Welcome to Around The World In 80 Flights, the ultimate flight simulation adventure! Before we discuss each flight and you embark on your epic journey here are a few key facts that we hope will fascinate you.

- The entire journey covers a staggering 43,000 miles across the planet
- Over 60 countries are either visited or flown over during the course of the journey
- The entire trip will take approximately 400 hours to complete with the Lockheed Electra
- The journey includes crossing both the mighty Pacific and Atlantic Oceans
- The northernmost point of the route is Sondre Stromfjord In Greenland, whilst the southernmost point is Darwin in Australia
- The circumnavigation chooses the most interesting rather than the most direct route, including a full North to South traversal of Africa and a scenic tour of the Baltic
- A huge number of the world’s beauty spots will pass under your wings, from the Pyramids at Cairo, to Lake Victoria, from the deserts of North Africa to the natural beauty of Lake Tahoe and the Grand Canyon to name but a fraction of the highlights.
- Each flight on loading already has a flight plan pre-loaded for your convenience. Each flight plan has been carefully devised to steer your aircraft over the most interesting landmarks between each destination
- Some of the world’s most challenging approaches have been included including the notorious arrivals into Sion, Switzerland and Gibraltar

We hope that you enjoy a memorable and epic journey around the globe. Remember to send us a postcard!
Flying The Flights

Each flight will load with the Lockheed Electra-E aircraft. An appropriate amount of fuel has been loaded to complete each flight. That fuel amount is normally either 50% or 100% of the available fuel tanks. The fuel tank loading has been kept simple to allow easy access to the flights regardless of your simulation experience. If you are a veteran flight simmer, please feel free to adjust the fuel load before each flight. We do realise that many of you gain great enjoyment from fuel planning. For your reference the fully laden Electra should, under optimum piloting, have a range of a shade over 3000 miles, so full tanks should be considered as 3000 miles under normal circumstances. Again, we emphasise that the aircraft is fuelled and ready to go upon loading the flight and manual fuel adjustment is only recommended for those who enjoy the additional challenge of careful calculation.

Each flight can be flown by hand or with the autopilot. The shift-4 key combination will open the autopilot deck as a pop-up for ease of use. Switching the NAV/GPS switch to the GPS position and engaging the autopilot in the NAV tracking mode will automatically have the aircraft follow the route of flight to the destination airport. Our Lockheed Electra is circa 1937 so it is not equipped with automated landing facilities. Upon arrival at the destination airport it is the pilots responsibility to visually locate the airfield and the desired runway and perform a manual landing. We recommend a take-off speed of approximately 90 miles per hour when fully loaded and a landing speed of around 80MPH.

For those wishing to confirm the exact routing for each flight, opening the flight simulator flight planning tool and choosing the navlog option will display both the route of flight, waypoint by waypoint and exact distances between each waypoints and origin and destination airports. Those flying using online organisations such as VATSIM or IVAO can transpose the waypoints from the navigation log to the flight plan tool of the online organisation using simple cut and paste. Alternatively, those who choose to fly offline can enjoy the full facilities of the default Air Traffic Control within the simulation. Each flight is ready to go simply by opening the ATC window within the simulator and requesting IFR clearance. Technically each of these flights are best considered VFR (visual flight rules) flights, however, we have chosen to deem them as full instrument flights within the ATC simulation. This ensures that you will receive full en-route guidance and a vector to the final runway upon arrival at your destination. Alternatively, you may wish to fly without any air traffic control guidance, either simulated or through an online organisation and again the aircraft is fully configured for flight in this manner.

If you choose to fly these flights using one of the online organisations you may wish to share anecdotes with your fellow pilots who are also taking this journey. Please feel free, should you desire, to place “Around The World 80” in your online flight plan notes to signal to other pilots that you are engaged in this adventure. By doing this, we heartily encourage you to be in contact with your fellow adventurers who are displaying this note to swap anecdotes and stories of how your adventure is progressing. When flying online, half of the fun is the sharing of the experience!

We have taken care to ensure that there is little cloud coverage or winds for the flight. This is deliberate as much of the enjoyment of the adventure is in the sightseeing. Flying over banks of heavy cloud would ruin the flight experience. This also ensures that those wishing to fly under VFR rules are not disappointed. Experienced simmers, or those looking for more of a challenge after completing the circumnavigation are welcome to reprise each of the routes with weather of their
choice. Be aware, however, that this does require appropriate visibility for landing when flying the Electra, unless another aircraft is chosen that is equipped for a landing in low visibility conditions.

At any time the Electra can be substituted for an aircraft of your choice simply by selecting the aircraft from the aircraft menu in Flight Simulator. We do hope though that you perform a circumnavigation in the Electra before repeating the journey with another aircraft. The sense of achievement when completing a full trip around the planet in the Electra is second to none!

