convention for Aerial Navigation is signed at The Hague (without a conference) to protect communities against diseases liable to be imported by aircraft and to protect flying personnel against diseases due to flying.

...May

15 to 29 May | The Third International Conference on Private Air Law meets in Rome. This conference adopts two conventions, as follows:

- The Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules Relating to Damage Caused by Foreign Aircraft to Third Parties on the Surface;
- The Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules Relating to the Precautionary Arrest of Aircraft.

20 May

| The “State Airlines Administration” operating under the supervision of the Ministry of National Defense is established.

...July

1 July

| The first Douglas airliner, the DC-1, makes its first flight.

1 July

| Air France and Deutsche Luft Hansa inaugurate a twice-weekly pool service across the South Atlantic as the volume of airmail continues to grow.

11 July

| Dewoitine D.332 first flight.

...August

18 August

| Short Scion first flight.

...October

7 October

| Air France is officially inaugurated at Paris-Le Bourget Airport.

...December

| The only Douglas DC-1 ever built is delivered to TWA.



Source: Boeing

1934

...First flight of Savoia-Marchetti S.73.

...IATA replaces a preliminary emblem with a new one, representing more adequately the aeronautical, peaceful and international character of IATA's work.

...An International Air Guide reassures its readers that "no special clothing is required" for flight.

...TWA is the first airline to cooperate with the Civil Aeronautics Administration to develop and install an ultra-high-frequency blind-landing system. TWA, with the Goodrich Rubber Co., develops the rubber wing de-icer and the rubber propeller de-icer overshoe. TWA is the first to adopt the Sperry automatic pilot as standard equipment to reduce pilot fatigue.

...January

14 January | de Havilland Express DH.86 first flight.

30 January | Junkers Ju 160 first flight.

...February

1 February | South Africa Airways begin operations.

19 February | Wideroes Flyveselskap AS is founded.

23 February | Lockheed Electra L-10 first flight, the first airliner to be pressurized.



Source: National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, Lockheed Y1C-36 Fact Sheet Media

...March

30 March | Sikorsky S-42, the Flying Clipper, first flight.

...April

17 April | de Havilland Dragon Rapide DH.89 first flight.

...May

11 May | The Douglas DC-2 makes its first flight.

19 May | Tupolev ANT-20 Maksim Gorky first flight, has a wingspan of 63 meters.

...June

12 June | The U.S. President signs the Air Mail Act of 1934 into law.

...July

1 July | The name of the U.S. Aeronautics Branch is changed to Bureau of Air Commerce.

28 July | First air hostesses in Europe employed by Swissair.

...September

1 September | Formation date of the Mexican airline Aeromexico.

13 September | Following a conclusive demonstration of an Army Air Corps' blind-landing system, the U.S. Bureau of Air Commerce adopts that system as its standard.

...October

1 October | Revised safety requirements for airlines become effective. The new provisions include the requirement for airline pilots to use multi-engine aircraft capable of operating with one engine not functioning when flying at night or over terrain not readily permitting emergency landings. Instrument or "blind" flying is permitted only for multi-engine airliners equipped with a two-way radio.

...November

18 November | The Air Transport Association of Canada (ATAC) is established.

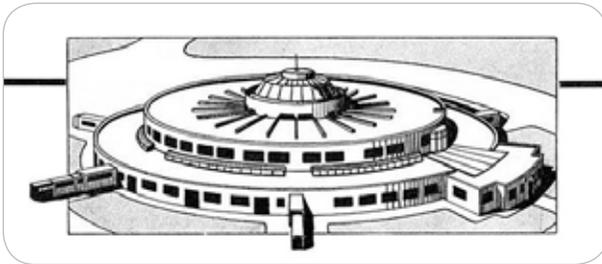
...December

30 December | First flight of Martin M-130.

31 December | Helen Richey becomes the first woman to pilot a regular civil flight taking a Central Airlines Ford Trimotor on the Washington to Detroit route.

1935

- ...TWA is the first to place combination lounge-sleeper planes into service.
- ...Pan American is the first airline to develop and employ long-range weather forecasting.
- ...Amelia Earhart dedicates the Newark Airport Administration Building, North America's first commercial airline terminal. The airport has one of the US's first runways with lighting, which permits night-time operations.
- ...Gatwick Railway station and the Beehive terminal (the world's first circular terminal building) are built.



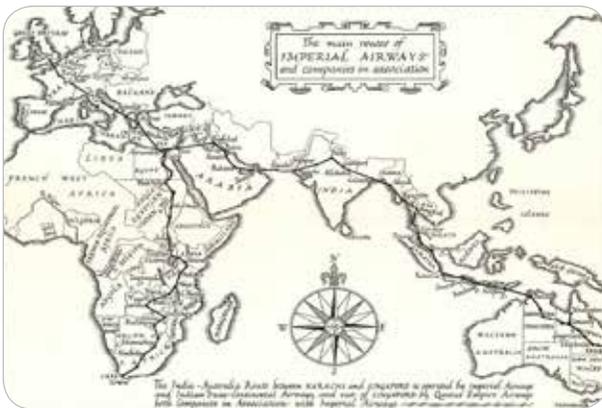
Source: <http://www.controltowers.co.uk>

January

- 17 January** | Latécoère 521, a six-engine flying boat, and one of the first large trans-Atlantic passenger aircraft, makes its first flight.

April

- 13 April** | Imperial Airways and Qantas Empire Airways open the London to Brisbane (Kangaroo route) route for passengers. The frequency of service is weekly and the journey time, 12½ days.



Source: www.timetableimages.com

June

- 1 June** | Sikorsky S-43 first flight.

Summer

- | First In-flight sound motion picture: Central Airlines, en-route from Washington DC to Pittsburgh.

November

12 to 14

November

- | Representatives of all segments of the aviation community, except manufacturers, meet at the Commerce Building in Washington, D.C., with Bureau of Air Commerce officials to discuss airway traffic control. Director of Air Commerce, Vidal, convinces the airline operators to establish airway traffic control immediately and promises that in 90 to 120 days the Bureau of Air Commerce would take over the operations.

22 November

- | The Martin M-130, dubbed the China Clipper by customer Pan American, makes the first ever scheduled transpacific flight between San Francisco and Manila (arrived 29 November).

29 November

- | The U.S. Bureau of Air Commerce, in cooperation with industry, develops a device for elimination of propeller ice.

December

1 December

- | A consortium of airline companies organize and man the first airway traffic control center at Newark, N.J. It provides information to airline pilots on the whereabouts of airborne planes in the Newark vicinity during weather conditions requiring instrument flying.

17 December

- | The Douglas Sleeper Transport (DST) makes its first flight. This aircraft is the immediate forerunner of the famous DC-3.

1936

....IATA members agree on the conditions and procedures for what may be the first inclusive tour fare. They also set agents' commissions at 5%, and 3% for hotel concierges - a major business source.

....U.S. FAA issues the following regulation: Before obtaining approval for operation, an applicant operating an airplane with two piston engines is required to show that intermediate fields available for safe take-offs and landings are located at least at 100-mile intervals along the proposed route.

....Calendar year, 1936: For the first time in history, U.S. domestic airlines carry a million or more passengers (1,042,042) in scheduled air operations.

....January

3 January | Air Transport Association of America, Inc. (ATA) is founded.

....March

4 March | Rigid airship Hindenburg makes its first flight.

24 March | A new era begins for Kai Tak as an airport for public transportation.

....April

15 April | Aer Lingus is founded.

....May

9 May | The German rigid airship Hindenburg moors at Lakehurst, N.J., after a non-stop transatlantic passage of 61 hours 38 minutes from Friedrichshafen. The flight marks the inauguration of regularly scheduled transatlantic air service.

....June

6 June | The Socony-Vacuum Oil Company begins using the catalytic cracking method to produce aviation gasoline.

25 June | American is the first airline to fly the Douglas DC-3 in commercial service.

....July

4 July | Short Empire's first flight.

6 July | The U.S. Bureau of Air Commerce takes over the first air traffic control centers at Newark, Chicago, and Cleveland.

8 July | Frankfurt Rhein-Main Airport is officially opened.

30 July | H.M.'s government announces its plans for North Atlantic air services. The British nominated company is Imperial Airways. Preference is given for a direct route from the UK via Ireland, Newfoundland and Canada.

....August

7 August | The Air Ministry officially licenses Traigh Mhor/Barra Airport as an airfield. The airport is unique, being the only one in the world where scheduled flights use a beach as the runway.



Source: Kostas Iatrou

....October

21 October | Pan American Airways initiates regular weekly transpacific passenger service as the Hawaii Clipper takes off from Alameda arriving at Manila on 27 October.

....December

| United opens the industry's first flight kitchen at Oakland, Calif.

1937

---ATC equipment upgrades - radio locators, paper flight strips, teletypes etc.

---February

16 February | American carries its one-millionth passenger.

22 February | The British Air Ministry issues Pan American Airways a permit to operate a regular air service between the United Kingdom and the United States via intermediate points in Canada, Bermuda, Ireland and Portugal (Azores/Lisbon).

---April

2 April | SAAB is founded.

28 April | The Pan American Hong Kong Clipper, a Sikorsky S-42B flying boat, arrives at Hong Kong from Manila. Linking with the existing Pan Am route from San Francisco to Manila, this new service completes the first commercial airline route from the United States to a point close to the Asian mainland.

---May

6 May | The Hindenburg disaster occurs when the German dirigible Hindenburg catches fire and is destroyed. The tragedy signals the end of serious efforts to use rigid airships in commercial air transportation.

7 May | The first flight by a fully pressurized airplane, the Lockheed XC-35, occurs.

29 May | Grumman G-21 Goose first flight.

---June

16 June | Imperial Airways and Pan American open joint Bermuda to New York services. Imperial Airways flies from Bermuda to New York and Pan Am flies New York to Bermuda. This is the first scheduled airplane service over a segment of the North Atlantic.

---July

27 July | S.21 Maia first flight. Flying-boat, launch aircraft for S.20 Mercury.

27 July | Focke-Wulf Fw 200 Condor first flight.

29 July | Lockheed Model 14 Super Electra first flight.

---August

23 August | At the Army's Wright Field, Dayton, the first wholly automatic landing is made. The landing is made without intervention from the human pilot or from the ground.

---September

1 September | Trans-Canada Air Lines (TCA) inaugurates its first flight.

5 September | Short S.20 Mercury first flight. Transport seaplane is carried to flight altitude by Short S.21 Maia.

---October

1 October | The wearing of seatbelts is made compulsory aboard all British commercial airlines.

12 October | Malayan Airways Limited (MAL) is born.

---November

1 November | Savoia-Marchetti SM.75 first flight.

1 November | A U.S. Department of Commerce rule comes into effect that requires scheduled air carriers to employ a co-pilot on multi-engine aircraft with retractable landing gear or wing flaps, and on single-engine aircraft incorporating both retractable landing gear and wing flaps.

1938

--- Northwest assists the Mayo Clinic in developing the first practical aviation oxygen mask, making possible high-altitude flying over the Rocky Mountains.

--- TCA is the first airline to equip its fleet with alcohol de-icing nozzles to remove the ice that accumulates on windshields at high altitude.

--- Western becomes the first airline to place typewriters onboard for passenger use.

--- January

23 January | Armstrong Whitworth Ensign first flight.

26 January | First landing of a scheduled U.S. passenger airliner using ILS occurs when a Pennsylvania Central Airlines Boeing 247-D flies from Washington, D.C., to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and lands in a snowstorm using only the Instrument Landing System.

--- June

7 June | The first Boeing Clipper (Model 314) makes its first flight piloted by Eddie Allen.



Source: Boeing

7 June | The single Douglas DC-4E prototype makes its first flight.

23 June | Roosevelt signs into law the Civil Aeronautics Act of 1938, creating the Civil Aeronautics Authority.

26 June | Imperial Airways' first through flying boat service to Australia leaves Southampton.

--- July

5 July | Captain P W Lynch Blossie takes off in flying boat 'Cooee' to inaugurate the Qantas Sydney-Southampton service.

10 to 14 July | The Lockheed Model 14 Super Electra makes another record for circling the globe in 3 days, 19 hours and 14 minutes piloted by the millionaire Howard Hughes.

20 July | The first 'heavier than air' commercial crossing of the North Atlantic: Imperial Airways' Short S.20 Mercury. The aircraft separates from the Short S.21 flying boat near Foynes and then flies non-stop to Montreal, 2,930 miles in 20 hours 20 minutes.

--- August

10 August | Deutsche Luft Hansa's Focke-Wulf Fw 200 aircraft Condor makes the first non-stop flight from Berlin to New York. It covers the distance in 24 h 56 min, one of the longest times aloft for an airliner.

22 August | Creation of the U.S. Civil Aeronautics Authority.

--- September

19 to 30 September | The Fourth International Conference on Private Air Law meets in Brussels. The conference adopts the following:
1. An Additional Protocol related to the Rome Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules Relating to Damage Caused by Foreign Aircraft to Third Parties on the Surface
2. The Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules Relating to the Assistance and Rescue of Aircraft or by Aircraft at Sea.

--- November

1 November | From this date it becomes an offence to operate air services in the UK without a licence issued by the Air Transport Licensing Authority.

--- December

31 December | Boeing Model 307 Stratoliner, the first pressurized commercial transport, first flight.

1939

...The official term of "Air Traffic Control" is adopted by the British Air Ministry.

February

20 February | The Douglas DC-5 makes its first flight.

March

15 March | CSA interrupts activities due to the occupation of Czechoslovakia.

20 March | United and the Airmen's Association of America sign the airline industry's first collective bargaining agreement.

May

19 May | The Civil Aeronautics Authority announces issuance of a certificate of public convenience and necessity to Pan American Airways authorizing transatlantic air transport service.

June

10 June | American Airlines begins trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

28 June | Pan American Boeing Clipper (Model 314) makes the first scheduled transatlantic flight (New York to the Azores, Lisbon, and Marseilles) becoming the first airline with scheduled transatlantic mail and passenger services.

July

6 July | James S. McDonnell incorporates the McDonnell Aircraft Corp. in St. Louis, Mo.

8 July | Pan American opens passenger service between New York and Southampton.

August

5 August | The first Imperial regular weekly return commercial (air mail) Southampton-Foynes-Botwood-Montreal-New York transatlantic flights begins on an experimental basis.

27 August | The first air-breathing jet flight of an aircraft, accomplished by a Heinkel He 178 with a jet engine.

End | Swissair scheduled services are suspended as war breaks out.

30 August | Air France suspends its flights and restarts flights in non-war zones.

September

3 September | Following the formal declaration of war by the British Government on Germany, all civil flying ceases.

21 September | Lockheed Model 18 Lodestar first flight.

22 September | Imperial Airways reopens the UK to Egypt landplane route. The route is later extended to India and remains open until Italy enters the war in 1940.

November

24 November | British Overseas Airways Corporation is established under the BOAC Act (merging Imperial Airways and British Airways Ltd).

December

2 December | La Guardia opens as one of the first combined land and water aerodromes for seaplanes.

2 December | The first airport lounge, the Admirals Club, opens at LaGuardia airport.



Source: American Airlines

29 December | Consolidated B-24 Liberator first flight.

1940

....TWA offers the first-ever in-flight audio entertainment, providing individual receivers to passengers to listen to commercial radio programs. It is also the first airline to add flight engineers to the crews of four-engine aircraft on U.S. routes.

....March

20 March | Boeing delivers Pan American Airways its first Model 307 Stratoliners.

26 March | Curtiss C-46 Commando first flight.

....April

1 April | BOAC officially takes over the operations of Imperial Airways and British Airways Limited.

30 April | Tasman Empire Airways (TEAL) commences services between Auckland and Sydney - later to become Air New Zealand.

....May

2 May | President Roosevelt give final approval for development of a version of the instrument landing system (ILS) favored by CAA. Deployment of the system was delayed, however, by continued disagreements with the military and by World War II defense priorities. ILS did not become available for civil airliners until after the war.

....June

30 June | U.S. President splits the CAA into two agencies, the Civil Aeronautics Administration, which returns to the Department of Commerce, and the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB).

....August

| BOAC begins a weekly 'Horseshoe' route from Durban to Sydney via Cairo and Karachi due to the direct route over Europe being cut. In October, the C Class Flying boat services link Poole and Lagos in West Africa as part of the route across Central Africa to Durban.

28 August | Caproni Campini N.1 first flight. N.1 is an experimental aircraft built by the Italian aircraft manufacturer Caproni. The N.1 is powered by a motorjet, a type of jet engine that powers the compressor using a conventional aircraft engine producing a successful jet powered aircraft.



Source: <http://www.museoscienza.org>

....October

15 October | Fiat G.12 first flight.

1941

---Luftwaffe assumes control of LH's aircraft.

---January

1 January | United establishes the industry's first employee pension program.

---February

26 February | Philippine Airlines is founded by a group of businessmen.

---June

16 June | U.S. CAA officially opens Washington National Airport for full-time operations. [1]

---August

21 August | SATA is born. Named "Sociedade Açoreana de Estudos Aéreos Lda." (Azorean Society of Air Studies), based in Ponta Delgada on Sao Miguel island.

---September

1 September | The federal Transport Department purchases the former Dorval Race Track land, which offers the best possible location for a new and larger airport. Montréal Airport (Dorval) begins operations with three paved runways.

---October

1 October | Inter-Island Airways, Ltd. name changes to Hawaiian Airlines to pave the way for trans-Pacific operations.

12 October | BOAC re-opens the UK to Cairo route via

Lisbon, Gibraltar and Malta with C Class and Catalina flying boats.

16 October | BOAC assumes responsibility for the general administration of the Air Transport Auxiliary.

---November

1 November | U.S. CAA begins operating airport traffic control towers (Prior to this time, towers were operated by local airport authorities, except at CAA-managed National Airport).

30 November | Mario de Bernardi flies air mail from Milan to Guidonia Montecelio, Italy, in a Caproni Campini N.1 motorjet-powered aircraft. It is the first time air mail is carried in any form of jet aircraft.

---December

BOAC commences irregular services across the North Atlantic with Boeing 314 flying boats.

13 December | The U.S. President directs the Secretary of Commerce "to exercise his control and jurisdiction over civil aviation in accordance with requirements for the successful prosecution of the war, as may be requested by the Secretary of War." The Executive order also authorizes the latter "to take possession and assume control of any civil aviation system, or systems, or any part thereof, to the extent necessary for the successful prosecution of the war."

[1] *Washington National Airport - Courtesy "Airports in the first 100 years of flight" (2003)*



1942

...Representatives of the Allied Powers in London turn their thoughts towards the post-war future of air transport.

...CAA begins a test program to develop a means of preventing damage to aircraft windshields from collision with birds in flight.

...Delta contributes to the war effort. Modifies 916 aircraft, overhauls 1,000+ engines and instruments, trains Army pilots and mechanics, and operates cargo supply routes for military.

...Hawaiian Airlines becomes the first scheduled air cargo service and has U.S. Cargo service certificate #1.

...January

6 January | Pan American Airways Pacific Clipper lands in New York, the first commercial airplane to circle the globe, exclusive of the continental United States. The aircraft left San Francisco on 2 December, 1941, and was operating in the South Pacific when the Pearl Harbor attack forced it to return to home territory by flying west.

...February

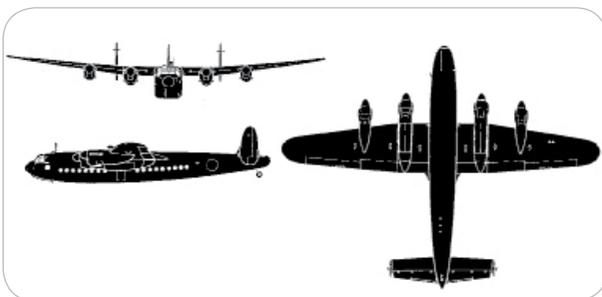
10 February | Sikorsky S-44 first flight.

