



BOEING 747-121

## **Pan Am Firsts**

**compiled by John Steele**

### **1927**

First American airline to operate a permanent international air service

First American airline to operate land airplanes over water on a regularly scheduled basis

First American airline to operate multi-engine aircraft permanently in scheduled service

Service Started: Key West, Havana

### **1928**

First American airline to use radio communications

First American airline to carry emergency lifesaving equipment

First American airline to use multiple flight crews

First American airline to develop an airport and airways traffic control system

First American airline to order and purchase aircraft built to its own specifications, the Sikorsky S-38

Service Started: Miami

### **1929**

First American airline to employ cabin attendants and serve meals aloft

First airline to develop and use instrument flight techniques

First American airline to develop a complete aviation weather service

Service Started: Nassau, Port of Spain, Santo Domingo, St. Thomas, Guatemala City, Mexico City, Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Santiago

### **1930**

First American airline to offer international air express service

Service Started: St. Lucia, Caracas, Maracaibo, Rio de Janeiro

### **1931**

First American airline to develop and operate four engine flying boats

### **1932**

First airline to sell all-expense international air tours

Service Started: Port-Au-Prince

**1933**

Service Started: Tampa

**1934**

Service Started: Orlando, Los Angeles

**1935**

First airline to develop and employ long range weather forecasting

First American airline to install facilities for heating food aboard an aircraft

First airline to operate scheduled transpacific passenger and mail service

Service Started: San Francisco, Honolulu

**1937**

Service Started: New York, Bermuda, Sao Paulo

**1939**

First airline to operate scheduled transatlantic passenger and mail service

**1940**

Service Started: Seattle/Tacoma

**1942**

First airline to complete a round-the-world flight

First airline to operate international service with all-cargo aircraft

Service Started: Monrovia

**1943**

Service Started: Dakar

**1944**

First airline to propose a plan for low cost, mass transportation on a worldwide basis

**1945**

First airline to use high-speed commercial land planes on a transatlantic route, the Douglas DC-4

Service Started: Philadelphia, London, Shannon

**1946**

First airline to operate non-stop scheduled service between Miami and New York (National)

First American airline to install GCA, Ground Controlled Approach, in overseas operations

Service Started: Houston, Berlin, Brussels, Frankfurt, Prague

**1947**

First airline to operate a scheduled round-the-world service

Service Started: Boston, Washington, Istanbul, Karachi

**1948**

First airline to provide tourist-class service outside the continental US

Service Started: Munich, Delhi

**1949**

Pan Am is the launch customer for Boeing's B-377 Stratocruiser

Service Started: St.Croix, Nice

**1950**

First airline with low-cost day and night coach service on the East Coast  
(National)

First commercial airline to enter the Korean airlift

Service Started: Amsterdam, Hamburg, Helsinki, Oslo, Paris, Stockholm

**1951**

Service Started: Rome

**1952**

First airline to use aircraft built specifically for tourist-class service in transatlantic service, the Douglas DC-6B

**1954**

Service Started: Chicago, Detroit, Nuremburg

**1955**

Pan Am specifies and orders the Boeing 707 and Douglas DC-8

**1957**

Service Started: Barbados

**1958**

Taking advantage of jets, Pan Am introduces Economy fares

Pan Am's Boeing 707 Clipper America starts the jet age with the first scheduled transatlantic service in American built jets

First airline to operate jets with the continental US (National)

**1959**

First airline to operate a scheduled round-the-world jet service

**1960**

Pan Am initiates first Douglas DC-8 jet service

**1961**

First airline to offer a worldwide marketing service to shippers and importers around the world

Service Started: Lagos

**1962**

First airline to operate 100,000 transatlantic flights

First airline to develop a global computer reservation systems (PANAMAC)

Service Started: St.Maarten

**1963**

First airline to operate the Boeing 707-321C jet freighter

Service Started: Belgrade

**1964**

First all-jet airline (National)

First airline to relay inflight messages via satellite

**1965**

First airline to operate round the world jet freighter service

Service Started: Nairobi

**1966**

Pan Am specifies and orders the Boeing 747

**1967**

First airline to make a fully automatic approach and landing in scheduled service

## **1968**

First airline to transmit engine data and position information from the aircraft to the ground using an air-ground data link system

First American airline to operate scheduled service in Russian airspace

Service Started: Moscow

## **1969**

First airline to receive FAA approval for regular use of the Carousel IV inertial navigation system

First airline to install onboard computers for in-flight engine performance analysis and reporting

## **1970**

First airline to operate the Boeing 747 in regular scheduled service

First airline with scheduled non-stop Miami-London service (National)

First airline to operate production-model air-ground satellite communications system

First airline to test and operate Data-Link automated aircraft identification and position system

## **1971**

First airline to open a major maintenance facility designed specifically for jumbo jets (JFK JetCenter)

First airline to operate round-the-world service with the Boeing 747

Service Started: Bucharest, Warsaw



## **1972**

First airline to operate FAA-certified Visual Approach Monitor heads-up pilot display system

Pan Am builds the world's largest single air terminal, JFK Worldport

First airline to employ electronic passenger security screening equipment

## **1973**

First airline to offer upper deck dining service on the 747

First airline to order the Boeing 747SP

## **1974**

First airline to install and operate FAA-certified fleetwide Ground Proximity Warning System

## **1975**

First airline to create major Travel Agent incentive plan

Service Started: Dallas/Ft.Worth, Budapest

## **1976**

First airline to operate the Boeing 747SP

Record setting round-the-world revenue flight with Boeing 747SP

## **1977**

First revenue round-the-world Polar flight - celebrating Pan Am's 50th anniversary

Service Started: Zurich

**1978**

First airline to offer scheduled non-stop Miami-Paris service (National)

World's first round-the-world under \$1000 excursion fare

First airline to introduce a new, separate class of service for business and full-fare economy passengers, Clipper Class

Service Started: Bombay

**1980**

First airline to operate aircraft with fuel-saving "active controls", the Lockheed L1011-500

**1980**

Service Started: Dubai

**1981**

First American airline to re-establish scheduled service to People's Republic of China

Service Started: Beijing, Shanghai

**1982**

Service Started: Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Kansas City, Freeport, Milan

**1983**

Service Started: Charlotte, Nashville, Raleigh/Durham, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Minneapolis/St.Paul, Austin, San Antonio, St.Kitts, Dubrovnik, Geneva, Zagreb

**1985**

Service Started: Grand Turk, Providenciales, Athens, Tel Aviv

**1986**

Service Started: Krakow, St.Petersburg