**Customised Scenery And Airports**

Around The World In 80 Flights is fully compatible with third party scenery, photo-scenery and mesh expansions for both FS2004 and FSX. In fact, the use of such scenery will only serve to enhance the enjoyment from this journey. Please note however that each flight starts at a specific location on the airfield that is appropriate to the default FS2004 and FSX airport sceneries. If you use a third party expansion airport for any of our origin airports you may find the aircraft being parked in undesirable locations. This is an unavoidable limitation of additional airport scenery. The simple solution is simply to slew your aircraft (using the slew keys) to an appropriate parking place within your version of the airport.
Around The World Flight 1 – Farnborough to Orly

Our first flight of this epic adventure starts at Farnborough Airfield, one of the most historic aviation centres in the UK. Farnborough Airfield opened in 1904 as an army balloon factory and quickly became a focal point for experimental and research aircraft. Latterly, the airfield is home to the world’s leading Aviation gathering, the Farnborough Airshow, bringing together both professionals and enthusiasts to showcase the latest technologies in aviation.

A short flight south and we quickly pass over the English Coast and make landfall in France as we pass over land that was heavily contested during two world wars. Brave aviators from a number of nations engaged in epic dogfights in these very same skies. Today, our flight will be more benign as we head south to the metropolis that is Paris.

Our landing is at the historic Orly Airport in Paris, that served as the main Parisian airport until the later building of Charles De Gaulle Airport. It was at Orly that the Concorde completed its first passenger flight from Washington DC to Paris in 3 hours and 33 minutes!

Around The World Flight 2 - Paris to Marseilles

We track south from Paris to the cosmopolitan coastal city of Marseilles nestled on the French Mediterranean coast. The city is the largest community in France after Paris. Evidence points to the city being populated some 30,000 years ago. However, the rise in prominence of the city is genuinely attributed to the Roman occupation which saw massive expansion take place. Unfortunately, Marseilles, being the major port of France, was decimated by the bubonic plague after plague carrying rats arrived at the port aboard trading vessels. Over half of the population of the city were wiped out rapidly. The indomitable spirit of the Marseilles French shone through and the city quickly rebuilt.

The flight should prove relaxing, highlighting some of the finest scenery in France, ahead of the much more challenging leg ahead!
Around The World Flight 3 – Marseilles to Sion

One of the most challenging flights of the itinerary sees us leaving France and heading east, high into the Alps and the Swiss Alpine airport at Sion. Here, you will need your wits about you as you tackle one of the world most dangerous approaches. The scenery is dramatic and beautiful, but try not to be too distracted as the approach is best described as hair raising!

The trick here is to maintain altitude for as long as possible, to give maximum clearance from the alpine peaks. Then descend sharply into the valley at the head of the airport, following the path of the valley onto the runway. If you are using the default air traffic control you may wish to disable it at the head of the valley and track along the valley visually. The default air traffic control can have a nasty habit of directing an aircraft into the nearest peak! Keep your airspeed low and manageable and keep your eye on the valley and the runway ahead and all should be fine. If you are looking for a real challenge try repeating the flight with winds and turbulence!

Around The World Flight 4 – Sion to Bilbao

From the Alps we head west across France and into Spain to the coastal town of Bilbao. On departure from Sion climb rapidly, following the valley until you are above the adjacent peaks and then turn towards Bilbao. You should have plenty of room in the valley to gain altitude before making the final turn to the departure course. Sit back and watch the Alps unfold beneath the aircraft as one of nature’s most breathtaking spectacles creates a stunning vista under your wings.
Once clear of the Alps the remainder of the flight is plain and simple flying until reaching the Atlantic coast of Spain and a picturesque coastal arrival into the city of Bilbao.

**Around The World Flight 5 - Bilbao to Lisbon**

Our journey now continues south as we leave Spain for the time being and head into Portugese airspace and arrive at the airport of the capital city in Lisbon. From here aviation history was made with the first regular scheduled transatlantic flights from Lisbon to New York, via the Azores. A trip that used to take days, riding through the worst of weathers in a flying boat, in stark contrast to the air conditioned comfort of modern high altitude airliners. We will not be following the route of the Atlantic Clipper as we have reserved the transatlantic crossing for the closing stages of the adventure, instead we travel south to Faro.

**Around The World Flight 6 – Lisbon to Faro**

A stunning flight down the coast of Portugal brings our journey to Faro. Over the last couple of decades Faro has become the airport of choice for droves of holidaymakers looking to enjoy all that the Algarve Region of Portugal has to offer. Faro offers plenty of sun and sand but before we unpack our bucket and spade the circumnavigation continues south towards Gibraltar.

**Around The World Flight 7 – Faro to Gibraltar**
Gibraltar is a small piece of Great Britain, sat at the tip of Spain, guarding the mouth of the Mediterranean. Gibraltar has always held strategic significance to mariners but is also a fascinating tourist destination. Nothing more than a small town perched alongside the Rock Of Gibraltar the Spanish and British continue to contest its sovereignty. The issue of sovereignty makes for difficult aviation procedures. The Spanish refuse to allow aircraft arriving at Gibraltar to overfly the Spanish Coast on final approach. This decision necessitates a tight turn to finally align with the runway. Today, our flight is arriving from the west and we shall be landing east. As you commence final approach into Gibraltar for maximum realism try and remain offshore at all times before lining up to a very short final approach on runway 09. It can be done, but no-one said this is an easy approach! Take care to avoid the Rock!