...April

| New York City begins placing hydraulic fill over the marshy tidelands of Idlewild Golf Course. Initial plans are for a modest 1,000-acre airport, but by the time construction is complete Idlewild Airport had grown to five times that size.

...July

5 July | Avro York first flight.



Source: *The Observer's Book of Aircraft*

1943

...**January** | Short Sandringham first flight.

9 January | Lockheed L-1049 Constellation first flight.

...March

| BOAC introduces Short S-25 Sunderland III flying boats on the UK to West Africa route. The route is withdrawn on 25 October when the Sunderlands opens a UK-Cairo-Karachi service.

...June

| Qantas operates the only regular air service to Australia across the Indian Ocean between Ceylon and Perth. Catalina flying boats crossed 5,600 kilometres non-stop with flying times of between 28 and 33 hours. Passengers were awarded a certificate of membership to 'The Rare and Secret Order of the Double Sunrise'. Liberator aircraft took over in 1945 and passengers received 'The Elevated Order of the Longest Hop.' Qantas Liberators were the first to carry the flying kangaroo symbol.



Source: *Qantas*

...August

| BOAC's UK to Gibraltar service resumes, operated twice weekly with DC-3 aircraft. The BOAC UK to Moscow service via North Africa and Iran begins flying, using converted Liberator bombers. During the first six months of the year, BOAC makes about 270 flights in the Western Desert. During the year it also introduces Douglas DC-3 aircraft into service between the UK and Lisbon and Gibraltar and in North Africa.

...December

22 December | United Air Lines Transport Corp. (UALTC) changes its name to United Air Lines, Inc. (UAL).

1944

July

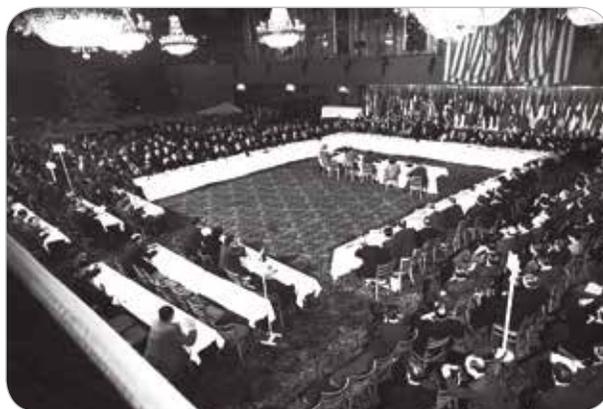
11 July | CAB issues a report concluding that an experiment in providing short-haul and local scheduled air service should be conducted. The experiment involves the establishment of a new airline category, known as “feeder” or “local service” carriers.

November

7 November | TCA convinces both the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) to establish their headquarters in Montreal. TCA President H.J. Symington is named President of IATA in 1945.

1 November to 7 December | In response to the invitation of the United States Government, representatives of 54 nations meet in Chicago to “make arrangements for the immediate establishment of provisional world air routes and services” and “to set up an interim council to collect, record and study data concerning international aviation and to make recommendations for its improve-

ment.” The Conference is also invited to “discuss the principles and methods to be followed in the adoption of a new aviation convention.”



Source: ICAO

11 November | Canadair is founded.

13 November | Civil air services to London are restored, with the first flights carried out by Railway Air Services.

December

7 December | The Convention on International Civil Aviation (also known as Chicago Convention), is signed by 52 States. [1]

[1] Agreements signed at the end of the Chicago Conference in the Grand Ballroom of the Stevens Hotel, Chicago. From left to right: Kia-Ngau, China; Lord Swinton, United Kingdom; Adolf A. Berle Jr, Assistant Secretary of State, U.S.; H.J. Symington, Canada, and Max Hymans, France. Source: ICAO



1945

Germany is banned from operating its own airlines after World War II.

April

19 April | IATA is founded in Havana, Cuba with 57 members from 31 nations.

May

8 May | President Truman proclaim the end of the war in Europe.

June

1 June | Ending a monopoly by Pan American Airways, CAB grants three U.S. airlines the authority to serve North Atlantic routes to Europe: Pan American, Transcontinental & Western Air (TWA), and American Export Airlines.

22 June | Vickers VC.1 Viking first flight.

July

5 July | AOA is formed as a result of a merger between the international division of American and a company called American Export Airlines.

August

15 August | Pending ratification of the Convention by 26 States, the Interim Council meets and begins Provisional International Civil Aviation Organization (PICA0) activities.



Source: PICA0

17 August | During the third meeting of the opening session of the Interim Council of PICA0, Dr. Warner is elected the first President.

September | KLM resumes service following the

Second World War, starting with domestic flights.

17 September | The old International Air Traffic Association ceases to exist and all documents, including the International Air Traffic Aviation Code, are transferred to the new IATA.

20 September | First turboprop powered aircraft to fly: A modified Gloster Meteor F.I powered by two Rolls-Royce Trent turbine engines driving propellers, become the first turboprop powered aircraft to fly.

25 September | de Havilland DH.104 Dove first flight.

October | The first Annual General Meeting of IATA is held in Montreal, Canada.

24 October | A DC-4 operated by American Export Airlines lands at Hurn Airfield, England, after a flight from New York, inaugurating the first scheduled landplane commercial service between North America and Europe.

November

1 November | The new Labour government announces plans for post-war air services which would be provided by three state corporations: BOAC to continue to operate routes to the Empire, Far East and North America, British European Airways (BEA) to operate services to Europe and domestically within the United Kingdom and British South American Airways (BSAA) to operate new services to South American and Caribbean destinations.

10 November | A joint BOAC and South African Airways Springbok service is inaugurated. The route is Hurn-Castel Benito-Cairo-Khartoum-Nairobi-Johannesburg.

28 November | Pan American World Airways orders 20 Boeing Stratocruisers.

December

2 December | Bristol Type 170 Freighter first flight.

...C.I.T.E.J.A. recommends that a Committee on International Air Law be established within ICAO.

...Non-directional beacons (NDBs) enhance the airspace division & The Flight Information Regions (FIRs) are officially created in the UK.

...Saudi Arabian Airlines is set up as an operating agency of the Ministry of Defence.

...**January** | Wartime restrictions on flying end.

1 January | BSAA operates the first international departure from Heathrow when Avro Lancastrian carrying 13 staff passengers, leaves on a proving flight to Buenos Aires.

...**February**

4 February | Pan Am flies its first scheduled Constellation flight from La Guardia to Hurn, Hampshire in 14 hrs 9 mins.

5 February | TWA begins transatlantic Constellation flights. (New York-Gander-Shannon-Paris).

11 February | The United States and Great Britain sign the Bermuda Agreement.

15 February | The military prototype of the Douglas DC-6, the YC-122, makes its first flight.



Source: Boeing

...**March**

27 March | The U.S. and France sign a bilateral Five Freedoms Agreement, giving reciprocal rights for the operation of each country's commercial airlines over the territory of the other.

...**April**

4 April | Pan Am launches InterContinental Hotels. First opening in Belém Brazil.

8 April | Ethiopian's first scheduled flight takes place to Cairo via Asmara in a Douglas C-47.

...**May**

12 May | The first post-war UK to Australia flying boat service is operated jointly by BOAC and Qantas with flying boats taking five and a quarter days.

21 May to 7 June | The Interim PICAO Assembly is held in Montreal.



Source: ICAO

31 May | Heathrow officially opens as the new London Airport to replace the old Croydon.

...**June**

6 June | Montreal is selected as the permanent headquarters of PICAO.

...**July**

29 July | Tata Air Lines converts to a public company and is renamed Air India Limited.

31 July | Philippine Airlines becomes first Asian airline to cross the Pacific.

...**August**

1 August | SAS is formed.

...**September**

6 September | The United States and Brazil sign an air transport agreement, the first such agreement to be made with a South American country.

16 September | Alitalia-Aereolinee Italiane Internazionali is incorporated.

19 September | The first TAP commercial line opens. (Lisbon-Madrid).

24 September | American R. C. Farrell and Australian S. H. de Kantzow found Cathay Pacific.

...**November**

11 November | Short Solent flying boat first flight.

1947

...The first Traffic Conference reaches agreement on: fare construction rules for multiple sector trips; baggage allowances; ticket and air waybill forms and agency appointment procedures.

...U.S. CAA commission inaugurates VORs.

...Pan-Am's 'Clipper' becomes the world's first in-flight magazine.

...TWA is the first airline to develop and use the quick-frozen precooked method for in-flight meal service and the first airline to place into operation a system of instantaneous reservations.

...The world's first duty free store is opened at Shannon Airport by Brendan O'Regan.



Credit: Shannon Airport

...January

6 January | IATA Clearing House is established in London.

7 January | PICA0 Air Navigation Committee and the first Procedures for International Notices to Airmen Services are approved by the PICA0 Council.

...February

25 February | U.S. CAA demonstrates a new stall warning instrument.

...March

5 March | Spain is the 26th state to deposit its instrument of ratification to the Chicago Convention.

14 March | Lockheed L-749 Constellation first flight.

16 March | Convair CV-240 family first flight.

30 March | CAA Administrator announces that he has lowered ceilings and visibility re-

quirements for airlines using the instrument landing system, known as ILS.

...April

2 April | Malayan Airways Limited takes to the skies.

3 April | CAA began in service testing of GCA (ground controlled approach) radar systems at Washington National and Chicago Municipal Airports.

4 April | ICAO comes into being taking over from PICA0, and ICAN is dissolved.

...May

3 May | Philippine starts flying to Rome and Madrid (first airline in SE Asia to fly to Europe).

6 to 27 May | First ICAO Assembly.

13 May | The Agreement between the United Nations and ICAO comes into force.

28 May | The 1st meeting of the ICAO Council, attended by 21 Member States, is held in Montreal. Dr. Edward Warner is elected President of the Council.

...June

17 June | Pan Am inaugurates round-the-world scheduled passenger service as a Constellation takes off from New York and flies eastward on a route that leads, eventually, to San Francisco.

...October

14 October | Charles E. Yeager, USAF, piloting the Bell X-1 at Muroc, Calif., becomes the first pilot to exceed the speed of sound in level flight.

...November

1 November | Braniff is the first airline to receive permission to lower its ceiling minimum.

2 November | Hughes H-4 Hercules makes its first and only flight.

...December

1 December | Qantas begins its first regular weekly service with L-749 Constellation through to London on the famous Kangaroo Route. The journey takes four days.

1948

...American introduces the Family Fare Plan to enable families to travel together at reduced rates. It also introduces scheduled coach service, an alternative to first class travel.

...Pan American is the first airline to provide coach-class service outside the continental U.S.

...January

16 January | The Airport Operators Council is established as an association of operators of U.S. commercial airports.

...April

| Birth of IFALPA.



1 April | IATA Member airlines introduce the first Multilateral Interline Passenger Traffic Agreement, adopted by the IATA Composite Traffic Conferences in 1947.

6 April | First flight by a jet transport: A Rolls-Royce Nene-powered Vickers VC.1 Viking becomes the first jet-powered airliner to fly.

14 April | Adoption by the ICAO Council of the first set of licensing SARPS contained in Annex 1.

15 April | Standards and Recommended Practices for the Rules of the Air are adopted by the ICAO Council.

16 April | ICAO Council adopts: Annex 3, Annex 4 and Annex 5.

...June

4 June | Philippine Air Lines places DC-6s in operation between San Francisco and Manila on the first sleeper service across the Pacific.

19 June

| The Convention on the International Recognition of Rights in Aircraft is adopted in the 2nd Session of the ICAO Assembly. The Geneva Convention provides for the recognition by Contracting States of the Rights of property in aircraft; the Rights to acquire aircraft by purchase coupled with possession; the Rights to possession of aircraft under leases of six months or more. Those rights must be constituted in accordance with the law of the Contracting State in which the aircraft are registered as to nationality at the time of their constitution, and the rights are regularly recorded in a public record of the Contracting State in which the aircraft are registered as to nationality. This Convention was the first product of ICAO's work in air law.

...July

16 July | Vickers Viscount first flight.

26 July | The Berlin Airlift starts.

...September

15 September | The Standards and Recommended Practices for the Rules of the Air becomes effective as Annex 2.

...October

1 October | The Universal Air Travel Plan (UATP) is introduced by the world's airlines.

21 October | Tunisair is established as Tunisia's flag carrier.

...November

4 November | Capital Airlines creates coach class on the Chicago-Pittsburgh route. The ticket costs 30% less than the normal class.

15 November | El Al is established.

1949

...The plastic-lined airsickness bag is created by inventor Gilmore Schjeldahl for Northwest Orient Airlines.

...American becomes the only airline in the United States with a completely post-war fleet of pressurized passenger airplanes.

February

1 February | The ICAO Council adopts the following resolutions on the establishment of the Air Navigation Commission:

1. An Air Navigation Commission of twelve members shall be established in accordance with the Council Resolution dated 5 October 1948.
2. The Air Navigation Committee at its next meeting should consider and dispose of all necessary business to facilitate the transfer of its functions to the Air Navigation Commission.
3. Mr. W.J. Binaghi, Argentina, is appointed the first Chairman of the ANC.

4 February | CAA grant authorization for commercial planes to use ground control approach (GCA) radar as a "primary aid" for bad-weather landings.

7 February | The original Annex H - Aircraft Registration and Identification Marks, becomes Annex 7 - Aircraft Nationality and Registration Marks. The ICAO Council adopts the first standards concerning this issue.

23 February | SITA is founded by eleven airlines.

March

25 March | ICAO Council adopts Annex 9 – Standards and Recommended Practices for the Facilitation of International Air Transport.

April

14 April to 12 May | A Special NOTAM Meeting is held in Montreal. It is the first meeting convened by ICAO for the express purpose of standardizing the activities of States in the dissemination of aero-

nautical information. The principal results of the meeting are the development of a draft set of "Procedures for Air Navigation Services - Aeronautical Information Services" (PANS-AIS, to replace the existing "Procedures for Air Navigation Services - Procedures for International Notices to Airmen Services"), the enunciation of principles to govern the promulgation and dissemination of NOTAMS over the international aeronautical telecommunication service, and the formulation of recommendations for the future handling of aeronautical information problems.

May

11 May | Moscow lifts the blockade of West Berlin.

July

27 July | The first flight of the prototype De Havilland Comet, the first commercial jet aircraft.



Source: British Airways

September

30 September | The Berlin Airlift officially ends.

November

2 November | CAAC is formed.

December

28 December | A DC-3 aircraft with the logo "Garuda Indonesian Airways" on its fuselage flies from Jakarta to Yogyakarta to pick up President Soekarno. This is the first flight made under the brand of Garuda Indonesian Airways.

1950s

► **Late 1950s: the Instrument Landing System (ILS) replaces the former radar systems.**

1950

....Altitude reported by pilots and identification of aircraft still monitored by controllers.

....SITA opens its first telecommunications centre in Rome. Information is manually transmitted using perforated tape and teleprinters. This is the first generation of the world's largest network.

....First official Delta souvenir for children, a paper Junior Pilot Certificate.

....Western is the first airline to use a conveyor belt system for aircraft loading and unloading.

....May

10 May | de Havilland DH.114 Heron first flight.

17 May | TWA's corporate name is officially changed to Trans World Airlines.

18 May | Annex 11 – Air Traffic Services is first adopted by ICAO Council.

25 May | Annex 12 Search and Rescue is first adopted by the ICAO Council.

....July

1 July | The world's first regularly scheduled helicopter passenger service, between Cardiff and Liverpool, is opened by BEA.

28 July | The world's first gas turbine-powered service is flown by BEA from Northolt to Le Bourget, Paris with a Vickers V630 Viscount aircraft.

....October

1 October | Ilyushin IL-14 passenger aircraft first flight.

15 to 21 October | During this seven-day period, U.S. CAA puts into operation the first omnirange (VOR) airways.

21 October | Martin 4-0-4 first flight.

....November

7 November | BOAC retires its last flying boat airliner from service.

....December

7 December | By decree N° 26.099 of the Executive Power, Aerolineas Argentinas is created as a State Company.

1951

U.S. CAA places the first nine DME (distance-measuring equipment) ground transponders in experimental operation along the Chicago-New York airway.

March

1 March | BOAC introduces its luxury Monarch service to New York using the Stratocruiser, which offers sleeper accommodation.



Source: British Airways

April

11 April | Annex 13, named Aircraft Accident Inquiry, is first adopted by the ICAO Council.

May

29 May | The Standards and Recommended Practices for Aerodromes are first adopted by the ICAO Council.

July

14 July | Lockheed L-1049 Super Constellation first flight.

August

1 August | Japan Airlines Co., Ltd. is founded.



Japan Airlines flight attendants in front of Martin 2-0-2 Mokusei on the occasion of the airline's inaugural flight, 25 October 1951
Source: Album of the 15-Year History of Postwar Japan

October

1 October | The world's airlines introduce the first Multilateral Interline Cargo Handling Agreement, adopted by the IATA Composite Traffic Conferences, held at Bermuda in May 1951.

8 October | The first Royal flight by BOAC takes place. The then Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh flew to Montreal in a Stratocruiser for their Canadian tour.

November

1 November | A new ICAO alphabet is implemented in the Aeronautical Telecommunications Annex 10 in civil aviation, with one-year transition to this new alphabet.

27 November | ICAO Council adopts a complete revision and rearrangement of Annex 2 titled International Standards - Rules of the Air.

December

5 December | Eleven airlines reach an agreement to introduce tourist (economy) class seats to transatlantic services, thus paving the way for a dramatic increase in passenger numbers.

1952

The Approach Control is officially established in ATC.

A standard Agency Agreement is drawn up between IATA and the agencies, which sets the pattern for airline-agent relations.

American introduces the first electronic reservations system, Magnetronic Reservisor, to keep track of available seats on flights.

TWA, with its "Sky Tourist" Constellation service, is the first to offer low-cost air transportation between the United States and Europe.

January

14 January | The first pre-clearance of airline passengers and baggage entering the United States from Canada—a new concept to facilitate international air travel—is inaugurated at Toronto Malton Airport.

22 January | The de Havilland Comet 1 becomes the first turbojet-powered airliner to receive a certificate of airworthiness.

April

11 April | The Pan American World Airways Douglas DC-4 Clipper Endeavor, operating as Flight 526A, suffers the failure of two engines and ditches in rough seas in the Atlantic Ocean. After the accident, it is recommended that in the future passengers be briefed about location and usage of flotation equipment and emergency exits before over-water flights.

May

1 May | The first tourist class air service over the North Atlantic begins, in accordance with an agreement between eleven International Air Transport Association member airlines. Fares are generally about 20 to 25% below the standard first-class fares (London-New York one way tourist fare USD 270).

2 May | BOAC flies the world's first pure jet service. The Comet G-ALYP operates from London Airport to Johannesburg via Rome, Beirut, Khartoum, Entebbe and Livingstone.



Source: British Airways

31 May

| The first TWA Ambassadors' Club opens at Greater Pittsburgh Airport.

June

17 June

| The Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) adopts a recommendation that, pending development of a more suitable form of speech, English should be used as a universal language in aeronautical radiotelephony and should be available for communications involving international air services. This recommended practice, which became applicable on 1 April 1953, is contained in an amendment to Annex 10 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Vol. II, Section 5.2.1.1.2).

August

16 August

| Bristol Britannia first flight.

October

7 October

| An amended Convention on Damage Caused by Foreign Aircraft to Third Parties on the Surface is adopted and signed to unify, on an international level, the laws relating to recovery by persons who suffer damage caused on the surface by foreign aircraft, while limiting the liabilities of those responsible for such damage. The Convention also deals with a host of related matters, such as apportionment of claims, financial security requirements, jurisdiction and enforcement of judgments.

