



<https://www.airambulanceone.com/top-10-greatest-pilots-throughout-history/>

Fly me to the moon (Part I)

A week or so ago, I attended the HITEC 2024 Conference in Charlotte, NC (USA). I took the plane to get there. Unfortunately, my Sunday morning flight got canceled at the last minute, so I had to leave Monday afternoon instead and missed the opening cocktail (sigh...). Because my Monday flight was two hours late (oh yes...), I missed my connecting flight and got in Charlotte at 2:00 a.m. Tuesday morning, in dire need of sleep!!! I'll spare you the details of my return, but it was also surreal: at some point I had to jog a mile to catch my connecting flight! Nevertheless,

flying is still the fastest way to get from one point to another, so I'll just keep on flying, in the hope that my next journey will be smoother 😊.

Aviation History^{1,2,3}

Humankind has dreamed of flying since time immemorial. In the 6th century, the Chinese people created the first kites out of paper and wood. Although they could not fly people, kites allowed the study of wind, drag, and other factors relevant to the design of flying devices.

In the 15th century, Italian genius Leonardo da Vinci created the first drafts for a rational aircraft. In 1647, Tito Livio Burattini developed a model aircraft featuring four pairs of glider wings, but it never supported the weight of a person. In 1670, Francesco Terzi, the Father of Aeronautics, published a theory that showed the possibility of lighter-than-air aircraft made of copper foil cylinders.

In 1783, the Montgolfier brothers flew the first unmanned hot air balloon over Annonay, France. The problem with balloons was their lack of manoeuvrability. The invention of airships solved this issue.

In 1869, Samuel Pierpont Langley was the first to launch an unmanned aircraft on a sustained flight successfully. Langley was later funded by the US government to create a crewed version of his aircraft to spy on the enemy. However, his design was not successful.

¹ <https://www.360aviationlife.com/en/the-history-of-aviation/>

² <https://easbcn.com/en/aviation-history-a-fascinating-journey-through-the-skies/>

³ <https://www.spartan.edu/news/history-of-aviation/>

On December 17, 1903, the Wright Brothers, from Dayton, Ohio, built and launched the first crewed heavier-than-air flight. This is the universally recognized date for modern aviation. On that day, the brothers made a total of four flights in their simple aircraft, with the longest one covering 852 feet in 49 seconds.

In 1927, American pilot Charles Lindbergh made history by completing the first non-stop transatlantic flight. His epic journey was made aboard his plane, the “Spirit of St. Louis,” and his bold achievement opened the door to long-haul commercial aviation.

Some US statistics^{4,5,6,7}

- The US has historically been the country with the largest number of air passengers. In 2023, U.S. airlines carried around 819.3 million passengers on domestic flights, a 9% increase from 2022.
- The top 5 busiest airports in the U.S. are Atlanta International Airport (45.4 million passengers); Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (35.3M); Denver International Airport (33.7M); Chicago O’Hare International Airport (33.1M); and Los Angeles International Airport (32.3M).
- Data on Americans’ flight bookings reveal that Cancún is their top destination. About 17.5% of all flight bookings made from U.S. cities to international destinations were for the Mexican resort town in the prime leisure travel span of January through August 2023. London was the second-most popular destination from U.S. airports.

⁴ <https://www.airport-technology.com/features/largest-airports-north-america/?cf-view>

⁵ <https://www.statista.com/statistics/197790/us-airline-domestic-passenger-enplanements-since-2004/#:~:text=In%202023%2C%20U.S.%20airlines%20carried,airlines%20in%20the%20previous%20year.>

⁶ <https://weather.com/travel/news/2023-04-11-scary-dangerous-airport-runways-images>

⁷ <https://skift.com/2023/11/09/americas-favorite-flight-destinations-in-2023-cancun-and-london/>

Fun Facts^{8,9}

- One of the greatest pilots of all time was James H. Doolittle. At age 15, Doolittle built a glider (a light aircraft designed to fly for long periods without using an engine). In 1922, he made a solo crossing of the continental US under 24 hours. The Army sent him to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where, in 1925, he earned a doctorate in aeronautical engineering. In 1929, he flew from takeoff to landing while referring only to instruments. “*Aviation has perhaps taken its greatest single step in safety,*” declared the New York Times. He next took up air racing and collected major trophies, including the Thompson in 1932, when he also set the world’s landplane speed record.
- A 2022 report by *The Guardian* (UK) revealed that 5,000 completely empty flights (so-called 'ghost flights') have passed through UK airports since 2019, plus 35,000 more flying at under 10% capacity. What a waste!
- There's a reason why even business-class caviar tastes rubbish at 30,000 feet. The pressurised cabin and exceptionally dry onboard air render taste buds up to 30% less perceptive, meaning that even the best airline food often fails to impress!

Once done with a flight, the nice part of the stay begins: visiting new places, enjoying various activities and being pampered in a nice hotel 😊.

Unfortunately, hotels are experiencing important staff shortages. This is why adopting an electronic tipping solution like **Tip&Go**, which can increase employees’ earnings by up to 30%, could go a long way in encouraging staff to stay in the industry!

⁸ <https://www.flightright.com/blog/best-airlines-world-ranking>

⁹ <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/air-space-magazine/10-great-pilots-4026745/>

Francis Léonard, CEO

TIP&GO®

Clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZ75L0Xplb0>

Subscribe to our blog!

<https://www.linkedin.com/build-relation/newsletter-follow?entityUrn=7157523727176359936>

[#etipping](#), [#tippingapp](#), [#staffshortage](#), [#cashlesstipping](#),
[#electronic tipping](#), [#hotelindustry](#), [#etipping](#), [#tippingapp](#),
[#staffshortage](#), [#cashlesstipping](#),
[#electronic tipping](#), [#hotelindustry](#), #hospitality, #Tip&go, #HITEC,
#aviation