One fascinating feature of the airport at Gibraltar is that with this being a very compact British colony, the runway is intersected by the main road leading to the Spanish border, a matter of yards away. Road traffic is halted by flashing beacons whilst aircraft arrive and depart!

**Around The World Flight 8 – Gibraltar to Algiers**

We depart east from Gibraltar and for a while run parallel to the Spanish coast, overflying the Spanish resort of Malaga. Shortly after Malaga, the aircraft turns towards the south for a hop across the Mediterranean, leaving Europe behind and in a few short minutes making landfall on the African continent. The flight then scarpes alongside the northern edge of the Sahara Desert before finally arriving at the coastal city of Algiers. Take the opportunity at Algiers to remove the sand that has accumulated on the aircraft before we continue our journey.

**Around The World Flight 9 – Algiers to Majorca**

After the rugged desolation of the Sahara Desert we return to both Spain and the Mediterranean as we track north to the favourite Spanish holiday destination of Majorca. This is another relatively straightforward flight, albeit with some care required to negotiate high ground around the island of Majorca.

**Around The World Flight 10 – Majorca to Elmas**

We fly from island to island as we leave Spain for the final time and head to the Italian island of Sardinia. The island of Sardinia has a size of approximately 24,090 square kilometres with a population of a shade under 2 million residents. In addition to being renowned as a waypoint on our circumnavigation the island is renowned for its friendly and hospitable people, the hot Mediterranean sun and its fine cuisine.

**Around The World Flight 11 – Elmas to Naples**

We continue east to the Italian mainland and the thriving city of Naples. Such is the appeal of the architecture of Naples the entire city centre has been designated as a World Heritage Site. Naples is also world renowned for being the birth place of the pizza!
**Around The World Flight 12 – Naples to Palermo**

We continue the theme of gastronomy as we head south to Sicily and the capital, Palermo. Sicily and Palermo in particular have a long association with fine Italian food. We land at the well equipped Falcone-Borsellino Airport, named in honour of two renowned anti-mafia judges, assassinated by the mafia in the 1990's.

**Around The World Flight 13 – Palermo to Athens**

Thirteen may be an unlucky number, but this is an extremely picturesque flight over the Aegean Sea and into Greek airspace before landing at the new, superb Athens Airport. The new, long runways make this an easy landing after a very pleasant flight. Athens is renowned for its culture, widely regarded as the cradle of civilisation. Stunning architecture such as the Parthenon and Acropolis makes Athens a must-see destination for the discerning tourist.

**Around The World Flight 14 – Athens to Iraklion**

We continue the cultural theme as we fly across an archipelago of islands to the popular destination of Crete. Whilst it has to be said that the island has many discos, clubs and nightspots the island is also a popular destination for those with an interest in archaeology. Close to the airport and the capital city of Iraklion is the labyrinth of Knossos, the seat of the Minoan Empire and where as mythology has it, Theseus slew the bull-headed Minotaur.

**Around The World Flight 15 – Iraklion to Cairo**

A flight to Egypt and the historic city of Cairo beckons. The Great Pyramids are the obvious attraction of this city of antiquities. Luckily for us the quality of the airport is not antique, with a modern airport capable of supporting large airliners. The airport throngs with both Egyptians and tourists and hopefully no-one has lost their mummy!
The next best thing to a Nile cruise is a flight along the Nile as our journey continues. We track the River Nile southwards to the tourist destination of Luxor. The flight should prove uneventful flying across hospitable terrain but beware of the desert heat causing turbulence at lower altitudes.

**Around The World Flight 17 – Luxor To Khartoum**

A long flight over inhospitable wilderness is one of the challenges of this journey as we track over seemingly endless parched landscape as we leave Egypt and head into the Sudan as we progress to the airport at Khartoum. At Khartoum, the capital of Sudan the White Nile, coming north from Lake Victoria meets the Blue Nile from Ethiopia where the newly combined River Nile flows north to Egypt. We shall encounter Lake Victoria later in our travels but today shall be content with an evening in Khartoum after a gruelling flight from Luxor.

**Around The World Flight 18 – Khartoum to Malakal**

A further flight across Sudan brings us to Malakal on the banks of the White Nile. Ravaged by a recent civil war and great poverty we find ourselves deep into the Third World and the misery that still blights much of the African continent.
Around The World Flight 19 – Malakal to Juba

Our third flight within the confines of Sudan reminds us that this is a massive country as we track across further wilderness to Juba, close to the border with neighbouring Uganda.

Around The World Flight 20 - Juba to Entebbe

We cross into Uganda and land at the airport at Entebbe. For many this airport will always be synonymous with the dramatic hostage rescue in which Israeli commandos rescued hostages held by terrorists in a daring raid on July 4th 1976. As aviators we also remember the courage of the Air France flight crew who steadfastly refused to leave their passengers behind when offered freedom. The pilots and crew continued to support the passengers until rescue.