December

| Formation of Japan Helicopter & Aeroplane Transport Co Ltd., predecessor of All Nippon Airways.

1953

U.S. FAA § 121.161 imposes the 60-minute rule on two- and three-engine airplanes.

Dr David Warren of Aeronautical Research Laboratory (ARL) in Fisherman's Bend invent the world's first black box flight recorder.

February | United and the Radio Corporation of America launch a joint project to develop an airborne weather-mapping (C-band) radar. Fleet installation of the units in July 1955 marks an industry first.

Spring | Aero O/Y starts to use the name Finnair in its marketing.

April
1 April | Based on unanimous agreement reached under the auspices of the IATA Traffic Conferences, the concept of tourist-class service is introduced within Europe and between Europe and the Near East. The tourist-class concept is extended to India, Pakistan and Ceylon, as well as between Europe and South Africa, on 1 October 1953, and across the Pacific and to South America on 1 April 1954.

May
15 May | The Air Navigation Commission and the first set of Standards and Recommended Practices is adopted by the ICAO Council as Annex 15 - Aeronautical Information Services to the Convention for the promulgation of information essential to the safety, regularity and efficiency of air navigation.

18 May | The Douglas DC-7 airliner makes its first flight.



Source: Delta Air Lines

July

9 July | New York Airways becomes the first scheduled passenger helicopter air carrier to operate in the United States.

September

1 September | The Belgian airline Sabena opens the first international helicopter services, from Brussels to Rotterdam, Lille, and Maastricht.



Source: Sabena

October

1 October | Establishment of the new Japan Airlines and dissolution of the former Japan Air Lines.

19 October | TWA is the first airline to provide non-stop transcontinental air service. The flight from Los Angeles to New York took 8 hours. Because of prevailing head winds, westbound transcontinental services continued to stop in Chicago to refuel.

1954

Delta Air Lines becomes the first airline to supplement visual inspection of aircraft parts with a portable x-ray machine to examine interior structures.

Kuwait Airways is born.

February

1 February | TCA launches "Tourist class" economy fares, made possible by adopting high-density seating arrangements. The move lowers fares by 20%.

April

| The Conference on Co-ordination of Air Transport in Europe (CATE), formally constituted by ICAO in December 1953 (5) meets in Strasbourg. As many of the recommendations being adopted at the meeting would require follow-up action by a duly authorised and competent body operating in close liaison with ICAO, the meeting proposed the establishment of a permanent European organisation of high-level aviation authorities to implement its recommendations and to carry out the work it had initiated. This proposal envisaged a body that would meet periodically and that would at least at the outset, be serviced by the ICAO Secretariat. It recommended that this

body which, it suggested, might be named the "European Civil Aviation Conference", should maintain the closest liaison with ICAO, as well as with other interested organisations.

25 April

| Paris-Montreal, Paris-Chicago and Paris-New York, all standard transatlantic Air France services, are equipped with beds. Each plane is endowed with a cabin with two double beds and two single beds.

May

4 May

| The patent for the inflatable escape chute assembly is submitted by Boyle.

July

15 July

| Pilot Tex Johnston and copilot R.L. "Dix" Loesch take the Boeing Model 367-80 (Dash 80) on its first flight. [1]

September

18 September

| Romanian Air Transport - TAROM - is established.

November

15 November

| SAS is the world's first airline to launch the Polar shortcut as the Copenhagen - Los Angeles route is opened.

27 November

| First nonstop commercial transatlantic service by Pan American (9 hours, 42 minutes) with a Boeing 377 Stratocruiser.



[1] Source: Boeing

1955

....ICAO's regulations for trans-Atlantic flights: 1,000 feet vertically, 120 miles laterally and 30 minutes longitudinally.

....Dr. John Morrel introduces the time-based concept of collision avoidance.

....Delta pioneers the use of the hub and spoke system.

....The technical operations team of TCA changes industry standards again in 1955 by installing anti-skid brakes on various Viscount aircraft. Pilots can finally make turns on water or ice.

....January

1 January | Northwest voluntarily becomes the first airline to operate without government subsidy on transpacific and United States-Alaska routes.

10 January | Birth of a new airline, PIA.

....April

1 April | First flight of Lufthansa (Hamburg to Munich).

....May

5 May | The Paris Peace Treaties restore full air-space sovereignty to West Germany. This allows Lufthansa's flight schedule to include non-German destinations.

9 May | BOAC introduces tourist class on London to Sydney weekly service, using a Constellation aircraft.

27 May | The Sud-Aviation SE 210 Caravelle makes its first flight, the first short-haul jet plane to go into general use.

....June

17 June | The prototype of Russia's first modern aircraft, the twin-engine jetliner TU-104, designed by Andrei N. Tupolev (1888-1972), makes its initial flight.

....August

7 August | Tex Johnston does two "barrel rolls" with the Boeing Dash 80 over the Sea-fair hydroplane course on Lake Washington in Seattle.



Source: Boeing

25 August | Handley Page Dart Herald first flight.

....September

25 September | TWA is the first airline to propose and introduce an inexpensive one-way trans-continental excursion fare.

....October

30 October | The first commercial flights begin at the new O'Hare Field, Chicago International Airport.

....November

24 November | Fokker F27 Friendship first flight.

29 November to 16 December | ECAC holds its inaugural session in Strasbourg.

1956

Aeroflot launches the first jet, the TU-104, to operate on Russia's domestic and international routes.

Weather-avoidance radar installed in noses of all Delta aircraft.

TWA is the first to install a dynamometer-type engine test cell, resulting in greater accuracy and safety at less cost.

January

1 January | The International Air Transport Association (IATA) launches the First Edition of the IATA Restricted Articles Regulations (RAR) (renamed Dangerous Goods Regulations—DGR in 1983).

February

11 February | Antonov An-8 first flight.

18 February | Moscow route is opened making Finnair the first Western airline to begin a service to the Soviet capital after the Second World War.

March

1 March | The final version of ICAO alphabet (printed in Annex 10) is implemented by ICAO.



Source: ICAO

31 March | The Air Traffic Control Association (ATCA) is established as a nonprofit professional organization.

April

28 April | Restoration of Japan's international aviation rights.

30 April | The 'Multilateral Agreement on Commercial Rights of Non-Scheduled Air Services in Europe' is opened for signatures.

June

30 June | A Trans World Airlines' Super Constellation and a United Air Lines' DC-7 collide over the Grand Canyon, Arizona, killing all 128 occupants. The crash triggers sweeping changes in the regulations governing cross-country flights over the United States, which would include the creation of the Federal Aviation Agency.

August

30 August | The Air Coordinating Committee approves a study panel's recommendation that VOR and TACAN, the separate civil and military air navigation systems, be combined. VORTAC would become a key element of the civil-military common system of air navigation and air traffic control.

October

10 October | Lockheed L-1649 Starliner first flight.

20 October | Bell 204/205 first flight.

1957

- ...The world's first special facility for flight attendants' training, the American Airlines Stewardess College, is built in Dallas/Fort Worth.
- ...United Airlines Mainliner become the world's first in-flight magazine published for a single airline.
- ...Schiphol opens the first mainland European airport tax-free shopping centre.



Source: Schiphol Group

- ...**January**
 - 3 January** | TWA is the first airline to offer passengers freshly-brewed coffee in flight.
- ...**February**
 - 24 February** | SAS is the first airline in the world to inaugurate a regular Polar service with Douglas DC-7C aircraft between Copenhagen and Tokyo via Anchorage, AK, U.S.A.
- ...**April**
 - 4 April** | Air Austria and Austrian Airways finally merge to form a single airline, Austrian Airlines.
- ...**May**
 - 21 May** | A Douglas DC-7C takes off from Long Beach (Calif.) Municipal Airport for a record trans-Atlantic flight that retraces part of the route flown by Charles Lindbergh in 1927. The aircraft flies 6,148 miles to Paris in 21 hours and 52 min-

utes - 12 hours less than it took Lindbergh to fly 3,625 miles across the Atlantic.

...June

- 28 June** | Company Chérifienne Air Transport (CCTA) is created following the merger between Air and Atlas Air Morocco and takes the new name of Compagnie Nationale Air transportation "Royal Air Morocco."

...July

- 4 July** | Ilyushin IL-18 passenger aircraft first flight.

...August

- 5 August** | The Civil Aeronautics Board adopts a rule requiring an approved Flight Data Recorder (FDR) aboard air carriers and commercial airplanes of more than 12,500 pounds maximum certificated take-off weight, with compliance by 15 July 1958.

...November

- 15 November** | Tupolev Tu-114 first flight.

...December

- 6 December** | Lockheed L-188A Electra first flight.
- 16 December** | Antonov An-12 first flight.
- 20 December** | The first Boeing 707 takes to the Seattle skies.



Source: Boeing

1958

...This is the first year that the total number of transatlantic passengers traveling by air exceeded the number traveling by sea.

...Lockheed introduces the first FAA approved flight data recorder (black box).

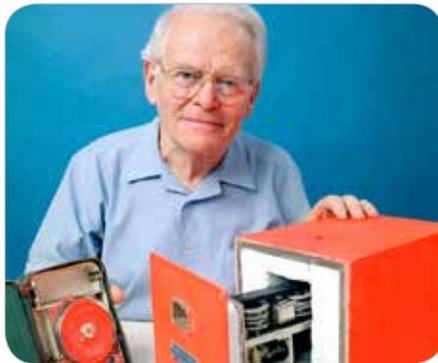
...The multichannel flight recorder is pioneered by Trans-Canada Air Lines and installed on DC-8 and Vanguard aircraft. TCA introduces the radar-tracking technology, which means its aircraft can avoid weather disturbances.

...The first moving walkway in an airport is installed at Dallas Love Field in Texas.

...A new northwest/southeast heading 2,529 meter runway is constructed on a promontory into Kowloon Bay. The name, Hong Kong International Airport, is officially adopted for Kai Tak Airport.

Early

| The 'Black Box' flight recorder is developed by David Warren of the Aeronautical Research Laboratories in Melbourne.



*Dr David Warren with the first prototype flight data recorder.
Source: National Museum of Australia*

January

14 January | Two Qantas Super Constellations take-off from Melbourne to inaugurate a pioneering round the world service (India along the Kangaroo Route & Southern Cross Route via the United States). They circumnavigated the globe in opposite directions, arriving back in Sydney six days later.

March

2 March | Beijing Capital International Airport opens.

28 March | The first passenger boarding bridge is introduced at Chicago O'Hare to speed up boarding times.

April

1 April | IATA Member airlines agree to launch a new type of service, called economy class, at fares some 20 percent lower than for tourist class.

May

1 May | Mixed-classes, First Class and Tourist, are introduced by BEA.

30 May | The Douglas DC-8 makes its first flight.

June

9 June | The 'new' Gatwick officially opens. It is the world's first single facility airport accessible by all modes of transport - air, rail and road.

July

| The first father-and-son team to fly the Atlantic as captain and co-pilot consists of TCA captain R.M. Smith and his son, first officer Rod Smith, aboard a Super Constellation.

August

15 August | Pan American World Airways takes delivery of the country's first commercial jet airliner, a Boeing 707-120.

23 August | The U.S. President signs the Federal Aviation Act, which transfers the Civil Aeronautics Authority's functions to a new independent Federal Aviation Agency (FAA).

October

4 October | BOAC operates the first jet service across the North Atlantic to New York using the Comet 4.

26 October | Commercial history is made when Pan American World Airways inaugurates trans-Atlantic 707 jet service between New York and Paris.

1959

....An extension of the passenger boarding bridge system is introduced at Los Angeles International Airport.

....Hilton opens its first airport hotel (San Francisco Airport Hilton) and pioneers the airport hotel concept.



Source: Hilton

....January

27 January | First flight of Convair 880.

....February

25 February | In a special conference at Montreal, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) approves the distance-measuring element (DMET) as a complement to the very high frequency omnidirectional radio range (VOR).

....April

8 April | CAB rules that foreign airlines cannot carry commercial traffic only moving between U.S. cities.

....July

5 July | The first air shuttle service in the world is inaugurated between Santos Dumont airport in Rio de Janeiro and Congonhas airport in Sao Paulo by the airlines Varig, Cruzeiro do Sul and VASP.

14 July | The first fully operational boarding bridge is installed at San Francisco International Airport. [1]

31 July | Effective this date, FAA requires that one pilot at the controls of a turbine-powered airliner operating above 25,000 feet wear and use an oxygen mask, and that the other cockpit crew members have masks ready for immediate use.

....August

| Sheremetyevo Airport opens with the primary task of accommodating international flights.

....September

10 September | To aid in the control of civil and military air traffic, FAA puts into operation in the New York area a 64-code air traffic control radar beacon system, commonly known as secondary radar.

18 September | The Douglas DC-8 enters airline service simultaneously with United Air Lines and Delta Airlines.

30 September | Croydon Airport is closed. The final service is a de Havilland DH.114 Heron flight to Rotterdam Captained by Geoffrey Last.

....October

20 October | Antonov An-24 first flight.

....November

23 November | Boeing 720 first flight.

....December

12 December | In Saint-Louis, Senegal, the Heads of State and Government of the autonomous states from the former Federations AEF, AOF and Madagascar sign the Convention which will give birth to ASECNA.

16 December | China Airlines is founded.



[1] Source: CR Smith Museum

1960s

- ▶ **Early 1960s: Secondary Surveillance Radar (SSR) - identification/altitude reader.**
- ▶ **Late 1960s: Computers come into play, taking over many of the human functions:**
 - **The calculation, distribution and printing of paper strips to the appropriate sectors;**
 - **Other software takes over the radio transmission and ground messages connection.**

1960

...Thai Airways International is founded.

...The first Semi-Automated Business Research Environment (Sabre) system is installed on two IBM 7090 computers, located in a specially designed computer center in Briarcliff Manor, New York.

February

21 February | Finnair takes delivery of its first Caravelle A and becomes the first airline in the world to operate a jet passenger aircraft with a flight deck crew of two, instead of the normal three.

26 February | COCESNA is created.

March

29 March | Tupolev Tu-124 first flight.

April

1 April | Cooperation between JAL and Air France on operation of codeshare flights on the Polar route between Tokyo and Paris via Anchorage.

4 April | FAA places in effect the first of a series of regulations designed to minimize air-

craft noise at major airports by procedural methods.

5 April

| BEA introduces de Havilland Comet 4B aircraft on the Nicosia, Athens, Rome, and London routes. Cyprus Airways, with the introduction of the Comets, becomes the first airline in the Middle East to have jet airplanes.

22 April

| The 'Multilateral Agreement relating to Certificates of Airworthiness for Imported Aircraft' to cover the import of spare parts, engines, etc. is constituted. All-weather operations, mutual recognition of private pilot licences and the performance characteristics of airborne navigation and communications equipment are amongst other issues considered opened for signatures.

June

24 June

| Hawker Siddeley HS 748 first flight.

September

8 September

| FAA adopts the British RAE visual glide path indicator landing lights as a national standard for use at U.S. airports.

December

13 December

| EUROCONTROL International Convention relating to Cooperation for the Safety of Air Navigation is signed by the 6 founding States.



1961

...The International Register of Civil Aircraft (IRCA) is created as a result of a joint decision of the then UK Air Registration Board (now the UK CAA), RAI (now ENAC) and BUREAU VERITAS to gather in one common format the national registers of various countries.

...January

15 January | "Leonardo da Vinci" International Airport open.

24 January | First flight of Convair 990 Coronado.

...February

24 February | Iranian Airways and Persian Air Services merge to form a new airline, IranAir.

...April

1 April | All aircraft of IATA member airlines have to fly on IFR.

...May

1 May | Antulio Ramirez Ortiz perpetrates the first hijacking of a commercial airliner to Cuba.

25 May | A Special Civil Air Regulation effective this date bans the use of portable FM radios on U.S. civil aircraft.

...June

29 June | FAA commissions the first Doppler VOR system for service at Marquette, Mich.

...July

19 July | TWA is the first to provide in-flight movies. The first film ever shown in-flight is "By Love Possessed," with Lana Turner.

...August

10 August | For the first time, the U.S. Federal government employs armed guards on civilian planes.

21 August | A Canadian Pacific Air Lines Douglas DC-8 sets two world records during a single test flight. First, it reaches 50,000 feet (15,240 meters) at a weight of 107,600 pounds (48,807 kg), a new altitude record for a loaded transport jet. Then, in a dive from that altitude, it reaches Mach 1.012 with a true air speed of 662.5 mph (1,066.8 km/h) at an altitude of 39,614 feet (12,074 meters), becoming the first airliner to break the sound barrier.

...September

5 September | U.S. President signs an amendment to the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, which makes it a crime to hijack an aircraft, interfere with an active flight crew, or carry a dangerous weapon aboard an air carrier aircraft.

7 September | U.S. FAA approves in principle the use of Doppler radar and other flight deck navigators to guide airliners across the North Atlantic.

...October

19 to 20 October | The International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Association (IFATCA) is constituted in Amsterdam.



Source: IFATCA

1962

CAAC begins operating international services, initially to other countries in the Communist bloc.

Delta activates the electronic SABRE system for "instant" reservations and modifies cabin configurations to offer both First Class and Economy Class on all four-engine aircraft.

Pan American develops a global computer reservations system, named PANAMAC.

Finnish-American architect, Eero Saarinen, designs the futuristic building, the TWA Terminal. It opens for Trans World Airlines.

January

9 January | Hawker Siddeley Trident first flight.

February

7 February | With the imposition of the U.S. embargo on Cuba, Cubana is forced to cancel all its U.S. services.

26 February | BEA introduces its electronic reservations unit.

March

1 March | Los Angeles Airways begins the world's first airline service by a multi-engine turbine- powered transport helicopter.

Spring

| Caravelle charter flights begin to Tenerife, Palma de Mallorca and Rimini.

In this way Finnair, via Polar-Air, moves European charter flight traffic into the jet age.

April

2 April | Luxair starts operations.

May

| Pakistan International becomes the first non-US carrier showing a regularly scheduled film onboard.

June

29 June | Vickers VC10 first flight.

August

30 August | NAMC YS-11 first flight.

October

1 October | TWA is the first to fly the Atlantic in scheduled service using the Doppler radar system, a fully automated system of navigation.

November

5 November | FAA announces acceptance of a design concept for a standard air traffic control tower. The concept features a free-standing tower providing greater visibility from the cab.

17 November | Ceremonies mark the opening of Dulles International Airport. Scheduled airline service begins two days later. **[1]**

December

24 December | Aérospatiale N 262 first flight.



[1] Source: "Airports in the first 100 years of flight" (2003)

1963

....Timatic, the database containing cross border passenger documentation requirements, is first established.

....With the formation of Malaysia, Malayan Airways Limited changes its name to Malaysian Airlines Limited.

....TCA becomes the world's first major airline with an all-turbine fleet when it retires its last piston-engined aircraft.

....January

2 January | First flight of Ilyushin IL-62.

17 January | Short SC.7 Skyvan first flight.

23 January | ReserVec, the world's first computerized reservation system, changes the ticketing game.

....February

9 February | Boeing 727-100 makes its first flight.



Source: Boeing

25 February | Transall C-160 first flight.

....March

1 March | The International Convention relating to Cooperation for the Safety of Air Navigation enters into force and EUROCONTROL Agency is created.

18 March | Cairo International Airport is inaugurated.

....July

1 July | An FAA safety rule requiring distance-

measuring equipment (DME) on all airline turbojets and on all other civil aircraft flying instrument flight rules (IFR) above 24,000 feet in the contiguous 48 States goes into effect.

