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21 January 1976, the first commercial flight of a supersonic aircraft

Concorde was jointly designed by Sud Aviation (later Aérospatiale and then Airbus) and British Aircraft Corporation (later British Aerospace). It was in service from 1976 to 2003 with Air France and British Airways. Featuring a delta wing also known as a “gothic” wing, and afterburning turbofan engines, initially developed for the British Avro Vulcan bomber, it was the first civilian aircraft to be equipped with analog fly-by-wire controls.



On January 21, 1976, Concorde made the first two commercial flights in history by a supersonic aircraft. The British Airways aircraft took off from London bound to Bahrain, while the Air France aircraft flew from Paris to Rio de Janeiro via Dakar (Senegal).

Concorde remains in our memories as a machine with sleek avionics, a formidable technological feat, and a remarkable success of Franco-British cooperation.

Discover the whole “Concorde” story from the early model to the first commercial flight through the lenses of the Gaumont and Pathé operators at www.gparchives.com