Around The World Flight 21 – Entebbe to Kilimanjaro

Leaving behind the poverty of Sudan and the dramatic events of Entebbe we again return to the beauty of nature as we head into Tanzania and the awe inspiring Mount Kilimanjaro, rising some 15,100ft from its base and the highest peak in the whole of Africa. Despite being equatorial, the elevation ensures that the summit is snow capped all year round.

Around The World Flight 22 – Kilimanjaro to Mombasa
From Tanzania we head into Kenya to the coastal port of Mombasa, sat at the edge of the Indian Ocean. Mombasa is the second city of Kenya and home to the coastal tourist industry. The majority of the local population are Swahili people. The city is referred to as Kisiwa Cha Mvita in Swahili, “island of war” in recognition of a long history of struggles for ownership. The airport at Mombasa was built by the South African Corps Of Engineers during World War 2. During the war years the airport became home base to a squadron of British Royal Airforce Catalina flying boats engaged in anti submarine warfare off the East African coast.

**Around The World Flight 23 – Mombasa to Nairobi**

This flight takes us over a swathe of Kenyan National Park to Nairobi, the capital city. Enjoy the opportunity to fly over the African bush and keep your eyes peeled for the wildlife below which eager tourists spend a fortune to view!

**Around The World Flight 24 – Nairobi to Kasulu FSX only**

Another highlight of the tour is the opportunity to fly close to the shores of both Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika as we head back into Tanzania and Kasulu. Have your camera ready!

**Around The World Flight 24 – Nairobi to Tabora FS2004 only**

We head to Tabora in Tanzania with a flight that brings us close to the shores of Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika.

**Around The World Flight 25 – Tabora/Kasulu to Mbala**

We follow the shores of Lake Tanganyika to Mbala in Zambia. Mbala is the largest town in the north of Zambia, sitting at the southern edge of the lake.

**Around The World Flight 26 – Mbala to Blantyre**

We travel along the shores of Lake Nyasa as we reach Blantyre in the country of Malawi. You may be surprised at such a Scottish sounding place name deep in the heart of Africa. The reason is simple, the town was named after the Scottish birthplace of renowned explorer David Livingston who was instrumental in the growth of the town. What else is there left to say except, Dr Livingston I presume?

**Around The World Flight 27 – Blantyre to Durban**

Our journey reaches the shores of South Africa and the populous city of Durban. Home to over 3.5 million residents, Durban is one of the largest population centres in Africa and also plays host to a large volume of tourists attracted to the tropical climate and fine beaches.

**Around The World Flight 28 – Durban to Toliary**

We leave South Africa and head out into the Indian Ocean to the island paradise that is Madagascar. We land at Toliary (also known as Toliara). Madagascar is the fourth largest island in the world and also accounts for 5% of the world’s plant and animal species. Interestingly, over 80% of the species are exclusively found in Madagascar making the island a haven for naturalists.

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Around The World Flight 29 – Toliary to Sambava

A fantastic opportunity to explore Madagascar as we travel across the entire hinterland to Sambava in the northeast corner of the island.

Around The World Flight 30 – Sambava to Seychelles

Our next destination is the Indian ocean vacation paradise of the Seychelles. A favourite with both honeymooners and scuba divers the Seychelles is perhaps the ultimate tropical holiday destination. Many think so and as such a high quality airport has been built on the island which will be our temporary home after landing.

Around The World Flight 31 – Seychelles to Kisimayu

We make another dash across the Indian Ocean and return once again to mainland Africa. We will be landing at the small airport of Kisimayu in Somalia.

Around The Flight 32 – Kisimayu to Mogadishu

We take the opportunity for a scenic flight along the Somali coast to the capital Mogadishu. This breakfast flight highlights one of the finest coastlines Africa has to offer and provides us with peace and tranquillity until we arrive at the bustling capital of Mogadishu.

Around The World Flight 33 – Mogadishu to Moorii

We say our final farewells to Africa and head towards the Middle East. Our first port of call is the island of Socatra, close to the horn of Africa. Socatra falls under the jurisdiction of the state of Yemen.

Around The World Flight 34 – Moorii to Masirah

We take a short flight from Yemen to Oman, landing at Masirah airbase. Apart from the airbase the island is sparsely populated with the locals mainly employed as fishermen. The fishermen in turn attract bird life, keen to steal food from the fishing Dhow. This has led to a large population of Heron and Curlew on the island.

Around The World Flight 35 – Masirah to Karachi

After the peaceful fishing island of Masirah our next destination is something of a culture shock as we fly to one of the world’s largest cities. Our destination is Karachi, in Pakistan, with a population of 8.5 million people. After independence in 1947 Karachi became the capital of Pakistan. However, with the construction of Islamabad the city lost its status as capital. However, it certainly did not lose the 24 hour hustle and bustle that characterises this hectic city, known locally as the City of Lights.

Around The World Flight 36 – Karachi to Jodhpur

From Pakistan we fly across the border to neighbouring India and the city of Jodhpur. We can expect good weather in Jodhpur. The city enjoys an enviable climate that has given the city the nickname of “Sun City”. Jodhpur is also popular with tourists due to the many palaces that can be visited in the
area. An oasis of culture amid a barren sun parched desert this city is a welcome leg of our itinerary. Beware however, the thermals from the extreme heat can lead to significant turbulence on landing!