29 July | Tupolev Tu-134 first flight.

....August

20 August | BAC One-Eleven first flight.

....September

14 September | The Tokyo Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft is signed in Tokyo.

18 September | Juancho E. Yrausquin Airport officially opens. The airport has the shortest commercial runway in the world, only 400 meters long, flanked on one side by high hills, with cliffs that drop into the sea at both ends.



Photographer: Cees Timmers, Source: www.tvc-advertising.com

....December

8 December | A lightning-induced fuel tank explosion causes the crash of a Pan American Boeing 707 near Elkton, Md. FAA's response includes an 18 December telegram to air carriers and aircraft operators requiring installation of static dischargers on aircraft using turbine fuels.

1964

U.S. FAA exempts three-engine airplanes from the 1953, § 121.161 60-minute rule leaving the restrictions only on two-engine airplanes based on the lack of satisfactory engine reliability in operations.

Pan Am is the first airline to relay in-flight messages via satellite.

January

4 January | Pope Paul VI, visiting the Holy Land, disembarks from an Alitalia DC-8. This is the first time a pope uses a plane for an official visit.

20 January | Beechcraft 90 King Air first flight.

April

29 April | PIA earns the distinction of becoming the first airline from a non-communist country to fly into the People's Republic of China. PIA's first service to China is from Karachi to Shanghai via Canton with a Boeing 720B.

June

1 June | La Guardia Airport opens to scheduled air carrier jet operations.

26 June | FAA issues a rule requiring Cockpit Voice

Recorders to be installed in certain aircraft used by air carriers or commercial operators. The rule applies to large turbine-powered aircraft and to large pressurized aircraft with four piston-type engines.

July

21 July | Pan American World Airways announces that inertial navigation systems will be installed on most of its jet aircraft.

August

6 August | An FAA rule effective this date requires the closing and locking of crew compartment doors of scheduled air carriers and other large commercial aircraft in flight.

October

2 October | Taking another step toward the goal of all-weather landing, FAA announces qualifying criteria for Category II landing operations.

December

8 December | A United Air Lines Caravelle jet makes the first computer landing (automatic touchdown) at Dulles International Airport.

1965

....IATA association membership passes the hundred-mark. Over 140 million passengers and more than three million tonnes of freight are carried by IATA this year.

....Air Canada helps make history by assisting Midas and Royston Instruments, an English electronics company, to develop the multichannel flight recorder, the world's first black box.

....Air Canada is the first airline to install covered passenger walkways linking terminals and aircraft.

....Chicago O'Hare becomes the first Airport to reach 20 million passengers.

....January

1 January | TCA is renamed Air Canada.

4 January | Under a rule effective this date, FAA requires approved survivor lights on all life preservers and life rafts carried by U.S. air carriers and other large commercial aircraft flying more than 50 miles from shore.

....February

25 February | The Douglas DC-9 twinjet airliner makes its first flight.



Source: Boeing

27 February | Antonov An-22 "Antei" first flight is the world's largest turboprop-powered aircraft.

....April

1 April | TEAL changes its name to Air New Zealand.

5 April | Boeing receives the largest commercial order by an airline to date: United Air Lines orders 66 jetliners with options for 39 more and leases another 25.

21 April | FAA eliminates the rule requiring a three-man crew on all transports with a take-off weight over 80,000 pounds, and substitutes a rule that sets forth workload criteria as the standard for determining the size of an air transport cockpit crew.

....May

20 May | de Havilland Canada DHC-6 Twin Otter first flight.

....June

7 June | FAA new rules governing the rapid evacuation of passengers from aircraft become effective.

10 June | BEA's Trident 1 G-ARPR arrives at Heathrow from Paris Le Bourget making the world's first fully automatic landing of a commercial airliner carrying fare-paying passengers.

....August

25 August | AACO is launched.

....October

| United is the first airline to qualify for the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA's) all-weather program, allowing DC-8s to land at specified airports with as little as 100-foot ceilings and quarter-mile visibility. In addition, United launches its "Fly the Friendly Skies" slogan which becomes the industry's longest-running marketing message.

....November

15 November | First pole-to-pole circumnavigation is completed by Captains Fred Austin, and Harrison Finch with a Boeing 707-349C named "Pole Cat" leased from the Flying Tiger Line, in 57 hours, 27 minutes.

1966

SITA: The first computer adapted for message switching opens in Frankfurt.

January

27 January | Fairchild FH-227 first flight.

28 January | FAA publishes a rule requiring a life preserver or some other approved flotation device for each occupant of large aircraft used by air carriers or other commercial operators in all overwater operations.

29 January | Official opening of new Auckland International Airport.

February | Freddie Laker unveils his airline - Laker Airways - to the press.



May

20 May | A \$2.50 charge for in-flight motion picture entertainment on international flights receives the approval of the Civil Aeronautics Board. The charge, covering the audio portion of the entertainment, was put into effect by U.S.-flag carriers on 1 April 1966.

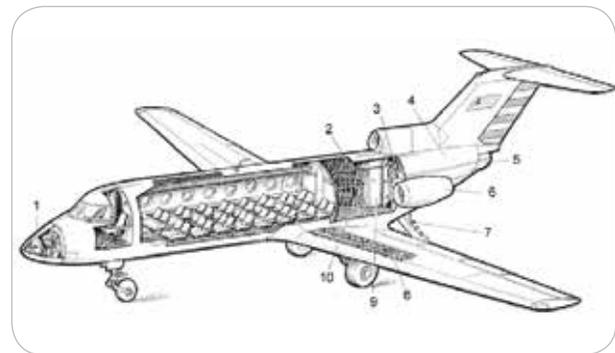
September

30 September | Four Asian airlines, namely Philippine Airlines, China Airlines, Korean Airlines and Malaysian Airlines, join together to form the Orient Airlines Research Bureau.

October

15 October | President Johnson signs the Department of Transportation Act (Public Law 89-670), bringing 31 previously scattered Federal elements, including FAA, under the wing of one Cabinet Department. The DOT Act also creates within the new Department a five-member NTSB.

21 October | Yakovlev Yak-40 first flight.



Source: Yakovlev

November

1 November | Montreal to Moscow. Air Canada launch the first direct air link between North America and the USSR.

4 November | The United States and the Soviet Union sign an agreement authorizing commercial airline services between New York and Moscow.

16 November | Transavia operates first commercial flight.

1967

March

15 March | Air Southwest Co. is incorporated.

29 March | FAA participates in NASA's first public demonstration of a new data-link system using an orbiting satellite for transmitting navigation data from aircraft to ground stations.

April

1 April | U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) begins full operations. At the same time, FAA ceases to be the independent Federal Aviation Agency and becomes the Federal Aviation Administration.



1 April | The NTSB is established as the federal government's primary accident investigation agency for all modes of transportation – aviation, highway, rail, marine and pipeline.

6 April | The last TWA Constellation is retired from passenger service. TWA becomes the first US airline to go all-jet.

9 April | The Model 737 makes its first flight.



Source: Boeing

28 April | McDonnell and Douglas companies merge to form the new McDonnell Douglas Corp.

May

9 May | Fokker F28 Fellowship first flight.



Fokker F28 prototype PH-JHG - Source: fokker.com

June

14 June | Air Mauritius is incorporated.

July

7 July | A Pan American World Airways Boeing 707 makes the first fully automatic approach and landing by a four-engine jet aircraft with passengers on board.

10 July | The 'International Agreement on the Procedure for the Establishment of Tariffs for Scheduled Air Services' is opened for signatures.

August

18 August | Handley Page (BAe) Jetstream first flight.

25 August | Antonov An-30 first flight.

September

20 September | FAA publishes new safety rules designed to improve crashworthiness and passenger evacuation standards in transport airplanes. The new rules require air carriers, other commercial operators, and aircraft manufacturers to demonstrate that airplanes with more than 44 seats are capable of permitting the evacuation of a full load of passengers through only half the aircraft's exits in 90 seconds. FAA's regulation of carry-on bags begins with a requirement that passengers can take to their seats only items that can be securely stowed under a seat.

November

3 November | Pan American World Airways becomes the first airline to receive FAA approval for full Category II operations.

1968

ICA0's work on machine readable travel documents begins with the establishment, by the Air Transport Committee of the Council, of a Panel on Passport Cards.

Cooperation agreement between Swissair and SAS renewed and extended to include KLM (KSS Group).

First air bridges for widebody doors. Paris-Orly demonstrates its ability to adapt to the arrival of jet aircraft.



Source: Aeroports de Paris

April

4 April | The African Airlines Association (AFRAA) is established.

June

25 June | Finnair becomes the company's official name.

July

11 July | Air France, Alitalia, DHL, Lufthansa and Sabena form the ATLAS group responsible for organizing their cooperation in the operation and maintenance of future Boeing 747's.

15 July | Aeroflot Soviet Airlines and Pan American World Airways inaugurate twice-weekly scheduled passenger service between Moscow and New York.

21 July | U.S. President Johnson signs into law the Jet Noise Abatement Act.

September

28 September | Under provisions of a rule effective this date, FAA requires an approved altitude alerting system to be installed on all U.S. civil turbojet aircraft by 29 February 1972.

October

4 October | Tupolev Tu-154 first flight.

December

28 December | The first aircraft to be certified to CAT III standards is the Sud Aviation Caravelle.

31 December | Tupolev Tu-144 first flight.



Source: Tupolev

1969

-Alitalia becomes the first European airline to fly with an "all jet" fleet.
-Abu Dhabi International Airport was opened in its first form at the heart of Abu Dhabi Island.
-George Bush Intercontinental Airport/Houston is open.

....January

17 January | The African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) is conceived.

....February

9 February | The Boeing 747-100 makes its first flight.



Source: Boeing

21 February | To keep pace with the growth of the U.S. civil aviation fleet, FAA expands the aircraft identification numbers available.

....March

1 March | Korean Air is established as a private airline.

2 March | The first flight of Concorde 001 (F-WTSS) from Toulouse, France takes place (British Airways).



Source: BAC

....April

9 April | Concorde 002 (G-BSST) makes its first flight from Filton.

16 April | Let L-410 Turbolet first flight.

....May

21 May | Antonov An-26 first flight.

....June

5 June | Tupolev Tu-144 reaches for the first time, 1 Mach.

....July

1 July | Effective this date, CAB selects "com-
muter air carrier" as its name for certain
scheduled air taxi operators.

....August

19 August | Embraer is founded.

26 August | Fairchild Swearingen Metroliner first
flight.

....September

25 September | Adrian Dalsey, Larry Hillblom and Rob-
ert Lynn (the D, H and L in the company
name) incorporate DHL.

....October

1 October | Concorde 001 (F-WTSS) on its 45th test
flight exceeds Mach 1 for the first time.
At an altitude of 36,000 feet and 75
miles from Toulouse, it held Mach 1.05
for 9 minutes from 11:29 hrs.

....November

| BEA becomes the world's first airline to
publish an entirely computer-produced
timetable.

....December

| Eastern Air Lines puts into operations
at its terminal at Kennedy International
Airport the first computerized system
for issuing seat assignments and
boarding passes to airline passengers
as they check in at the airport.

4 December | The Tokyo Convention (Convention on
Offences and Certain Other Acts Com-
mitted on Board Aircraft) enters into
force.

1970

January

2 January | Embraer begins operations.

21 January | The Boeing 747 makes its first commercial flight from New York to London for Pan American.

March

4 March | Loftleidir, Salén, Luxair and some private interests found Cargolux.

30 March | Lufthansa become the first European airline to receive the Boeing 747.

April

27 April | FAA establishes the Central Flow Control Facility at its Headquarters.

May

21 May | The Airport and Airway Development Act of 1970 places the FAA in charge of a new airport aid program funded by a special aviation trust fund and makes the FAA responsible for safety certification of airports served by air carriers.

26 May | The Soviet Tupolev Tu-144 exceeds Mach 2.02 in level flight, the first commercial aircraft to do so.

July

1 July | TWA is the first airline to offer non-smoking sections aboard every aircraft in its fleet.

17 July | New Orleans' Moisant International Airport becomes the first U.S. airport to subject all passengers to the FAA-developed anti-hijacking screening system.

31 July | FAA issues to Pan American World Airways the first aviation war risk insurance premium policy under a new coverage plan.

August

29 August | The Douglas DC-10, the first "jumbo jet" from Douglas, makes its first flight.



September

- 11 September** | President Nixon announced a comprehensive anti-hijacking program that called for:
- The U.S. government to place specially trained, armed guards on American commercial airline flights.
 - Extending, under DOT auspices, the use of electronic and other surveillance techniques by U.S. flag carriers to all gateway airports in the U.S., and in other countries wherever possible.
 - Accelerated efforts by Federal agencies to develop security measures, including new methods for detecting weapons and explosives devices.
 - The State Department and other appropriate agencies to consult foreign governments and foreign carriers on anti-hijacking techniques.
 - All countries to accept the multilateral convention (to be considered at a conference held under the auspices of the International Civil Aviation Organization) providing for extradition or punishment of hijackers.

October

11 October | First flight of the 747-200.

November

16 November | Lockheed L-1011 TriStar first flight.



Source: Lockheed

December

16 December | The Hague Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft is signed.

18 December | Creation of Airbus Industrie.

1971

---Trans Com develops the 8mm film cassette. Flight attendants can now change movies in-flight and add short subject programming.

---March

25 March | First flight of Ilyushin IL-76 transport. [1]

29 March | Air Southwest Co. changes its name to Southwest Airlines Co.

---April

2 April | The resulting complex study of the effects of aircraft noise leads ICAO to the adoption of Annex 16: Environmental Protection.

---May

13 May | Concorde 001 (F-WTSS) makes its first automatic landing.

25 May | U.S. President Nixon signs a supplemental appropriations bill, which, among other things, kills the U.S. SST program.

---June

18 June | Southwest Airlines inaugural flight.

---July

27 July | FAA puts into operation two mobile

lounges that can be raised and lowered to accommodate varying aircraft floor heights at Dulles International Airport.

29 July

| American and United Airlines take delivery of the first two production Douglas DC-10 jetliners.

---August

| The IATA Multilateral Control Agreement for Interline ULD Handling becomes effective.

---September

3 September | The Concorde makes its first transatlantic crossing.

23 September | The Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, is signed in Montreal.

---November

| Air France officially becomes Airbus's first customer, placing an order for six A300B2s with six options.

30 November | First flight of the 747-200 Freighter.

[1] Source: Ilyushin



1972

UK CAA is established by Parliament as an independent specialist aviation regulator.

Malaysia-Singapore Airlines (MSA) separates into two airlines, Malaysian Airline System, and Singapore Airlines as we know it today.

January

21 January | FAA commissions the first operational Category IIIa instrument landing system at Dulles International Airport.

February

2 February | FAA institutes mandatory screening of all airline passengers as anti-hijacking measure.

April

30 April | Eastern Airlines begins scheduled service of the Lockheed L-1011.

June

15 June | Effective this date, FAA lowers the number of flight attendants required on airliners with certain seating capacities. One flight attendant is now required for planes with 10-50 passenger seats, while on larger aircraft, the ratio will be one attendant for every 50 passenger seats or additional fraction of 50 seats.

19 June | A 24-hour worldwide stoppage of airline traffic declared by the IFALPA takes place. This action, intended to dramatize the need for sterner measures against hijackers, brings to a standstill domestic and international airline operations in more than 30 countries.

August

9 August | Maiden flight of the serial aircraft EMB 110 Bandeirante. [1]

September | Trans World Airlines receives FAA's first authorization to operate at Category IIIa weather minimums.

1 September | The British Airways Group is established, which eventually results in BOAC and BEA being dissolved on 31 March 1974.

October

1 October | Malaysia-Singapore Airlines is split and Malaysia introduces Malaysian Airline Limited, which subsequently is renamed Malaysian Airline System, and takes to the skies.



Source: Airbus

27 October | Beechcraft Super King Air first flight.

28 October | The A300, the first Airbus aircraft and first widebody twin engine jetliner, takes off.

December

5 December | FAA amends Air Carriers' Security Programs to request 100% inspection of carry-on luggage to prevent hijacking effective 6 January 1973.

[1] Source: Embraer



1973

....Radar data processing gets a new upgrade.

....January

- 26 January** | The Montréal Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation comes into force.
- 29 January** | Emily Howell Warner becomes the first woman employed as a pilot for a scheduled commercial airline.



Source: Smithsonian Institution

....February

- 15 February** | The United States and Cuba sign an anti-hijacking agreement calling for the two nations to extradite or punish any person "who seizes, removes, appropriates or diverts from its normal route or activities an aircraft or vessel" of one country and takes it to the other.

....March

- 21 March** | Air Malta is set up by a Resolution of Malta's House of Representatives and registered as a limited liability company on 30 March 1973.

....April

- 17 April** | Federal Express officially begin operations.
- 27 April** | An FAA rule imposing a virtual ban on civilian supersonic flights over the United States comes into effect.

....May

- 10 May** | The Civil Aeronautics Board publishes the first rule regulating smoking on aircraft for reasons of consumer comfort and protection. The Board requires airlines to provide separate sections for smokers and nonsmokers.

....June

- 19 June** | The U.S. and U.S.S.R. sign an agreement on joint cooperation in the field of transportation calling for exchanges of information in areas that include the safety and efficiency of civil aviation.

....September

- 20 September** | A Concorde prototype, in its first visit to the United States, lands at the Dallas-Ft. Worth International Airport.

....October

- 17 October** | The Arab-dominated Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries unites to impose an oil embargo on the United States, Western Europe, and Japan that remains in effect until 18 March 1974.

....December

- 6 December** | Air France's first Concorde, Concorde 201 (F-WTSB), the first production type aircraft, carries out a flight lasting 2 hours 50 minutes.
- 14 December** | The civil aviation organization of Latin American States (LACAC) is founded.

1974

Brunei International Airport becomes operational. Its inauguration marks an important date in the history of civil aviation in Brunei. The airport opens Brunei to the world.

January

1 January | The Foundation Treaty is signed and the Gulf Aviation Company becomes Gulf Air, the national carrier of the four Gulf states.

13 January | Dallas-Fort Worth Airport officially opens for commercial flights.

March

8 March | Inauguration of Paris-Charles de Gaulle Airport, revolutionary with its terminal composed of a central cylindrical body and seven satellites.



Source: Aeroports de Paris

15 March | The A300B2 receives certification from French and German aviation authorities.

22 March | ICAO Council adopt SARPS in Annex 17 on Security: Safeguarding International Civil Aviation against Acts of Unlawful Interference.

31 March | BOAC and BEA are dissolved following the formation of British Airways.

May

10 May | The first A300B2 is delivered to Air France.



Source: Airbus

30 May | FAA certifies the Airbus A300.

June

27 June | Eurocopter AS350 first flight.

August

5 August | U.S. President Nixon signs the Anti-Hijacking Act of 1974 into law.

22 August | Short 330 first flight.

September | Korean Airlines becomes the first non-European airline to place an order with Airbus, for four A300B4s.

November

Early | Iberia launches Europe's first walk-on air shuttle service, between Madrid and Barcelona.

18 November | Royal Brunei Airlines, the country's flag carrier, is established.

December

24 December | FAA publishes a rule requiring installation of the Ground Proximity Warning System (GPWS) on large turbojet and turboprop airliners.

27 December | A300B4 first flight.

1975

....Braniff is the first airline to offer video games inflight (Atari).

....Founding of TAM-Transportes Aéreos Regionais by Capitan Rolim Adolfo Amaro.

....January

24 January | Eurocopter AS365 Dauphin first flight.

....February

26 February | Cessna 404 Titan first flight.

....March

7 March | Yakovlev Yak-42 first flight.

27 March | de Havilland Canada Dash 7 first flight. **[1]**

....April

1 April | The National Transportation Safety Board becomes a completely independent agency.

4 April | A regulation governing the installation and safe operation of X-ray devices for screening carry-on luggage at airports becomes effective.