**Around The World Flight 37 – Jodhpur to Delhi**

A flight across India takes us to Delhi, one of the largest cities in the world with a population in excess of a staggering 12 million! The river that you can see from the air is River Yamuna, a river sacred in Hinduism.

**Around The World Flight 38 - Delhi to Kathmandu**

One of the major highlights of the entire itinerary is this traversal of Nepal and a visit to Kathmandu, nestled in the foothills of the mighty Himalayas. Kathmandu Airport is the first port of arrival into Nepal for many hardy climbers intent on climbing the formidable Mount Everest. Be sure to take care with the altitude when landing. The airport itself stands some 4500ft above sea level making this one of the highest elevation airports of our journey.

**Around The World Flight 39 – Kathmandu to Dhaka**

We travel parallel to the Himalayas for some time, affording wonderful views of some of the finest vistas in the world before our course brings us to Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. Sadly, this massive metropolis of some 12 million is fighting a battle against overcrowding, urban decay and pollution, a far cry from the unspoilt peaks that predominate in the Himalayas.
Around The World Flight 40 – Dhaka to Namsang

We leave Bangladesh behind and travel southwards into the secretive country of Myanmar, formally known as Burma.

Around The World Flight 41 – Namsang to Bangkok

Thailand beckons us as we head south to Bangkok. Bangkok is not only the capital of Thailand, but the 22nd largest city in the world with a population estimated in excess of 15 million people. King Buddha Yodfa Chulaloke gave the city a full ceremonial name of Krung Thep Mahanakhon Amon Rattanakosin Mahinthara Yuthaya Mahadilok Phop Noppharat Ratchathani Buriram Udomratchaniwat Mahasathan Amon Piman Awatan Sathit Sakkathattiya Witsanukam Prasit. Just try fitting that name into your flight plan! Needless to say, the name Bangkok is most often used.

Around The World Flight 42 – Bangkok to Phuket

We head south east from Bangkok to the holiday island of Phuket. Once the pride of the Thai tourist industry Phuket was a holiday paradise for tourists for many years until tragedy struck as the island took a direct hit from the great tsunami of December 26th 2004. The island was severely damaged and the death toll was high. The magnitude 9.3 earthquake off the coast of Sumatra generated a tidal wave that was responsible for over 300,000 deaths in the Asia Pacific. Such was the enormity of the tsunami that even water levels as far away as the Atlantic coast off New York City, USA, saw a surge in excess of 40cm! The people of Phuket have an indomitable spirit and have been working diligently to return their picturesque island to its former glory and are now starting to welcome visitors once again.

Around The World Flight 43 – Phuket to Penang

We fly south to another holiday island, the island of Penang, with its well equipped airport. Penang sits off the coast of Malaysia, close to the border with Thailand. You will see on arrival the massive road bridge that links Penang with the Malay mainland at Butterworth. Malaysia is a mix of indigenous Malay people, Chinese and Indian. In the former British colonial island of Penang it is the Chinese that hold sway. The island has first class hotels and much to offer the tourist, including the famed spires of the Kek Lok See temple and the equally renowned food stalls on the water front at Gurney Drive.

Around The World Flight 44 – Penang to Kuala Lumpur

We fly from Penang to the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur. Our route of flight along the Malay coast of the Straits of Malacca follows the route of the original Orient Express that travelled from Thailand to Singapore, crossing the famous bridge over the River Kwai, further north in Thailand. For much of our flight the railway line is below us as we fly over the huge plantations of the Cameron Highlands and the dense rainforest that covers much of Malaysia. As we approach Kuala Lumpur a gleaming metropolis appears on the horizon, seemingly improbably surrounded by dense jungle. After landing in Kuala Lumpur take time to enjoy the sights of this sparkling vibrant city with its huge skyscrapers. Our recommendation is a trip to the suburbs, to Petaling Jaya and visiting the mamak food stalls there, much loved by the local population.
We travel further along the Straits of Malacca to the city and nation of Singapore. Singapore, once a British colony, is a tiny island nation, connected to mainland Malaysia by a causeway to the Malay town of Johor Bahru. Our flight crosses Johor and we are immediately vectored into final approach to Singapore Changi Airport. Despite being a tiny island, Changi Airport is one of the most modern international airports in the world. The city of Singapore is a curious mixture of modern skyscrapers and colonial charm. Whilst in Singapore, don’t forget to take some time to relax at the Raffles Hotel.

_Around The World Flight 46 – Singapore to Jakarta_

We fly over dense rainforest and cross the equator as our journey reaches the Indonesian capital of Jakarta in quite a short flight from Singapore. The most obvious impression of Jakarta to the visitor is the stifling equatorial heat. Be aware that the heat, here at the equator has a significant impact on aircraft performance. Expect some turbulence on final approach. Also, expect an extended take-off roll as the aircraft struggles to gain lift in the hot thin air.
Another tourist paradise is our next port of call, as we reach Bali. This small Indonesian island is much loved by tourists and we land at the primary town of Denpasar. Despite being officially an Islamic country over 93% of the Balinese people are Hindu.

**Around The World Flight 48 – Bali to Darwin**

A long flight southeast brings us to Australian shores as we make landfall at the airport in Darwin. Darwin is the capital of the tropical and sparsely populated Australian Northern Territories. The city was named by John Clements Wickham, who named the area Port Darwin, in recognition of his ship mate, the naturalist Charles Darwin, after HMS Beagle made landfall on September 9th 1839. It is the southernmost point of our journey as we turn our attention east and contemplate a mammoth Pacific crossing.

**Around The World Flight 49 – Darwin to Lae**

We start making our way across the Pacific with a flight to Lae in Papua New Guinea. Not only do we now have to contemplate vast stretches of water, but we also leave behind the luxury of large international airports until we arrive in Honolulu many thousands of miles east. As such, airports with small runways such as Lae add a further challenge to the Pacific crossing.
Around The World Flight 50 – Lae to Buka

We continue to stay within New Guinea, hugging land as long as possible to limit the great expanse of Pacific Ocean ahead of us with a landing at Buka. If you wish, feel free to use accelerated time on these long Pacific flights, or if you prefer go right ahead and experience the vast tracts of water. The choice is yours!

Around The World Flight 51 – Buka to Nauru

We find relief from the ocean and land on the tiny island of Nauru. Nauru is the world’s smallest nation covering only approximately 8 square miles, smaller than some international airports! The island is also over 200 miles from any nearest neighbour, being a tiny speck of land in the vast South Pacific Ocean. For us though, this island is a haven of rest as we traverse the Pacific

Around The World Flight 52 – Nauru to Midway

We leave Nauru and cover a vast tract of Pacific to the island of Midway, not surprisingly named after its central location in the Pacific. The island also gained notoriety in the Second World War with the Battle Of Midway where the US and Japanese forces clashed in fierce combat.

Around The World Flight 53 – Midway to Honolulu
We reach our first major international airport, Honolulu, since leaving Australia as we say Aloha to the Hawaiian island chain. The staggering beauty of the islands is a welcome sight indeed after the many hours of empty ocean that have preceded our arrival.

Around The World Flight 54 – Honolulu to San Francisco

There is no land between Hawaii and the west coast of the USA, so we make a long trek east towards San Francisco. As consolation, our flight plan brings us to the USA on the famed California coast close to Carmel. We then follow the coast, following the path of the most scenic highway in the world, California Highway 1 as we travel north through the stunningly beautiful Big Sur National Park as we head towards San Francisco. Highway 1 sees more tourist traffic than any other highway in the world and for good reason. The California Pacific coast is one of nature’s greatest achievements. We commence our arrival, turning slightly inland to arrive at San Francisco from the south, flying over the vast industrial region known as Silicon Valley, as Menlo Park and Palo Alto pass under our wings. This is a very easy and scenic arrival, as we land to the west, on runway 28L, jutting out clearly into the Bay. We pass over the Bay Bridge and rapidly descend into the airport. Over on the other side of the bay to our right is the City of Oakland and San Francisco is dead ahead.

Around The World Flight 55 – San Francisco to Lake Tahoe

We leave San Francisco, diverting slightly to the north, to give us the opportunity to fly over the city centre, the notorious prison island of Alcatraz and of course, the Golden Gate Bridge. Turning west
we head inland towards the Lake Tahoe area. Lake Tahoe is one of the most dramatic destinations in the world, straddling the California and Nevada borders. High peaks surround crystal clear waters and it is little wonder that this is one of the primary tourist destinations in the USA. We skirt the edge of the lake as we land at Minden-Tahoe airport. Interestingly, the lake shores, due to their elevation can be snowbound in the winter, with many famed ski resorts at Tahoe whilst the nearby airport at Minden is usually extremely hot, being in the Nevada desert. A short drive from Lake Tahoe can see a change from deep snow to desert heat as the highway is followed down the mountain from Tahoe to Minden. The view is also spectacular, but not for the squeamish as a narrow twisting mountain road provides stunning views of Minden far below. This sudden change in elevation also affects us as pilots. We have to remain at a relatively high altitude to clear the Tahoe peaks, yet Minden Airport is immediately the other side with Tahoe being to one side of the airport, leaving us much too high to perform a direct landing. The answer is simple, ensuring that you are making turns away from the adjacent high ground we can descend for landing by flying descending circuits around the airfield until sufficient altitude is lost. As we point north, circling Minden, we can see ahead Carson City and beyond that the city of Reno.