....July

4 July | First flight of the 747SP.

....**September** | RAA is founded.

....December

19 December | Air France takes delivery of its 1st Concorde F-BVFA (205).

26 December | The Soviet Union inaugurates the world's first regular supersonic airline service, with the departure of a Tupolev-144 from Moscow for Alma-Ata in the Kazakh Republic. The plane carries only mail and cargo over the 2,500-mile route.

[1] Source: de Havilland



1976

January

14 January | British Airways takes delivery of its 1st Concorde G-BOAA (206).

21 January | The Concorde aircraft of both Air France and British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC) launch scheduled supersonic passenger services. Air France's Concorde flies from Paris to Rio de Janeiro in 7 hours and 25 minutes, including a one-hour refuelling stop in Dakar, Senegal. BOAC's Concorde makes the flight from London to Bahrain in 3 hours and 37 minutes.

February

4 February | U.S. Secretary of Transportation, William T. Coleman, Jr., announces his decision to permit the Anglo-French supersonic transport Concorde to land in the U.S. on a temporary, restricted basis.

March

| Responding to public and congressional concerns about near collisions in the air, Administrator John L. McLucas announces a five-point separation assurance program; continued enhancement of ground-based air traffic control; consideration of increased use of Instrument Flight Rules and radar beacon surveillance; possible additional requirements for carriage of radar beacons (transponders) with altitude reporting capability; development of the Beacon Collision Avoidance System (BCAS).

May

1 May | Pan Am's "Liberty Clipper," one of the new 747 SP's, leaves New York and travels east on a record breaking around the world trip. With ninety-six passengers and only two re-fueling stops -- at Delhi and Tokyo -- the flight arrives back in New York only forty-six hours from departure, besting the previous mark by some fifteen hours.

24 May

| Following a 3-hour 35-minute flight from London, the first Concorde supersonic commercial airliner lands at Dulles Airport. The French Concorde arrives from Paris approximately two minutes later.



Source: www.concordesst.com

July

1 July

| Northwest is the first airline approved by FAA to install coordinated flight crew training.

9 July

| Antonov An-32 first flight.

December

22 December

| First flight of IL-86, USSR's first wide-body and the world's second four-engine wide-body.



Source: Ilyushin

1977

-**January** | Kenya Airways is established.
- 10 January** | FAA publishes a rule raising the maximum number of transport aircraft passenger seats per main (Type A) emergency exit from 100 to 110, effective 10 February 1977. The change clears the way for certification of Boeing 747s seating over 500.

-**February**
- 1 February** | The A300 becomes the first aircraft to be equipped with the Cat IIIa autoland system.

-**March**
- 14 March** | Jomo Kenyatta International Airport takes over operations from the old airport, Embakasi Airport.
- 27 March** | The world's worst aviation disaster occurs at Los Rodeos airport, Tenerife, when a KLM Boeing 747 collides with a Pan American 747. In total, 587 passengers and crew are killed.

-**April**
- 13 to 26 April** | The First Air Transport Conference is held in Montreal under the auspices of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), to consider a wide range of economic and regulatory issues concerning international civil aviation. The ICAO Conference formulates numerous recommendations for use by governments in establishing a basic framework and policies relating to international air transport services.

-**May** | British Airways introduce an "Executive Club" cabin on its Boeing 747 flights to New York. This was a separate cabin for economy passengers paying the full fare.

-**June**
- 10 June** | U.S. Senate confirms Alfred E. Kahn as Chairman of the CAB. Kahn's policies at the CAB help to pave the way for legislation that virtually ends the economic regulation of airlines in the U.S.

-**July**
- 23 July** | The United States and the United Kingdom sign the "Bermuda II" agreement.

-**August**
- 31 August** | Antonov An-72 first flight.

-**September**
- 23 September** | U.S. Secretary of Transportation Brock Adams announces proposed permanent rules for civil supersonic transport (SST) operations in the United States.

- 26 September** | Laker Airlines' low-cost "Skytrain" transatlantic service makes its first flight from New York to London.

-**October** | The Reef Runway is completed at Honolulu International Airport. It is the first major runway in the world built entirely offshore on an underwater fringing coral reef.
- 17 October** | The U.S. Supreme Court lifts the ban by New York's JFK Airport on the Concorde SST, clearing the way for immediate trial flights.

- 28 to 30 October** | A Pan American World Airways Boeing 747SP sets a speed record for a round-the-world flight, via both Poles, covering a distance of 42,970 km (26,706 sm) in 54 hours and 7 minutes.

-**November**
- 9 November** | U.S. President Jimmy Carter signs into law amendments to the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, one of which entitled the Air Cargo Deregulation Act substantially exempts all-cargo aircraft operations from CAB regulation.

- 22 November** | Concorde passenger service from New York to London and Paris begins.

-**December**
- 14 December** | Mil Mi-26, the largest and most powerful helicopter ever to have gone into production, makes its first flight.

1978

March

10 March | The United States and the Netherlands sign a new international aviation agreement, based on the principle of free competition.

May

| Narita Airport is open.

June

1 June | The Tu-144 Aeroflot service from 1 November 1977 is interrupted after 102 flights, as a result of an occurrence of a non-commercial flight accident.

September

13 September | Eurocopter AS332 Super Puma first flight.

23 September | The Protocol to Amend the Convention on Damage Caused by Foreign Aircraft to Third Parties on the Surface is adopted and signed.

October

| British Airways introduces "Club Class," a separate premium cabin with numerous amenities.



Source: British Airways

24 October

| U.S. President Carter signs the Airline Deregulation Act of 1978 allowing immediate fare reductions of up to 70% without CAB approval and the automatic entry of new airlines into routes not protected by other air carriers. CAB's authority over fares, routes, and mergers is to be phased out entirely before 1983, and, unless Congress acts, CAB itself will shut down by 1 January 1985. It also authorizes the use of larger aircraft by commuter airlines.



Source: U.S. DOT

28 October

| Pan American is one of first airlines to introduce a new class of service for business and full-fare economy passengers, called Pan Am's "Clipper Class".

December

| Delta begins transatlantic service: Atlanta to London, introduces Medallion Service.

1979

Qantas introduces Business Class air travel becoming the first airline in the world to do so.



Source: Qantas

TNT starts air transport activities and becomes the first express carrier in Europe providing direct delivery services by air.

January

14 January | Braniff Airlines begin flying leased Concorde supersonic airliners between Washington Dulles and Dallas-Fort Worth airports, under the terms of a unique interchange agreement with British Airways and Air France. Since the Concorde carried passengers between two American cities, they had to be registered in the United States. This involved FAA certification of the Concorde and a special FAA rule allowing the speedy re-registration of the planes between the two European carriers and Braniff. The Braniff flights were over land and therefore had to be flown at subsonic speeds under U.S. environmental rules, but nevertheless cut the flight time between Dallas-Fort Worth and Europe. The service did not prove to be profitable, however, and Braniff terminated it on 1st June 1980.

25 January | Southwest's MSY service begins with one daily HOU roundtrip. This marks Southwest's first scheduled interstate flight, the first time Southwest flies outside the State of Texas.

March

6 March | An all-female Hawaiian Airlines' crew operates a certified U.S. scheduled flight; the first all-female crew to do so.



Source: Hawaiian Airlines

15 March | Swissair becomes the first A310 customer.

31 March | Northwest enters the transatlantic passenger market.

August

| Delta is the first airline in the world to board one million passengers in one city in one month (Atlanta in month of August).

October

3 October | Eurocopter AS355 first flight.

18 October | The Douglas DC-9 Super 80 twin-engine jetliner makes its first flight.



Source: Boeing

1980

The specifications and guidance material developed by ICAO's Panel on Passport Cards is published as the first edition of Doc 9303, titled *A Passport with Machine Readable Capability*, which becomes the basis for the initial issuance of machine-readable passports by Australia, Canada and the United States.

ERA is founded in Switzerland with 5 airline members.



Delta Air Lines becomes the first airline to make a major move from film to video in-flight entertainment, equipping its entire transatlantic L-1011 fleet.

February

12 to 28

February

| The Second ICAO Air Transport Conference develop 32 recommendations and provide an opportunity for governments to take stock of current issues in international air transport on the basis of conclusions of two panels of experts which had been working since the first Air Transport Conference in 1977. In reviewing recent developments on the regulation of aircraft capacity on international routes and the establishment of international fares and rates, the Conference confronted with the positions of some States for a more liberal market and those of many governments for a firmly regulated international market.

15 February

| U.S. President Carter signs into law the International Air Transportation Competition Act of 1979, designed to reduce regulation and increase competition in international air transportation and to strengthen the position of the United States in its dealings with foreign states

that were discriminating against American airlines.

15 February

| FAA announces improved standards for the seats of airline crew members. The new rule requires the flight attendant seats to be equipped with combination seat belts and safety harnesses, and for the seats themselves to have energy-absorbing backs.

March

28 March

| British Aerospace Jetstream first flight.

April

8 April

| ALTA (Latin American and Caribbean Air Transport Association) is founded in Bogota, Colombia.

June

1 June

| Airbus introduces the use of composite materials on secondary structures in a trial using an A300.

7 June

| The first transpolar flight of a commercial airline. It is accomplished by an Aerolineas Argentinas Jumbo 747. Departing from Buenos Aires, it makes a stop in Rio Gallegos, goes over the South Pole and reaches Auckland (New Zealand).

13 June

| The last Concorde to be produced, number 16, is delivered to British Airways.

November

9 November

| Dan-Air registers the last commercial flight by a de Havilland Comet.

December

7 December

| The Pan American World Airways Boeing 747 China Clipper arrives in Beijing, China, from John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York after a stop in Tokyo, Japan. It marks the first time since 1949 that a commercial flight between the United States and Mainland China is completed.

11 December

| First flight of A300 with digital autopilot.

26 December

| Aeroflot introduces the Ilyushin Il-86 into service on its Moscow-Tashkent route.

1981

....Delta launches Frequent Flyer program.

....UPS purchases its first aircraft for use in air delivery service.

....**March**

2 March | Japan Air Lines is the first airline to use a computerised flight simulator to train its crews.

28 March | Dornier Do 228-100 first flight.

....**April**

30 April | PeopleExpress begins flights with a route from Newark to Columbus.

....**May**

1 May | American introduces the AADVANTAGE travel awards program.



6 May | United launches its Mileage Plus frequent flier program.

....**June**

1 June | Short 360 first flight.

10 June | Air France: launch customer of the A320.

23 June | Administrator Helms announces FAA's decision to adopt the Threat Alert and Collision Avoidance System, soon re-named the Traffic Alert and Collision Avoidance System (TCAS).

26 June | ICAO adopts Annex 18 on The Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air.

....**July**

1 July | Opening of Singapore Changi Airport. [1]

....**August**

3 August | Approximately 12,300 members of the 15,000-member PATCO go on strike. U.S. President Reagan issues the strikers a firm ultimatum - return to work within

48 hours or face permanent dismissal. After expiration of the grace period, FAA fires approximately 11,400 controllers. PATCO disbands and the controllers remain without a union.

....**September**

3 September | British Aerospace 146 first flight.

26 September | The Boeing 767-200 makes its first flight.

....**October**

7 October | The first A300 with a two-man crew - Garuda Indonesian Airways' first Airbus aircraft makes its initial flight.

....**November**

4 November | Aerospatiale and Aeritalia merge their two separate regional aircraft designs into a single effort. The Cooperation Agreement launching the ATR program is signed in Paris.

[1] Source: Changi Airport Group



1982

...Air France moves into the state-of-the-art terminal at Paris-Charles de Gaulle Terminal 2.

...Air Canada becomes an industry leader in providing inflight medical emergency kits – they go above and beyond the first-aid kits carried by other airlines.

January

28 January | The FAA issues the National Airspace System Plan, outlining its blueprint for updating and modernizing over the next two decades its ATC and navigation systems, including, among other components, the Advanced Automation System for air traffic, Doppler weather radar, and the Microwave Landing System.

February

5 February | Freddie Laker's Laker Airways flies for the last time.

19 February | The Boeing 757-200 makes its first flight.

April

3 April | A310-200 first flight.



Source: Airbus

...**May** | First ECAC-US Memorandum of Understanding on North Atlantic pricing.
| British Airways launches into the Concorde charter market.

12 May | Braniff Airlines becomes the first scheduled airline to file for protection under Chapter 11 of the bankruptcy code in the history of American civil aviation.

June

24 June | The Boeing 747-236B operating as British Airways Flight 9 flies through a cloud of volcanic ash south of Java. All of its engines shut down, but the crew is able to restart them and make a safe landing at Halim Perdanakusuma Airport in Jakarta, Indonesia.

September

3 September | Beechcraft 1900 first flight.

October

5 October | First flight of the 747-300.

29 October | Air France discontinues its Concorde service to Washington, making New York its only Concorde service destination.

November

| A new designation system for McDonnell Douglas commercial aircraft combines the "M" of McDonnell and the "D" of Douglas. The first aircraft to use the designation is the DC-9 Super 80, which now becomes the MD-80.

December

9 December | Cessna 208 Caravan first flight.

24 December | Antonov An-124 Ruslan first flight.



Source: Antonov

1983

....First Common Use Terminal Equipment (CUTE) check-in desks are installed in LAX for the 1984 Summer Olympic Games.

....Delta introduces computer-generated boarding passes and automates advance seat selection, greatly improving the boarding process in gate areas. Delta is the first major U.S. carrier to meet new federal standards reducing flyover noise in airport neighborhoods.

....January

25 January | First prototype of the Saab-Fairchild SF-340 makes its maiden flight.

....April

22 April | Finnair begins nonstop flights from Helsinki to Tokyo using a DC-10-30. Finnair's Tokyo flight is the world's only nonstop flight between Western Europe and Japan.

....May

23 May | The first aircraft (Rockwell International Saberliner) to navigate across the Atlantic entirely by use of the Global Positioning System (GPS) lands at Paris.

26 May | PeopleExpress starts flights from Newark to London.

....June

2 June | Air Canada Flight 797, a McDonnell Douglas DC-9-32, experiences an in-flight fire and makes an emergency landing at Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport. The accident prompts the installation of smoke detectors

and emergency lighting leading to exits aboard airliners, as well as increased firefighting training and equipment for airline crews.

20 June

| Bombardier Dash 8 first flight.

....July

8 July

| The A300-600 makes its maiden flight.



Source: Airbus

22 July

| The FAA announces that the Boeing 757 and 767 models share so many common features that a pilot who qualifies in one model is automatically qualified on the other.

29 July

| The EMB 120 Brasilia turboprop makes its maiden flight.



Source: Embraer

....November

11 November | CASA CN-235 first flight.

1984

UK and the Netherlands sign their first bilateral open skies agreement.

SITA's first air-ground service, VHF AIRCOM, is introduced. SITA's Common Use Terminal Equipment (CUTE) system launches – enabling airlines to share check-in terminals.

February | The decision to use side-stick controllers on the A320 is revealed.

24 February | First flight of Boeing 737-300.

March | Virgin Atlantic Airways is born.
| British Airways Concorde services to Washington are extended to Miami three days a week.

1 March | Delta strengthens ties to regional airline partners through its new Delta Connection program.

2 March | Airbus launches A320.

May

10 May | The 25th Session (Extraordinary) of the ICAO Assembly approves unanimously Resolution A25-1 incorporating an explicit recognition that the use of weapons against civil aircraft is prohibited.

June

20 June | The Civil Aeronautics Board publishes additional rules regulating smoking on aircraft. The provisions include a ban on smoking in commercial aircraft with fewer than 30 passenger seats and a total ban on smoking in airliners while on the ground.

22 June | Rutan Voyager first flight.

July

25 July | Xiamen Airlines Co. Ltd is established.

August

16 August | The ATR 42 makes its first flight.

October

4 October | U.S. President signs into law the Civil Aeronautics Board Sunset Act of 1984, which transfers to DOT, among oth-

er things, CAB's consumer protection functions and its authority to approve consolidations, mergers, and antitrust exemptions for airlines.

14 October | The first telephone system, allowing passengers to call during a flight, begins operations by six companies.



Source: Delta Flight Museum

26 October | FAA publishes two rules to increase the survival chances of airline passengers encountering fire and smoke: Seat cushions must possess an outer layer of highly fire-resistant material and requiring an emergency escape path marking at or near floor level.

30 October | U.S. President Reagan signs into law the Commercial Space Launch Act of 1984, which gives DOT's Office of Commercial Space Transportation the responsibility for promoting private sector commercial space endeavours.

November

1 November | American introduces the American Eagle system.

December

1 December | FAA and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration conduct a Controlled Impact Demonstration (CID) in which a Boeing 720 is remotely piloted to a prepared crash site.

1985

---Nippon Cargo Airlines is established.

---Ryanair is set up by the Ryan family.

---March

29 March | FAA publishes a rule to improve cabin fire protection for passengers aboard aircraft operated by major airlines under Federal Aviation Regulations Part 121. The rule requires that each lavatory be equipped with a smoke detector, or equivalent, and that each lavatory trash receptacle be equipped with an automatic fire extinguisher.

---June

6 June | U.S. FAA issues AC 120-42. This AC provides guidance on one means of obtaining deviation authority from § 121.161 to allow two-engine airplanes to operate on routes up to 120 minutes from an adequate airport after demonstration of specific levels of in-service experience and systems reliability. TWA is the first US airline to offer to fly the Atlantic using twin-engine aircraft (Boeing 767s), thus introducing ETOPS, or extended-range twin-engine operations, to the industry.

---July

9 July | A310-300 first flight. As well as its advanced forward-facing crew cockpit, the A310-300 is the first subsonic civil airliner to have a trim tank for extra fuel in the tail and, through the fuel transfer system, to control the centre of gravity to reduce fuel consumption and drag. It also features weight-saving carbon brakes and advanced aluminium alloys. The A310-300 is also the first commercial airliner to feature drag reducing wingtip devices and composites in primary structures, with an all-composite fin.

---August

12 August | A Japan Air Lines 747 crashes into a mountain about 70 miles northwest of

Tokyo after wandering out of control for more than 30 minutes. All but 4 of the 524 persons aboard are killed, a fatality toll higher than in any previous single-plane accident.

---September

18 September | DOT issues a rule prohibiting deceptive airline codesharing. The rule requires airlines sharing the same two-letter designator code to notify passengers of the arrangement and identify the airline actually providing the transportation.

---October

22 October to 7 November | The Third ICAO Air Transport Conference approve 23 recommendations on different aspects of regulatory policies governing scheduled and non-scheduled services, unilateral measures which affect international air transport, the role of governments in the tariff field, rules and conditions associated with international tariffs, and tariff enforcement.

25 October | Emirates operate its flights from Dubai to Karachi and Mumbai, using a Boeing 737 and an Airbus 300 B4 wet-leased from Pakistan International Airlines.



Source: Emirates

November

7 November | U.S. Secretary of Transportation Dole approves United Airlines' acquisition of Pan American World Airways' Pacific routes.

---December

28 December | Fokker 50 first flight.

1986

Bombardier purchases Canadair.

The U.S.S.R. formally opens its airspace to international airlines and, as a result, most services between Europe and the Far East now operate nonstop via Siberia, which reduces travel time by about 6-7 hours.

Alia changes its trade name to Royal Jordanian.

Chicago O'Hare Airport is the first airport to surpass 50 million passengers.

Copenhagen Airport Pier B transit hall is expanded and modernised – among other things it includes the world's first 'real' airport shopping centre.

March | ANA begins scheduled international service with the start of a Tokyo-Guam route.

April | The European Court of Justice rules that air transport agreements are subject to the competition rules of the Treaty of Rome. As a consequence, the European Commission agrees to develop a general framework to liberalize air transport regulations within the European Community.