**Around The World Flight 56 – Lake Tahoe to Las Vegas**

Lake Tahoe has a range of casinos, in the small lakeside town of Stateline, Nevada, but the gambling paradise of the world surely has to be Las Vegas. We head south over the Nevada desert to Las Vegas, flying over the route that famed aviator Steve Fossett was so recently and tragically lost. Minden-Tahoe airport was the base for search and rescue operations in the hunt for this record breaking aviator. It may seem strange at first that an aircraft can be lost in the United States but as we fly over the Nevada Desert the answer soon presents itself. Despite being bounded by cities such as Las Vegas the Nevada Desert is a wilderness of epic proportions. There is little in the way of civilisation until we reach Las Vegas itself, standing out as an oasis in this vast desert.
We deviate slightly from our eastbound route to track back westwards towards Los Angeles. After flying through the massive conurbation that is Los Angeles we take a step back in time and land at Burbank airport. For cinema fans, this flight is a homage to that all time classic movie Casablanca. Yes, we left North Africa on this journey long ago, but thanks to the magic of cinema the iconic scenes at Casablanca Airport were actually filmed right here at Burbank Airport in Los Angeles. The aircraft used in the scenes was another variant of the Lockheed Electra, so what more a fitting tribute could we offer than to land our Electra on the very same runway used by Bogart to pay his farewells to his lady love. Remember, we will always have Paris! This flight also affords us the opportunity to visit the Grand Canyon.

**Around the World Flight 58 – Burbank to Phoenix**

After our deviation into movie nostalgia we continue east, across the southern states of the USA. Our first port of call is the city of Phoenix, Arizona after a morning flight across the haunting Arizona desert.

**Around The World Flight 59 – Phoenix to Dallas**
We leave Arizona and head further east into the state of Texas. We land at the gleaming city that is Dallas, built from oil wealth. The city itself is vast, covering some 385 square miles. It is interesting to think that the smallest country on our journey, Nauru, can fit into one residential suburb of Dallas!

**Around The World Flight 60 – Dallas to Miami**

We fly ever onwards over the Gulf of Mexico, across the Florida panhandle and finally arrive on the Atlantic Coast of the USA at the city of Miami.

**Around The World Flight 61 – Miami to Nassau**

A short flight across the Caribbean brings us to the glorious Bahamas and Nassau. The Bahamas, and Nassau in particular has a reputation as a millionaires paradise. A relaxing destination by day and by night the city is transformed with its vibrant night life!

**Around The World Flight 62 – Nassau to Grand Bahama**

We fly northwards, to West End, in Grand Bahama. Grand Bahama is the northern most island in the chain that make up the Bahamas. It is also the closest island to the mainland of the USA, sitting some 55 miles offshore. As such this picturesque island provides us an ideal staging point for our return to the eastern USA.

**Around The World Flight 63 – Grand Bahama To Washington D.C.**
After the peace and tranquility of the Caribbean island we return to the hustle and bustle of the USA with a visit to the nation’s capital at Washington D.C. As this is simulated Washington D.C. feel free to fly along the Potomac river and take in the sights such as the Pentagon and the White House.

**Around The World Flight 64 – Washington D.C. to New York**

![Image of Washington D.C.]

We continue North to another great American city, the Big Apple, landing at La Guardia airport in New York. From the air this city is simply stunning, with the skyscrapers of Manhattan providing an awesome spectacle.

**Around The World Flight 65 – New York to Bangor**

We fly ever northwards to Bangor, Maine. This extremely scenic flight allows us to fly over the states that form the picturesque region of the USA referred to as New England. We fly over bays and inlets and rich agricultural land and also have the opportunity to fly directly overhead the city of Boston. Bangor itself is an airport much in favour by transatlantic pilots, being a regular refuelling stop for those aiming to traverse the Atlantic. Bangor is also the home of novelist Stephen King, who sets many of his stories in this area.

**Around The World Flight 66 – Bangor to Halifax**

We fly across the Canadian border and deep into the wilderness that is Nova Scotia. This will be our last port of call before venturing across the treacherous North Atlantic!
We make landfall in Greenland at Sondre Stromfjord. This airport is sometimes used as an emergency diversion for transatlantic airliners but still poses a significant challenge and is one of the most challenging approaches of our entire itinerary. The airport sits at the end of a long fjord. Care has to be taken to avoid the high ground at either side of the fjord as we commence our arrival into the airport. The best technique is to fly down the fjord “low and slow” and perform a visual approach onto the runway at the end. The fjord is also renowned for its circulating air currents that lead to almost constant moderate turbulence.

**Around The World Flight 68 – Sondre Stromfjord to Keflavik**

From Greenland we travel to Iceland and the major international airport at Keflavik. Ironically, much of Iceland is picturesque greenery, while much of Greenland is ice! This flight affords us to fly across the entire width of Greenland and marvel at the stunning glacial landscape below before making landfall in Iceland.

**Around The World Flight 69 – Keflavik to Vagar**

Our next port of call is the Faroe Islands nestled in the North Atlantic. The runway at Vagar is quite small so you will need to ensure that your approach speed is not excessive to leave plenty of braking room on the runway. The landing can be quite challenging due to the small size of the airstrip.
Around The World Flight 70 – Vagar to Stavanger

Rather than head directly south to complete our journey in the UK, we make a diversion eastwards towards Scandinavia for a short tour of the Baltic states. This flight takes us from the Faroe Islands to Stavanger in Norway. Stavanger is renowned for its picturesque old town and nearby lakes and forests. Lakes and forests will be a common theme as we traverse the Baltic states. Stavanger has a mild climate but beware on landing for the possibility of windshear from the strong coastal winds that plague the region.