August
6 August | British Aerospace ATP first flight.

15 August | Pursuant to an agreement with Japan and the Soviet Union, a new communi-

cations link provides a dedicated voice circuit between ATC centers in Tokyo and Khabarovsk, U.S.S.R. American controllers at Anchorage can also communicate with Khabarovsk by patching through the Tokyo center.

September

19 September | Sichuan Airlines is established.

October

2 October | U.S. President Reagan signs into law the Air Carrier Access Act of 1986, which requires commercial airlines to provide nondiscriminatory service for passengers with disabilities.

November

30 November | Fokker 100 first flight.

December

4 December | First flight of McDonnell Douglas MD-87.

14 to 23

December | Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager become the first aircraft pilots to circle the globe without landing or refueling when their experimental airplane Voyager touches down at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., after covering 25,000 miles in nine days. [1]

19 December | Western becomes a wholly-owned subsidiary of Delta.

[1] Source: Smithsonian Institution



1987

February | British Airways is finally privatised in a hugely oversubscribed flotation.

1 February | Continental becomes the third largest US airline with the consolidation of Frontier, People Express and New York Air.

22 February | A320 roll-out and first flight. The A320 becomes the first airliner to fly with full digital, computer-driven fly-by-wire controls and side-stick controller.



Source: Airbus

March

18 March | The first revenue flight of an airplane equipped with an operational TCAS II version of the Traffic Alert and Collision Avoidance System occurs.

May

26 May | A new FAA regulation requires airline operators to equip all large passenger aircraft with protective breathing equipment (PBE) for flight attendants.

31 May | First landing by a DHC-7 of Brymon Airways at London City Airport.



Source: London's Royal Docks

June

5 June | FAA publishes a rule requiring airlines to develop and use approved programs to control the amount and size of carry-on baggage with compliance by 1 January 1988.

16 June | The 'International Agreement on the Procedure for the Establishment of Tariffs for Intra-European Scheduled Air Services' and the 'International Agreement on the Sharing of Capacity on Intra-European Scheduled Air Services' are opened for signatures.

July

| Air France introduces in-flight video on all its long-haul Airbus A300s, then on all its Boeing 747s.

16 July | A merger of British Airways with financially troubled British Caledonian is announced.

October

21 October | Amadeus, an independent and neutral global distribution system (GDS), is founded by 4 airlines; Air France, Iberia, Lufthansa and SAS.

December

14 December | The EU first "package" of measures is adopted to relax the established rules. For intra-EU traffic, it limits the right of governments to object to the introduction of new fares. It also gives some flexibility to airlines concerning seat capacity sharing.

19 December | Effective this date, FAA requires a positive baggage/passenger match on all international flights by U.S. airlines.

1988

ICAO begins work on establishing the most effective biometric identification system and associated means of data storage for use in MRTD applications, particularly in relation to document issuance and immigration considerations.

LOT becomes the first carrier in the countries of Central and Eastern European to operate using American airliners (Boeing 767).

UPS receives authorization from the FAA to operate its own aircraft, thereby officially becoming an airline.

February

17 February | Asiana is founded.

19 February | First flight of Boeing 737-400.

26 February | A320 receives joint European certification.

March

28 March | Air France, launch customer, takes delivery of the first A320.

April

23 April | A ban on smoking on U.S. airline flights of less than two hours comes into effect. Northwest bans smoking on all North American flights, the first major U.S. airline to do so.

29 April | First flight of the first 747-400.



Source: Boeing

June

2 June | Finnair direct flights from Helsinki to

Beijing begin. The flights represent the first direct connection between Europe and China by a Western European airline.

25 June | China Eastern Airlines is founded.

July

1 July | Air China Limited ("Air China") is founded.

1 July | Deregulation of the European air transport industry.

September

22 September | FAA issues a rule requiring that all turbine-powered airliners seating 30 passengers or more carry equipment to warn pilots when they encounter low-altitude wind shear.

28 September | First flight of IL-96-300.

October

27 October | First flight of the ATR 72.

December

21 December | Antonov An-225 Mriya first flight.



Source: Antonov

28 December | Let L-610 first flight.

30 December | FAA amends this AC in 1988 (AC 120-42A) to permit two-engine airplanes to operate up to 180 minutes from an adequate airport. These ACs introduce the term "ETOPS" for those specific Extended Operations.

1989

January

- 2 January** | Tupolev Tu-204 first flight.
- 10 January** | FAA publishes a rule requiring the Traffic Alert and Collision Avoidance System (TCAS II) on all airliners with more than 30 passenger seats operating in U.S. airspace.
- 31 January** | Northwest is launch customer of Boeing 747-400. [1]

March

- 8 March** | Evergreen Group Chairman and Founder Dr. Chang Yung-Fa establishes EVA Air.

May

- Virgin Atlantic becomes the first airline to offer business class passengers individual TVs with the introduction of Sony Video walkmans and a library of films.

June

- 12 June** | Airbus announces it has delivered 500 aircraft since its inception.

- 30 June** | Boeing 737-500 first flight.

July

- KLM acquires a 20% interest in the US carrier, Northwest Airlines, an important step toward the creation of a worldwide network.

August

- 7 August** | The first Croatian air carrier, called Zagal - actually Zagreb Airline - is registered.
- 17 August** | The first Qantas 747-400, VH-OJA 'City of Canberra', touches down at Sydney Airport after a nonstop flight from London to Sydney. The 18,001km flight took 20 hours, nine minutes and five seconds and established a new world distance record for a commercial aircraft.

September

- 14 September** | U.S. Congress passes smoking legislation for domestic passenger flights.

October

- October** | SunExpress is founded as a subsidiary of Turkish Airlines and Lufthansa.

[1] Source: Delta Flight Museum



1990

....Air Transport Action Group (ATAG) is formed.



Aviation Industry Commitment to Action on Climate Change

....January

10 January | The McDonnell Douglas MD-11 makes its first flight.



Source: Boeing

12 January | Air France, UTA and Air Inter merge to form the Air France Group.

12 January | Pegasus Airlines is founded.

30 January | U.S. DOT issues an order inviting applications from eligible foreign airlines wishing to serve U.S. cities having no single-plane service to the applicant's home countries. On 27 March, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines becomes the first to receive route awards under this program.

....February

25 February | Prohibition of smoking comes into effect on all scheduled U.S. domestic flights.

....March

2 March | FAA issues a final rule requiring air carriers to restrict seats in exit rows to persons capable of activating emergency exits.

28 March | The Boeing 737 becomes the world's best-selling jetliner when United Airlines accepts delivery of the 1,832nd 737.

29 March | First flight of IL-114 regional aircraft.

....**April** | The European Air Traffic Control Harmonisation and Integration Programme launched.

10 April | The 6,000th Boeing jetliner, a 767, is delivered to Britannia Airways.

....May

| Virgin becomes first airline to introduce automatic defibrillators and trained staff to aid inflight cardiac arrest victims.

....June

1 June | The U.S. Secretary of State and Soviet Foreign Minister sign an agreement providing for expanded air service between their two countries.

....July

23 July | Following the first democratic elections, Zagal changes its name to Croatia Airlines.

24 July | The second EU "package" opens up the market further, allowing greater flexibility over the setting of fares and capacity-sharing. It also gives all EU carriers the right to carry an unlimited number of passengers or cargo between their home country and another EU country.

....September

25 September | The UN votes to ban virtually all air traffic with Iraq.

27 September | United Air Lines is the first airline to introduce satellite communications for its aircraft.

....October

| Air Canada become the first scheduled airline in the world to offer exclusively smoke-free flights between North America and Europe.

1 October | JAL bans smoking on 13 routes with flight times under two hours.

22 to 26 October

| The 28th Session (Extraordinary) of the ICAO Assembly adopts a comprehensive policy with regard to noise issues.

23 October | United announces the purchase of Pan Am's routes between the U.S. and London.

28 October | First scheduled flight of Lufthansa to Tegel Airport in Berlin after German reunification.

1991

---Swissair becomes the world's first airline to produce a full-scale environmental audit.

---**January** | Establishment of the Airports Council International (ACI).

18 January | Eastern Air Lines ceases operations.

---**February**

12 February to 1 March | The Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection is adopted by the International Conference on Air Law.

---**March**

11 March | The United States and the United Kingdom reach an agreement on airline service which includes permission for United and American to succeed Pan Am and TWA in serving Heathrow. In return, British airlines receive increased access to U.S. airports.

27 March | American celebrates its 1 billionth customer.

---**April**

2 April | Northwest and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines begin their first joint service, twice-weekly flights between Minneapolis/St. Paul and Amsterdam-launching their airline alliance.

3 April | Northwest is first U.S. airline to fly over the Soviet Union since World War II.

30 April | The 1,010th Boeing 707 rolls out ending a 35-year-old production line.

---**May**

10 May | Bombardier CRJ100 first flight.



Source: Bombardier

24 May | An EL AL Boeing 747 airlifts a record-breaking 1,087 passengers.

---**June**

| Virgin Atlantic becomes the first airline operating widebodied aircraft to offer individual TV screens and a choice of channels to passengers in all classes.

20 June

| Secretary Skinner announces a further liberalization of the law regarding foreign investment in U.S. air carriers, raising the maximum foreign ownership of voting stock in U.S. air carriers from 25% to 49%.

---**August**

12 August | A Federal bankruptcy judge approves a deal under which Delta Air Lines will acquire major Pan American assets and also own 45% of a downsized PAA.

---**September**

25 September | British Aerospace Jetstream 41 first flight.

---**October**

22 October | Northwest pioneers the first satellite navigation and communication link.

25 October | A highly successful first flight for the A340.



Source: Airbus

---**November**

1 November | Delta purchases substantially all of Pan Am's transatlantic routes and the Pan Am Shuttle making this the largest acquisition of flights in airline history.

---**December**

4 December | Pan Am ceases operations.

6 December | Dornier 328 first flight.

9 December | United acquires Pan Am's Latin American operations for \$135 million.

1992

...EVA Air and Virgin Atlantic Mid Class (May) introduce two of the very first premium economy services.

...Delta introduces new in-flight technologies, including seat-back telephones, live radio news broadcasts; first U.S. airline with moving maps in the cabin showing aircraft's position and route.

January

1 January | KLM launches the Flying Dutchman customer loyalty programme, the first of its kind on the European mainland.

March

26 March | First flight of Saab 2000.

April

...**1 April** | Virgin is first airline to provide child safety seats.

1 April | A340-200 first flight.



Source: Airbus

May

17 May | Munich Airport commences operations, moving from the former site at Munich-Riem Airport, which was closed shortly before midnight on the previous day.

July

17 July | The United States and the European Economic Community sign an agreement placing certain limitations on government subsidies for the development and production of large civil aircraft.

September

4 September | DOT announces that the United States and the Netherlands have signed the first aviation agreement under the liberalized "open skies" initiative.

8 September | Air Canada become the first airline in the world to offer all its customers telephones at arm's reach on all of its aircraft.

9 September | Northwest Airlines and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines agree to create what they call "a unified global airlines system".

29 September to 8 October

| The 29th Session of the ICAO Assembly endorses a blueprint for a global satellite-based Communications, Navigation and Surveillance/ Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) systems' concept to replace existing line-of-sight systems.

October

1 October | Ukraine International Airlines (UIA) is established.

November

| Shenzhen Airlines Co., Ltd, is founded.

2 November

| The A330-300, the world's largest twin-engine widebody, flies for the first time.



Source: Airbus

December

22 December | After more than 2,400 test flights, both versions of the long range A340, the A340-200 and the A340-300, receive certification from the European Joint Airworthiness Authorities. It is the first time that approval had been granted simultaneously for two different aircraft versions.

1993

-**January** | Hainan Airlines Co Ltd is founded.
- 1 January** | The EU "third package" of measures for the liberalization of the Community's air transport market enters into force. This package introduces the freedom to provide services within the EU.
- 11 January** | U.S. Department of Transportation approves Northwest/KLM commercial cooperation and integration agreement under a grant of antitrust immunity. KLM and Northwest now are free to join together in creating a unified global airline system, the first of its kind in the world.
- 20 January** | Northwest and KLM announce first major steps toward integrating operations, including creation of a Seal of Partnership logo.
- 22 January** | Norwegian is established.
-**February**
- 22 February** | The McDonnell Douglas MD-90 makes its first flight.
-**March**
- 11 March** | Airbus A321 flies for the first time from Hamburg, Germany.



Source: Airbus

- 25 March** | The first A340-300 delivered to Air France. It also is the 1,000th Airbus aircraft to be handed over in the consortium's history.
-**April**

- 4 April** | Fokker 70 first flight.
-**May**
- 4 May** | First flight of the 747-400 Freighter.
-**June**
- 8 June** | Joel R. Goheen invents electronic ticketing in the airline industry.
- 16 June** | An A340-200 dubbed the "World Ranger" sets a series of records by flying round the world with only one stop. The aircraft takes off from the Paris air show on 16th June and arrives in Auckland, New Zealand, the next day after a flight lasting 21 hours and 32 minutes. The aircraft takes off again five hours later, landing at Le Bourget after 21 hours and 46 minutes. Among the world records set by the A340 World Ranger: the first non-stop flight between Europe and New Zealand and the longest non-stop flight by an airliner.



Source: Airbus

-**July**
- 14 July** | Aeroflot starts passenger operations on 'Moscow-New York' route with IL-96-300.
-**September** | KLM and Northwest Airlines start operating all their flights between the U.S. and Europe as part of a joint venture.
-**October**
- 21 October** | The A330-300 becomes the first airliner to achieve simultaneous European and American certification.

1994

International Air Cargo Forum Association is reorganized and registered in the Cayman Islands as The International Air Cargo Association (TIACA), a not-for-profit corporation.

American launches its first non-smoking transatlantic flight.

January

18 January | Southwest and McCaw Cellular's Claircom Communications unveil the world's first broadly available air-to-ground commercial fax and data service through the AirOne Communications Network.

27 January | Lufthansa takes delivery of the first A321.

February

15 February | Northwest and KLM introduce World Business Class. They are the first airlines from two different countries to offer a joint international service product.

April

| Canadian Airlines has the distinction of being the first airline in the world to have a website on the Internet (www.cdnair.ca). It is given recognition for not only being the first airline website in the world but also the first with transactional capabilities, such as flight arrival/departure and fare information.

June

12 June | Boeing 777 first flight.



Source: Boeing

23 June | Antonov An-38 first flight.

July

5 July | Frontier Airlines operations begin with two Boeing 737-200s.

August

15 August | FAA issues a regulation which, for the first time, sets length of duty and rest requirements for airline flight attendants. Under the rule, attendants can remain on duty for as many as 14 hours within a 24-hour period but will require a rest period of at least 9 hours after that duty period.

September

4 September | Kansai International Airport is inaugurated. It is the world's first airport located 4 km (2.5 sm) offshore on a man-made island, covering some 500 hectares in Osaka Bay.

13 September | A300-600 Super Transporter first flight.

November

| British Airways Concorde services to Washington are discontinued after 18 years of operation.

1 November | United launches E-Ticket on Shuttle by United routes.

23 November to

6 December | The Fourth ICAO Worldwide Air Transport Conference conduct a comprehensive examination of all facets of the economic regulation of international air transport (developed by the Study Group of Experts on Future Regulatory Arrangements (GEFRA) and the Secretariat) since the 1940s, ranging from route, traffic and operational rights to "doing business" issues like ground handling, sales and marketing and computer reservation systems. It reaches conclusions concerning ten specific aspects and identified eight areas for further study. The theme of this Conference was "International Air Transport Regulation – Present and Future".

December

16 December | Antonov An-70 first flight.

19 December | Recognizing a need for ETOPS diversion authority between 120 and 180 minutes, the U.S. FAA reinstates the 138-minute provision by issuing EPL 95-1.

1995

...British Midland becomes the first airline to offer a booking service with payment over the internet, CyberSeat.

...Qamdo Bamda Airport in Tibet China holds the official title of having the world's longest runway at a staggering 5,500 metres in length.

January

1 January | Delta is the first U.S. airline to voluntarily ban smoking on all flights.

31 January | Marking a new era in the airline industry, Southwest becomes one of the first major airlines to offer Ticketless Travel to its Customers systemwide.

February

24 February | The Governments of Canada and the United States sign a new Air Transport Agreement reflecting the open skies concept.

March

26 March | The Schengen Agreement comes into force.

May

17 May | Delivery of the first Boeing 777 to United Airlines.

30 May | The Boeing 777 becomes the first airplane in aviation history to earn U.S. FAA approval to fly extended-range twin-engine operations (ETOPS) at service entry.

June

| UK Government reaches agreement with the U.S. Government on a new 'mini-deal' annex to the Bermuda 2 air services agreement, which secures US approval for British Airways' outstanding codeshare requests.

1 June | Air Canada goes online for the first time.

August

1 August | U.S. DOT announces the availability of a Global Positioning System (GPS) signal specification defining performance standards for civil aviation use.

10 August | IPTN N-250 first flight.

11 August | Maiden Flight of the ERJ 145.



Source: Embraer

16 August | A Concorde sets a new speed record for a round-the-world flight. It returns to John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York, New York, after a journey lasting 31 hours 27 minutes, passing through Toulouse, France; Dubai, United Arab Emirates; Bangkok, Thailand; Guam; Honolulu, Hawaii; and Acapulco, Mexico.

25 August | The A319 successfully completes its maiden flight.



Source: Airbus

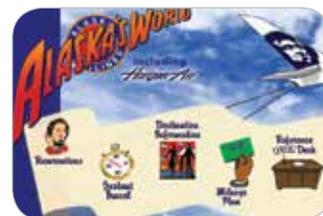
28 August | airBaltic Joint Venture Agreement is signed.

November

28 November | The McDonnell-Douglas MD-11 makes the first safe, automated landing of a transport aircraft using engine thrust.

December

27 December | Alaska Airlines becomes the first U.S. carrier to offer online ticketing via the Internet.



1996

CANSO - the Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation - is founded.



Delta is the first airline to offer in-seat power and live broadcast television programming.

American adds inflight laptop computer capabilities to its aircraft and announces that it will equip certain aircraft with defibrillators.

February

29 February | WestJet, a Canadian airline, begins operations.



29 February | As part of a continuing "open skies" initiative, DOT announce a U.S.- German agreement relaxing limitations on air travel between the two countries.

March

| The Central Flow Management Unit (CFMU) becomes fully responsible for air traffic flow management across EUROCONTROL Member States. In addition, the Concept of the Flexible Use of Airspace (FUA) is adopted.

8 March

| Cebu Pacific Air enters the aviation industry.

15 March

| Fokker goes into bankruptcy.

May

7 May

| DOT announces that about 80% of non-stop scheduled U.S. airline flights between the United States and foreign countries will be free of smoking as of 1st June.

June

5 June

| The Arab Civil Aviation Commission (ACAC) is established on 7 February 1996, when its Agreement came into force, and its first General Assembly was held. Twenty-two States have ratified the Convention.

1997

- ...American Airlines becomes the first airline to expand ticketless travel to all transatlantic flights.
- ...China Eastern Airlines becomes the first listed company in Chinese civil aviation industry (Listed on the Hong Kong, New York and Shanghai stock exchanges).
- ...Delta is the first airline to board more than 100 million passengers in a year.
- ...Relaunch of Qatar Airways.
- ...Ryanair launches its first four European routes with services from London Stansted to Stockholm Skavsta and Oslo Torp, and with low-fare flights from Dublin to Paris Beauvais and Brussels Charleroi.
- ...SITA's first common-use kiosk deployments take place and the first customers are Northwest Airlines and Alaska Airlines.

February

- 9 February** | The first Next-Generation Boeing 737, a 737-700, makes its first flight.