Around The World Flight 71 – Stavanger to Copenhagen

We fly across the mouth of the Baltic and to the city of Copenhagen, which still seems to fit a Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale. Copenhagen is undoubtedly one of the finest cities of Europe with the relaxed Danes offering a warm welcome to the picturesque city. You may catch a glimpse of the newly built bridge across the Baltic. This bridge links Denmark to Northern Scandinavia, joining Copenhagen to Malmo in Sweden.

Around The World Flight 72 – Copenhagen to Stockholm

From one fine city to another, as we fly across Sweden to land at the international airport of Stockholm Arlanda. This flight is one of lakes and trees as we fly over the stunning vistas of the Swedish countryside.

Around The World Flight 73 – Stockholm to Helsinki

We make a short flight east from Stockholm to Helsinki, the capital city of Finland. Be sure to enjoy the view below the aircraft as we leave Stockholm. The flight to Helsinki passes over a huge archipelago of tiny islands and waterways that make this one of the most scenic portions of the Baltic. Almost miraculously, a daily ferry service from Stockholm to Helsinki manages to weave a difficult path through these hundreds of islands without incident, even in the dark months of the Scandinavian winter. In the summer the boat journey is highly recommended for the sheer sightseeing pleasure of the island navigation. Most tourists enjoy relaxing in the restaurant looking through the window, a glass in hand, as the islands slowly parade by the vessel. From the air, however, our journey will be much quicker than the overnight ferry service.

Around The World Flight 74 – Helsinki to Talinn

The shortest flight of our entire journey is the 50 mile crossing of the Baltic that takes us directly south from Helsinki to the country of Estonia. We land at Talinn, one of the most fascinating cities in the whole of Europe. Talinn has a medieval charm with architecture that could have come straight from the pages of a romance novel. The old town is so picturesque that it has been given status as a world heritage site.

Around The World Flight 75 – Talinn to Saint Petersburg

We travel east and fly into Russia for a landing at St Petersburg. Had we chosen to avoid a full Pacific crossing we would have had the opportunity to fly over much of Russia but we have to content ourselves with a visit to its westernmost point at St Petersburg. The city itself is steeped in history. From here the cruiser Aurora sounded her horn and signalled the start of the Communist revolution.
Here too are the palaces of the Tsar’s and where Tsar Nikolas and his royal family of the Romanov dynasty met a grisly fate along with their advisor, the “Mad Monk” Rasputin.

**Around The World Flight 76 – St Petersburg to Berlin**

St Petersburg had a huge role to play in the history of the 20th century and so too did our next destination as we fly west along the Baltic, into Germany and the city of Berlin. We fly over what was once communist East Germany and into the West as we pass over the political iron curtain that divided people, cultures and political ideology. The fall of the Berlin Wall saw the reunification of Germany but the city of Berlin will forever hold a place in history.

**Around The World Flight 77 – Berlin to Rotterdam**

We fly ever westwards and into the Netherlands. Our destination is the city of Rotterdam on the North Sea Coast. Rotterdam, situated on the delta of the River Rhine is a massive trading port, with special facilities being built at the nearby Europort. The dock areas are seemingly endless filled to capacity with huge cargo ships and giant supertankers filled with crude oil, yet Rotterdam city itself retains a great deal of a charm and offers a warm welcome to visitors.

**Around The World Flight 78 – Rotterdam To Hull**

Each day a shuttle service operates between the cities of Hull and Rotterdam, with the North Sea Ferries company bring passengers and freight in both directions in huge cruise style ships that make the crossing of the inhospitable North Sea. Not surprisingly, great friendship has formed between both the cities and many Dutch have settled in Hull and vice-versa. It seems appropriate that our next flight follows this route of friendship between two nations as we follow the track of the boat to the UK and the city of Hull. We arrive in the UK over the small coastal town of Withernsea and nearby village of Ottringham and track the River Humber towards the city of Hull. This affords us the opportunity to fly over the Humber Bridge, the world’s longest single span suspension bridge, as we turn south for a final approach into Humberside Airport.

**Around The World Flight 79 – Hull to Manchester**

Our penultimate flight takes us west across the Pennine mountains to the city of Manchester, following the path of the River Humber and latterly the River Trent, before flying over the cities of Leeds and Huddersfield in the county of Yorkshire, before we are vectored for a southeasterly arrival into the international airport at Manchester.

**Around The World Flight 80 – Manchester to Farnborough**

Our final flight brings us over the cities of Birmingham, Oxford and London as we return to our starting point. After 80 flights we have returned to our origin airport at Farnborough. If you have flown all these flights consecutively, you have now flown completely around the world! You have truly earned a special virtual circumnavigators certificate and with our permission can now refer to yourself as a master virtual aviator!

Now the fun can begin again! We challenge you to complete the flights again, but this time using more extreme weather simulation or perhaps an aircraft of your choice!
We truly hope that you have enjoyed this journey as much as we have in compiling it for you!