Source: Boeing

April

- | Introduction in the EU of the freedom to provide "cabotage": the right for an airline of one Member State to operate a route within another Member State.
- 2 April** | A Boeing 777-200 sets a record for flying around the world, eastbound, in 41 hours and 59 minutes.

May

- 14 May** | Air Canada, Lufthansa, SAS, Thai Airways International and United Airlines launch the Star Alliance network.



Source: Star Alliance

July

- 31 July** | The 737-800 makes its first flight, with Boeing Capts. Mike Hewett and Jim McRoberts at the airplane's controls.

August

- 1 August** | The Boeing Company, along with its North American component, merges with McDonnell Douglas Corp.
- 13 August** | A330-200 first flight.



Source: Airbus

September

- 17 September** | Antonov An-140 first flight.

October

- 16 October** | Boeing 777-300 first flight.

December

- 17 December** | Boeing delivers the first Next-Generation 737-700 to launch customer Southwest Airlines.

1998

January

- 22 January** | The Boeing 737-600 - the smallest member of the Next-Generation 737 airplane family - makes its first flight.
- 31 January** | First flight Bombardier Dash 8 Q400.

April

- 1 April** | A330-200 becomes the first airliner to receive simultaneous, triple type certification by the European Joint Aviation Authorities (JAA), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Transport Canada.
- 22 April** | The first 737-800 is delivered to launch customer Hapag-Lloyd of Germany.

May

- 1 May** | Northwest completes KLM stock repurchase.

June

- 21 June** | The Convention for the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection enters into force.
- 30 June** | Kuala Lumpur International Airport KLIA opens its doors. [1]

July

- 4 July** | The ERJ 135 makes its maiden flight.
- 6 July** | HKIA commences operations. The first flight landed is Cathay Pacific CX889 from New York, which touched down at 0627. The first departing flight is CX907 for Manila, which left HKIA at 07:19.

August

- 2 August** | First flight of the Boeing 757-300.

September

- 2 September** | Boeing 717 first flight.



Source: Boeing

- 22 September** | United is the first airline to offer electronic ticketing on around-the-world flights.

October

- 8 October** | Oslo Airport (OSL) Norway's main airport is opened.

[1] Source: Malaysia Airports



1999

February

1 February | American Airlines, British Airways, Canadian Airlines, Cathay Pacific Airways and Qantas Airways implement oneworld global alliance.

March

5 March | United becomes first U.S. airline to offer customers in first class a seat that converts to a bed, the United First Suites.

May

27 May | Bombardier CRJ700 series first flight. [1]

28 May | The new Montreal Convention, formally entitled Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air, is signed. This new convention is intended to replace the above-described Warsaw System.

28 May | The first flights of Aegean Airlines are performed.

June

22 June | Air France and Delta Air Lines sign an exclusive long-term strategic agreement.

July

| JetBlue reveals that all its aircraft will offer 24 channels of live satellite television at every seat, a first for the airline industry.

1 July | Tax-free sales are discontinued on flights in the European Union area.

September

1 September | Next-Generation 737s are certified for 180-minute ETOPS Operation.

16 September | Alaska Airlines offers the world's first online check-in.

October

9 October | First flight of Boeing 767-400ER.

December

| KLM is the world's first airline to attain ISO 14001 certification for its Environmental Management System.

3 December | U.S. Department of Transportation grants antitrust immunity to tripartite alliance of Northwest, KLM and Alitalia.

9 December | The last Classic 737 is rolled off the Renton, Wash. assembly line, ending a production run of 1,988 airplanes.

[1] Source: Bombardier



2000

---January

- | Formal launch of the ATM 2000+ Strategy.
- | British Airways announces the introduction of a new cabin, World Traveller Plus. Services between London and New York JFK are to include both the Club World 'Lounge in the Sky', the world's first fully flat bed in business class, and World Traveller Plus by Summer 2000.
- | British Airways launches the world's first commercial interactive TV service offered by an airline.

---February

- 11 February | JetBlue commences operations.

jetBlue

- 25 February | Xian MA60 first flight.

---March

- 21 March | At the request of the industry, the U.S. FAA issues ETOPS Policy Letter (EPL) 20-1, 207 Minute ETOPS Operation Approval Criteria.

---June

- 14 June | Air Canada and United Airlines introduced the world's first interline electronic ticket.
- 22 June | The CEOs of Aeromexico, Air France, Delta Air Lines and Korean Air meet in New York to announce the formation of SkyTeam.



Source: Delta Air Lines

- 27 June | Embraer ERJ 140 maiden flight.

- 30 June | Lion Air starts operations.

---July

- 25 July | Air France Concorde F-BTSC crashes in Paris due to engine failure after a tyre burst, with the loss of 109 people on board and 4 on the ground.

---August

- 3 August | First flight of the Next-Generation 737-900.
- 16 August | CAA and DGAC officially withdraw Concorde's Certificate of Airworthiness.

- 31 August | Virgin Blue operates its first flight from Brisbane to Sydney.

---December

- 1 December | Northwest becomes the first major network carrier to offer an Internet check-in program through its web site, nwa.com. (Service is available for all customers flying domestically).



2001

---Ryanair selects its first Continental European base at Brussels Charleroi Airport.

---January

1 January | Air Canada and Canadian Airlines International Ltd. officially merge.

10 January | American announces that it has agreed to purchase substantially all the assets of Trans World Airlines, Inc.

15 January | GOL begins its operations.

---March

27 March | Athens International Airport Inauguration by the Prime Minister, C. Simitis, in the presence of the President of the Hellenic Republic, C. Stefanopoulos.



Source: Athens International Airport

29 March | Incheon Airport officially opens.

---**April** | American Airlines completes acquisition of TWA's assets.

23 April | Airbus A340-600 first flight.



Source: Airbus

---May

1 May | The Multilateral Agreement on the Liberalization of International Air Transportation (MALIAT) is signed in Washington D.C. by Brunei Darussalam, Chile, New Zealand, Singapore and the United States of America.

---September

11 September | Nineteen radical Islamic extremists with the group al Qaeda penetrate security at three major airports, seizing four U.S. domestic airliners, and turning three of the aircraft into missiles that destroy the World Trade Center in New York City and damage the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia. Passengers on the fourth plane fought the hijackers, causing the plane to crash in a Pennsylvania field.

---October

| Singapore Airlines, first to offer audio and video on demand (AVOD) capabilities on KrisWorld in all classes.

---November

7 November | Air France and British Airways re-introduce scheduled supersonic Concorde services between Paris-New York and London-New York, respectively.

7 November | Sabena declares bankruptcy and ceases operations.

16 November | The Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment and the Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters specific to Aircraft Equipment is adopted at Cape Town.

19 November | The U.S. President signs the Aviation and Transportation Security Act, which among other provisions, establishes a new agency responsible for aviation security - the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), within DOT.

2002

January

| Reduced Vertical Separation Minima (RVSM) is introduced.

15 January | Airbus A318 takes off on maiden flight.



Source: Airbus

15 January | Crossair assumes commercial responsibility for most of the European routes formerly operated by Swissair.

February

11 February | The ultra-long range A340-500, Airbus' longest range airliner to date, takes off on its maiden flight at 10:25 hours local time.



Source: Airbus

13 February | TSA assumes responsibilities for aviation security from the FAA.

19 February | Embraer 170 first flight.



Source: Embraer

March

31 March | Swissair stops flying after 71 years and SWISS begins its operations.

April

1 April | Normal operations using aircraft that meet ICAO "Chapter 2" noise standards cease in Europe.

June

24 June | Northwest announces an industry first - a new online self-service product that allows customers to make reservation changes and complete E-Ticket exchanges online at the airline's website. This new functionality also includes fares purchased online.

28 June | With the U.S. Department of Transportation's approval, SkyTeam becomes the first global airline alliance with antitrust immunity for routes across both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans as Korean Air and Delta Air Lines receive antitrust immunity.

July

12 July | EASA is established.



November

5 November | The European Commission welcomes the ruling of the European Court of Justice in the so-called "open skies" cases, which address the legality of bilateral agreements concluded between eight EC Member States and the United States.

13 November | Northwest adds another industry first to its self-service check-in products: Internet Check-In and E-Service Center airport kiosks by expanding self-service check-in to customers traveling with electronic tickets from the United States and Canada to Europe and Asia, including connections through Tokyo's Narita Airport.

2003

---McCarran Las Vegas airport announces it is implementing a baggage-tracking system that uses Radio-frequency identification (RFID) bag tags, making McCarran one of the first airports to use the RFID technology airport-wide.

---January

15 January | Connexion by Boeing service aboard a Lufthansa 747-400 provides commercial airline passengers the chance to experience in-flight broadband Internet access for the first time.

---February

24 February | The 777-300ER completes its first flight.



Source: Boeing

---March

1 March | Homeland Security Act (November 2002) moves TSA into the new Department of Homeland Security.

17 March | World Health Organisation (WHO) issues travel advisory and implements precautionary world-wide directives in order to avoid further spread of SARS.

24 to 28 March | The Fifth ICAO Worldwide Air Transport Conference conclude by approving by acclamation a declaration of global principles to create an environment in which international air transport may develop and flourish in a stable, efficient and economical manner without compromising safety and security and while respecting social and labour standards.

---May

| ICAO adopts a global, harmonized blueprint for integrating biometric

identification information into passports and other MRTDs.

20 May | SpaceShipOne first flight.

31 May | Air France concludes Concorde passenger services with an AF001 flight from New York (F-BTSD), and a round-the-Bay of Biscay Charter (F-BVFB).

---June

1 to 3 June | The 59th IATA Annual General Meeting (AGM) and World Air Transport Summit (WATS), agree to launch a global IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) program from 1 July 2003.

14 June | First flight of the Embraer 175 prototype.

---July

| Etihad Airways is set up by Royal (Amiri) Decree.

| End of the SARS global epidemic.

---September

29 September | IATA rolls out worldwide Safety Audit Programme - Qatar Airways is First participant.

---October

14 October | The Concorde breaks its own record for a trans-Atlantic flight with a hop from London to Boston that lasts just three hours, five minutes and 34 seconds.

24 October | British Airways withdraws Concorde, signalling the closure of the world's only supersonic passenger services. The last scheduled commercial flight is BA2 from JFK.

28 October | Launch of Air Arabia.

---November

4 November | The New Montreal Convention comes into force.

26 November | Final ever Flight of Concorde : G-BOAF departs from Heathrow heading to place of her birth, Filton Airfield.

---December

12 December | The Vision 100 - Century of Aviation Re-authorization Act, is signed into law endorsing the concept of a Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen).

2004

Morocco signs open skies agreement with the European Union. The liberalization results in a massive influx of low-cost airlines on Moroccan routes.

.aero launches. SITA sponsors the .aero Top-Level Domain name on behalf of the aviation community. .aero is reserved exclusively for aviation.

January

| British Airways' first transatlantic code share flights with American Airlines to and from the UK opens for sale on daily flights from Manchester to New York and Chicago.

March

| Single European Skies (SES I) legislative package is adopted.

12 March

| Embraer 190 Maiden Flight.

May

5 May

| The AIR FRANCE KLM Group is born. On this day Air France redeemed the conditions of its share bid, allowing for the merger between Air France and KLM.

19 May

| Wizz Air first flight takes off from Katowice.

25 May

| Qantas's new low-cost domestic airline, Jetstar, commences operations.

June

6 to 8 June

| The 60th IATA Annual General Meeting (AGM) and World Air Transport Summit (WATS) adopts a Resolution on Business Simplification. The five main priority areas identified for action are:
1) electronic ticketing (ET); 2) the aggressive implementation of common

use self-service (CUSS) kiosks at airports; 3) bar coding technology for boarding documents; 4) radio frequency technology for baggage management by developing standards and an industry implementation program; and 5) automated interlining of passenger and cargo traffic by restructuring essential back-office components, including automated fare quotation, posted prices, trusted prorate and machine-readable fare construction.

21 June

| SpaceShipOne is the first non-government built spacecraft to transport a person into space and return safely to earth.

28 June

| Singapore Airlines inaugurates the world's longest commercial daily non-stop flight between Singapore and Newark (serving New York) - an 18-hour, 9,539 sm (15,348 km) journey over the North Pole with its first Airbus A340-500.

July

1 July

| Vueling commences operations.

December

7 December

| The Embraer 195 commercial airliner makes its first flight at Embraer's Sao José dos Campos site. [1]

15 December

| DOT unveils the Integrated Plan for the Next Generation Air Transportation System, which lays out goals, objectives, and requirements necessary to create the NextGen system.

17 December

| Antonov An-148 first flight.



[1] Source: Embraer

2005

....2D standard for paper bar code boarding passes is established.

....January

4 January | The McCarran Airport in Las Vegas airport starts offering wireless internet service at no charge. The signal is available in the boarding areas and most other public areas. At the time, this was the largest [2 million square feet (180,000 m²)] free wireless Internet installation in the world.

28 January | Boeing gives the 7E7 Dreamliner its official model designation number of 787, following an offer by the People's Republic of China to buy 60 Boeing 787 Dreamliners.

29 January | Nonstop flights between mainland China and Taiwan take-off for the first time since 1949.

....February

17 February | Opening day of the new Central Japan International Airport (Centrair). JL3201 bound for Fukuoka is the first JAL flight to leave the new airport.

....March

8 March | The first Boeing 777-200LR Worldliner completes its first flight.

11 March | China's first private airline, Okay Airlines, has its maiden revenue flight.

....April

27 April | A380, the 21st century flagship, successfully completes its first flight. [1]

....May

14 May | An AS350 B3 climbs to 3,000 meters / 9,900 ft in 2 minutes 21 seconds and makes a world record landing on Mount Everest.

24 May | SpiceJet commences operations.

....June

15 June | Continental becomes the first U.S. passenger airline to initiate flights to mainland China in nearly 20 years as it inaugurates new daily service from its New York hub at Newark Liberty International Airport to Beijing.

....September

28 September | U.S. Federal Aviation Administration issues the first airworthiness certificate for a commercial unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), the General Atomics Altair.

....November

10 November | The Boeing 777-200LR Worldliner establishes a new world record for nonstop distance by a commercial airplane, flying 11,664 nautical miles in 22 hours and 42 minutes from Hong Kong to London.

[1] Source: Kostas Iatrou



2006

January

| Airports Council International (ACI) officially launches the Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Survey.

February

| EUROCONTROL launches the new European Safety Programme (ESP).

4 February

| Madrid Terminal 4 opens with a surface area of over 750,000 m² and capacity for 35 million passengers a year and 120 flights an hour.

8 to 11

February

| The American adventurer, Steve Fossett, breaks the record for the absolute longest-distance flight without landing by taking off from the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, Florida, on 8 February, circumnavigating the world eastbound, and, after passing over Florida, continuing across the Atlantic Ocean for a second time to land in Bournemouth, England, after a flight of 76 hours 43 minutes, covering 42,469.46 km (26,373.54 miles).

March

13 March

| Inaugural flight of Volaris.

17 March

| Steve Fossett flies the GlobalFlyer to one more major aviation record: The Absolute Distance Over a Closed Circuit. Fossett started in Salina, Kansas on 14 March and flew eastbound around the world. Upon leaving Japan he flew south and then tracked along the Equator in order to maximize the distance while crossing the Pacific Ocean. He landed in Salina, Kansas on 17 March after traversing a total of 25,294 miles (40,707 km) to set a new Absolute Distance Over a Closed Circuit Record.

August

4 August

| IndiGo starts services with a flight from New Delhi to Imphal via Guwahati.

27 August

| Air India and Indian merger attains official status as National Aviation Company of India Ltd.

September

1 September

| The Boeing 737-900ER makes its first flight from the Renton Municipal Airport in Renton, Washington.

28 September

| Suvarnabhumi Airport officially opens to replace Don Muang airport.



Source: Airports of Thailand

November

1 November

| Air Transport News is launched.



December

| KLM is the world's first airline to introduce self-service transfer kiosks at which transfer passengers at Schiphol can print their own boarding passes.

12 December

| Airbus A380 receives joint EASA & FAA Type Certification.

2007

January

4 January | ATR delivers to the Indian carrier, Kingfisher Airlines, the world's first turboprop aircraft equipped with an In-Flight Entertainment system (IFE). This aircraft is also the first turboprop equipped with Light Emitting Diodes (LED) in the whole cabin.

February

27 February | SESAR Joint Undertaking (SJU) is established under Council Regulation (EC) 219/2007.

April

30 April | U.S.-EU Air Transport Agreement is signed.

June

3 to 5 June | The 63rd IATA Annual General Meeting (AGM) and World Air Transport Summit (WATS), held in Vancouver, issues five main challenges to drive the air transport industry towards its vision of zero emissions.

July

1 July | SWISS becomes a fully owned subsidiary of Lufthansa.

August

14 August | First flight of IL-96-400T.

September

18 to 28 September | The main aims of the 36th Session of the ICAO General Assembly, held in Montreal, are to enhance the safety, security, sustainability and efficiency of the global air transport system. The accomplishments of ICAO since its last General Assembly in 2004 can be summarized as follows: 1) a plan for strengthening aviation security worldwide; 2) the expansion of the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP); 3) the streamlining and creation of air routes; 4) new standards to protect the environment; 5) progress towards the liberalization of air transport worldwide; and 6) implementing new legal instruments.

October

25 October | The world's first A380 passenger flight takes off from Changi Airport. Singapore Airlines flight SQ380 departs for Sydney, Australia. [1]

December

4 December | Continental teams with the Transportation Security Administration to be the first U.S. carrier to launch a paperless boarding pass pilot program that allows passengers to receive boarding passes electronically on their cell phones or PDAs.

[1] Source: Sydney Airport



2008

Delta is the first U.S. airline to announce In-flight wi-fi for its domestic mainline fleet.

January | American introduces a mobile version of AA.com.

February

1 February | An Airbus A380 aircraft successfully completes the world's first ever flight by a commercial aircraft using a liquid fuel processed from gas (Gas to Liquids-GTL).

24 February | Boeing, Virgin Atlantic and GE Aviation conduct the first commercial aviation flight using a sustainable biomass-to-liquid fuel mixed with traditional kerosene-based jet fuel.

March

20 March | Emirates is the first airline in the world to commercially launch an in-flight mobile telephone service.

26 March | The world's largest airport terminal, Beijing Capital Airport Terminal 3, opens.



Source: Beijing Capital International Airport

28 March | Heathrow Terminal 5 is officially opened by Her Majesty, The Queen.

30 March | U.S.-EU Air Transport Agreement is applied.

April

22 April | At the global Aviation and Environment Summit, commercial aviation industry leaders sign a declaration on climate change to lead towards carbon neutral growth and a totally sustainable industry.

May

19 May | Sukhoi Superjet 100 first flight.

June

1 to 3 June | The 64th IATA AGM and WATS held in Istanbul. IATA announces the end of the paper ticket era with the adoption of 100% electronic ticketing worldwide.



Source: IATA

13 June | U.S. FAA issues regulation AC No 120-42B that allows beyond 240-minute ETOPS on a case-by-case basis.

25 June | Single European Skies Second Package (SES II) is adopted.

July

28 July | First Airbus A380 enters Emirates' fleet.

September

12 September | NZ 8 to San Francisco, renamed Aspire I, takes part in a world's first test flight to demonstrate the potential for significantly reduced carbon emissions under optimal flight conditions.

28 September | First Airbus final assembly line outside Europe inaugurated in Tianjin, China.

October

29 October | Northwest merges with Delta.

November

28 November | Comac ARJ 21 first flight.

December

15 December | Azul Linhas Aéreas Brasileiras S.A. inaugurates its services.

30 December | Air New Zealand successfully completes the world's first commercial aviation flight powered by the sustainable second-generation biofuel jatropha.

2009

March

31 March | The Continuous Descent Approach (CDA) Action Plan is launched (ACI Europe, CANSO, EUROCONTROL and IATA).

April

20 April to 2 May | A Special Group on the modernization of the Rome Convention develops two draft Conventions: 1) Convention on Compensation for Damage to Third Parties, Resulting from Acts of Unlawful Interference Involving Aircraft; 2) Convention on Compensation for Damage Caused by Aircraft to Third Parties. These two drafts are considered and adopted at the International Conference on Air Law on Compensation for Damage Caused by Aircraft to Third Parties Arising from Acts of Unlawful Interference or from General Risks, held at Montreal.

May

20 May | ASEAN agrees on Multilateral Agreement on Air Services.

June

1 June | flydubai makes its inaugural commercial flight with a flight to Beirut.

5 June | TAP becomes the first airline in the world to launch the IATA carbon offset programme.

15 June | ACI Europe launches Airport Carbon Accreditation, allowing for the assessment and recognition of participating airports' efforts to manage and reduce their CO₂ emissions. This same year Frankfurt Airport becomes the first airport to receive its accreditation status.



September

3 September | Agreement is signed in Vienna with new partner, Lufthansa. Austrian Airlines becomes member of the Lufthansa Group.

November

12 November | Airbus A330 is first airliner to be certified for ETOPS "beyond 180 minutes".

December

3 December | The first Solar Impulse aircraft, HB-SIA. It is the first solar-powered aircraft capable of flying both day and night thanks to batteries charged by solar power that provide it with power during darkness. It makes its first flight, a short hop of 350 meters, in Switzerland.

15 December | The 787 Dreamliner makes its first flight from Paine Field in Everett, Wash. under the control of Capt. Mike Carriker and Capt. Randy Neville. Takeoff occurs at 10:27 a.m. Pacific time.



Source: Boeing

31 December | U.S. Federal Aviation Administration approves a single operating certificate for Delta and Northwest, allowing the airlines to begin fully integrating schedules, routes, airfares and reservation systems.

January

26 January | Revolutionary Air New Zealand 777-300 interiors publicly unveiled including the Economy Skycouch and Premium Economy Spaceseat.

February

8 February | Boeing 747-8 Freighter completes first flight.



Source: Kostas Iatrou

March

4 March | The ATR 42-600 pre-series aircraft successfully takes to the sky for the first time in Toulouse.

April

7 April | This morning at 10:27, the Solar Impulse HB-SIA takes off from Payerne (VD) airfield on its maiden flight. Under the eyes of thousands of spectators from all over Switzerland, Solar Impulse HB-SIA slowly climbs to 1200 meters.

15 to 22 April | Eyjafjallajökull volcano erupts in Iceland causing widespread disruptions in European airspace.

May

| The first airport RFID baggage handling system, which stores and sorts data on all luggage, is installed at Aalborg Airport, Denmark.

July

21 July | Final approval by the U.S. Department of Transportation of the application for antitrust immunity for the oneworld alliance's transatlantic carriers, American Airlines, British Airways, Finnair, Iberia and Royal Jordanian, and the joint business agreement (JBA) between the US, UK and Spanish companies.

September

10 September | The Diplomatic Conference on Aviation Security in Beijing adopts two international air law instruments for the suppression of unlawful acts relating to civil aviation: the Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation (prevailing over the above-mentioned Montréal Convention of 23 September 1971 and the Protocol completed in Montréal on 23 September 1971 and signed on 24 February 1988) and the Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (supplementing the above-mentioned Convention signed at The Hague on 16 December 1970).

28 September to 8 October

| In the 37th ICAO Assembly, ICAO, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the European Union and the International Air Transport Association formally agree to create a Global Safety Information Exchange (GSIE). In addition, ICAO Member States agree to historic agreement on aviation and climate change.

October

1 October | United Continental Holdings, Inc., formerly UAL Corporation, announces today that a wholly-owned subsidiary has merged with Continental Airlines, Inc., and that Continental Airlines and United Air Lines, Inc. are now wholly owned subsidiaries of United Continental Holdings, Inc., creating a world-class global airline.

28 to 31 October

| Leaving in the early evening from Amsterdam's Schiphol airport on 28 October and arriving at the same place in the early dawn of 31 October, Dr. Kostas Iatrou—the co-founder and Managing Director of Air Transport News—completes a Round-The-World trip with SkyTeam in 60 hours and 47 minutes (The actual itinerary appears as follows: Amsterdam—Seoul—Sydney—Los Angeles—Minneapolis—Amsterdam).

2011

January

24 January | British Airways and Iberia merge, creating the International Airlines Group (IAG).

February

9 February | Norwegian becomes the first airline to offer in-flight wi-fi on European routes.

March

17 March | UN Security Council approves 'No-Fly Zone' over Libya.

20 March | Boeing 747-8 Intercontinental conducts successful first flight.



Source: Boeing

May

4 May | Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo's First "Feathered" flight marks latest Milestone for Virgin Galactic.

June

23 June | AirAsia orders 200 Airbus A320neo aircraft.

July

15 July | Lufthansa launches the world's first ever daily commercial passenger flights using biofuel. The four return daily flights between Hamburg and Frankfurt are the first in the world to use a biofuel blend using 50% Hydro-processed Esters and Fatty Acids (HEFA).

20 July | AMR Corporation announces largest aircraft order in history with Boeing and Airbus. Under the new agreements, American plans to acquire 460 narrow-body, single-aisle aircraft.

September

28 September | Athens International Airport's Photovoltaic Park, the largest unified PV installation at an airport worldwide, officially launches operation. [1]

October

26 October | All Nippon Airways makes aviation history today by operating the first ever passenger flight of the Boeing 787 Dreamliner.

December

1 December | Air Transport Association changes name to Airlines for America.

12 December | Boeing announces today that it has received type-design approval from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for up to 330-minute extended operations (ETOPS) for its 777 fleet.



[1] Source: Athens International Airport

2012

January

25 January | Largest ever aircraft acquisition in Europe: Norwegian purchases 222 new aircraft.

February

3 February | Malev ceases operations.

14 February | Boeing, Lion Air finalize historic order for up to 380 737s.

April

5 April | Volotea makes its first flight.

30 April | Delta purchases an oil refinery, becoming first airline to produce its own jet fuel.

June

4 June | Scoot's first aircraft – also known as Goin' Scootin' – departs Singapore Changi Airport's terminal to Sydney International Airport.

22 June | LAN and TAM complete their transaction and create LATAM Airlines Group.



September

6 September | Qantas and Emirates today announced a new global aviation partnership that will give their customers a seamless Australian and international network, exclusive frequent flyer benefits and world-class travel experiences.

10 September | Airports Council International officially launches its APEX in Safety Programme. [1]

October

19 October | IATA announces that the IATA Passenger Service Conference adopts a Resolution on a Foundation Standard for a New Distribution Capability (NDC).

December

11 December | Delta and Virgin Atlantic to form a strategic alliance.



[1] Source: ACI

2013

January

16 January | Ryanair announces first Non-European Bases - Fez & Marrakech.

February

14 February | American Airlines and US Airways announce an \$11 Billion deal to merge, creating the world's largest airline.

25 February | ICAO adopts Annex 19 on Safety Management.

March

14 March | Hermes - Air Transport Organisation is founded.



HERMES
AIR TRANSPORT ORGANISATION

18 to 22 March | Increased liberalization of air carrier ownership and control, improved convergence of the myriad of consumer protection regimes applicable to passengers and airlines, enhanced air cargo liberalization, as well as renewed focus on minimizing State taxes and charges on air travel and transport are among the key long-term targets agreed to at ICAO's Sixth Worldwide Air Transport Conference (ATConf/6), held at ICAO Headquarters in Montréal.

April

29 April | Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo makes first rocket-powered flight.

30 April | The tallest airport control tower, Tower West at Kuala Lumpur International Airport, Malaysia, measuring 133.8 m, is completed.

June

14 June | First Airbus A350 XWB successfully completes flight.

Source: Kostas Iatrou



August

5 August | Airbus's 8,000th worldwide aircraft delivered.

8 August | IATA announces that Air Transat has become the first airline to renew its IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) registration under the Enhanced IOSA audit process.

September

16 September | Bombardier's first flight for C-Series Aircraft.

16 September | China begins flight operations at Daocheng Yading Airport, the world's highest civilian airport, at an elevation of 4,411 metres (14,472ft) above sea level.

17 September | Boeing flies First 787-9 Dreamliner.

October

4 October | The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) concludes a landmark 38th Assembly today receiving endorsements from its Member States on sector-wide strategic planning and exceeding many expectations by agreeing to develop a global market-based measure (MBM) for international aviation.

31 October | The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announces that the FAA has determined that airlines can safely expand passenger use of Portable Electronic Devices (PEDs) during all phases of flights, and immediately provides airlines with implementation guidance.

November

1 November | JetBlue becomes the first U.S. Airline to implement Personal Electronic Device use Gate-to-Gate.

23 November | Singapore Airlines discontinues Flight 21, the longest regularly-scheduled non-stop flight in the world.

2014

January

- 17 January** | Preliminary data released by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has confirmed that 2013 was the safest year ever recorded in terms of fatalities for scheduled international air transport operations.
- 27 January** | Southwest Airlines announces first international destinations.

March

- 8 March** | Malaysia Airlines confirms that flight MH370 lost contact with Subang Air Traffic Control at 2.40am, today.

April

- 16 April** | Boeing delivers 8,000th 737.
- 22 April** | airberlin iPhone App: World's First Smart-watch Boarding Pass.

May

- 27 May** | Qatar Airways commences full operations at its new state-of-the-art hub, Hamad International Airport (HIA), at 09:00 local time. The first commercial flight of Qatar Airways touching down at Hamad International Airport, marking the commencing of full operations of the national airline.



Source: Qatar Airways

June

- 2 June** | Successful first flight for Solar Impulse 2.

July

- 9 July** | Boeing, Emirates Finalize Order for 150 777Xs.
- 17 July** | A Boeing 777-200 passenger plane, operating Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, crashes in the Ukraine.
- 24 July** | The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) issues a State Letter reminding applicable authorities of its 191 signatory States to the Convention on International Civil Aviation of the international provisions specifying State responsibilities with respect to the safety and security of civil aircraft operating in airspace affected by conflict.

September

- 25 September** | First A320neo successfully completes first flight.



Source: Airbus

- 26 September** | EASA allows electronic devices to remain on and connected throughout a flight.

November

- 14 November** | The carbon standard for the airport industry - Airport Carbon Accreditation - goes global.

December

- 3 December** | Boeing conducts world's first flight with 'Green Diesel' as aviation biofuel.

2015

January

15 January | Qatar Airways inaugurates world's first A350 XWB route from Doha to Frankfurt.

February

3 February | Member States of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) recommend the adoption of a new 15-minute aircraft tracking standard during discussions amongst the over 850 participants to the UN aviation body's 2015 High Level Safety Conference. They also confirm their support today for the Organization's comprehensive conflict zone risk mitigation work programme, including a proposal to develop a prototype online resource for global conflict zone risk assessments.

27 February | Bombardier CS300 aircraft successfully completes maiden flight.



Source: Bombardier

March

11 March | Dr. Fang Liu of China becomes first-ever woman appointed Secretary General of ICAO.

27 March | EASA, after the Germanwings 4U 9525 accident, publishes a temporary recommendation for airlines to ensure that at least two crew members, including at least one qualified pilot, are in the flight crew compartment at all times of a flight.

April

8 April | American Airlines receives a single operating certificate from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for American and US Airways, marking a major milestone in the integration of the two airlines.

November

11 November | MRJ completes first flight.



Source: MRJ

30 November | easyJet becomes first airline in the world to introduce the real time Flightradar24 tracking feature to its mobile app.

December

12 December | A historic agreement to combat climate change and unleash actions and investment towards a low carbon, resilient and sustainable future is agreed by 195 nations in Paris.

27 December | ATL becomes first airport ever to serve 100 million passengers in a single year.

January

- 7 January** | Ryanair becomes the first airline to carry over 100m international customers in one year.
- 20 January** | Airlines for Europe (A4E), Europe's new airline association, is officially launched.
- 20 January** | The Lufthansa Group, Airbus's largest airline customer and operator, marks a major step in aviation history today by taking delivery of the first A320neo.
- 29 January** | First flight Boeing 737 MAX 8.

February

- 9 February** | A321neo takes to the sky for the first time.
- 16 February** | U.S. Transportation Secretary and Cuban Minister of Transportation sign an arrangement that provides for the re-establishment of scheduled air services between the United States and Cuba.
- 22 February** | The 36-State ICAO Governing Council adopts a new aviation safety measure which prohibits, on an interim basis, all shipments of lithium-ion batteries as cargo on passenger aircraft.

March

- 6 March** | Commemorating International Women's Day, National Carrier Air India makes history flying the world's longest all-women operated and supported flight on the nonstop Delhi-San Francisco route. Close to 17 hrs and travelling a distance of about 14500 km, the flight AI 173 departs from Delhi on March 6th at 0235 hrs and lands in San Francisco at 0621 hrs.
- 15 March** | On behalf of the aviation industry, IATA signs a declaration aimed at reducing the illegal trafficking of wildlife and underlining the aviation industry's commitment to sustainability.

April

- 4 April** | Boeing and Ryanair mark a milestone with the delivery of the airline's 400th Next-Generation 737-800.

May

- 23 May** | First Embraer E190-E2 Jet completes maiden flight.



Source: Embraer

25 May

- | FedEx acquires TNT Express.

July

- 17 July** | Emirates introduces the world's first interactive amenity kit in Economy Class.
- 26 July** | Solar Impulse 2 completes a round-the-world tour by landing back in Abu Dhabi after a total of 23 days of flight and 43,041 km travelled in a 17-leg journey.



Source: Solar Impulse

August

- 31 August** | U.S. Transportation Secretary arrives in Cuba on first scheduled flight in over 50 years. JetBlue makes history when it touches down in Santa Clara, Cuba, becoming the first U.S. airline to restart commercial flights between the two countries.

October

- 6 October** | Government, industry and civil society representatives agree on a new global market-based measure (GMBM) to control CO2 emissions from international aviation.
- 14 October** | Airbus celebrates the delivery of its 10,000th aircraft.

November

- 24 November** | 1st flight of Airbus A350-1000.

March

- 6 March** | The 36-State ICAO Council adopts a new aircraft CO2 emissions standard which will reduce the impact of aviation greenhouse gas emissions on the global climate.
- 29 March** | Embraer flies the E195 E2.
- 31 March** | The Boeing 787-10 Dreamliner take to the skies for the first time.
- 31 March** | The Airbus A319neo performs its first flight.

April

- 14 April** | The Boeing 737 MAX 9 completes its first flight.

May

- 5 May** | COMAC C919 completes successful maiden flight.
- 15 May** | International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) announces that it will begin establishing low-altitude traffic management guidance for domestic unmanned aircraft systems (UAS).
- 28 May** | MC-21-300 commercial airliner completes maiden flight.

October

- 4 October** | Youngest woman, Shaesta Waiz (30), in history completes solo round-the-world flight as part of 'Dreams Soar' campaign for girls and STEM.
- 16 October** | Airbus and Bombardier Announce C Series Partnership.



Source: Airbus

- 19 October** | First Airbus A330neo successfully completes maiden flight. **[1]**

November

- 2 November** | Emirates welcomes 100th A380 to its fleet.

December

- 13 December** | The United States and the European Union agree to expand cooperation in the areas of aviation safety and air traffic management modernization.



[1] Source: Airbus

2018

January

- 28 January** | The Single African Air Transport Market is formally established and launched at the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- 31 January** | First Airbus A321LR successfully completes maiden flight.

March

- 16 March** | Boeing 737 MAX 7 completes successful first flight.
- 24 March** | Qantas's first Perth to London flight takes off, marking the start of the only direct air link between Australia and Europe.

April

- 23 April** | Ultra Long Range Airbus A350 XWB completes first flight.

June

- 18 June** | Avinor - Norway's first electric-powered flight, takes to the skies.



Source: Avinor

- 27 June** | The ICAO Council makes important headway on key international standards supporting the UN aviation agency's Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation, or 'CORSIA'.

July

- 1 July** | Airbus's majority stake in C Series partnership with Bombardier and Investissement Québec comes into effect.

- 16 July** | Air France, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, China Southern Airlines and Xiamen Airlines form a single joint venture.

- 19 July** | First Airbus BelugaXL becomes airborne for its maiden flight.

- 25 July** | European Commission adopts new rules on mental fitness of aircrew.

September

- 3 September** | Airbus Perlan Mission II glider soars to 76,000 feet to break own altitude record, even surpassing the U-2 reconnaissance plane.



Source: Airbus

October

- 12 October** | Singapore Airlines (SIA) launches the world's longest commercial flight, between Singapore and New York. The first new nonstop flight between Singapore and New York departs on 11 October 2018 at 2337hrs (SIN time) and arrived at Newark Liberty International Airport a day later, at 0529hrs (US Eastern time). The flight duration is 17 hours 52 minutes.

- 29 October** | Lion Air flight JT610, a Boeing 737 MAX 8, crashes into the sea shortly after take-off from Jakarta-Soekarno-Hatta International Airport, Indonesia.

November

- 6 November** | First Airbus A330-800 successfully completes maiden flight.

2019

January

23 January | Boeing successfully completes the first flight of its autonomous passenger air vehicle.

February

5 February | The world's first fully automated aero-bridge launches at Wellington Airport.

14 February | Airbus announces that it will cease deliveries of the A380 in 2021.

March

4 March | The European Commission and the State of Qatar initial an aviation agreement, the first such agreement between the EU and a partner from the Gulf region.

10 March | An Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 737 MAX 8 crashes after take-off from Addis Ababa.

13 March | The FAA orders the temporary grounding of the Boeing 737 MAX.

April

6 April | New Istanbul Airport becomes fully operational.

13 April | Dominica becomes ICAO's 193rd Member State.

13 April | Stratolaunch completes historic first flight of aircraft.

23 April | FAA awards the first air carrier certification to a drone delivery company, Wing Aviation.

May

8 May | The first-ever commercial flight (Qantas flying from Sydney to Adelaide) to produce no landfill waste takes to the skies.

20 May | Airbus celebrates delivery of its 12,000th aircraft – an A220-100 to Delta Air Lines.

June

3 June | Bombardier concludes sale of the Q Series Aircraft program to Longview.

17 June | Airbus launches longest range single-aisle airliner: the A321XLR.

21 June | H55 Zero Emission electric airplane completes its first flight.

26 June | Europe's airport industry commits to net zero CO2 emissions by 2050.

September

11 September | EU aviation stakeholders sign a joint declaration committing to a set of concrete actions to finally and fully implement the Single European Sky (SES).

25 September | Beijing Daxing International Airport opens.

October

4 October | 40th ICAO Assembly endorses key action items for global aviation's Security and Facilitation strategic objectives. The Assembly calls for long-term aviation emissions targets, CORSIA support, and a new CAEP supersonics study, among key environmental protections, and drives progress towards key economic development priorities for air transport.

7 October | KLM, the world's oldest airline still operating under its original name, marks its 100th anniversary.

10 October | International Airlines Group (IAG) is the first airline group worldwide to commit to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

20 October | The first nonstop commercial airline flight from New York to Sydney lands after 19 hours 16 minutes in the air.

29 October | IndiGo places a firm order for 300 Airbus A320neo family aircraft.

November

15 November | Qantas centenary celebrations take off as direct London-Sydney research flight lands. Project Sunrise research flight, direct from London to Sydney, lands after 19 hours and 19 minutes.

December

5 December | Norwegian becomes first airline to sign UN climate action initiative.

11 December | Adoption by the European Commission of the European Green Deal.

12 December | First Embraer E175-E2 Jet completes maiden flight.

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