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## PAN AM AND INTERCONTINENTAL

Just as the coming of the railways encouraged the building of grand hotels at all the new major stations, so the rapid expansion of international air travel created the need for a new breed of hotels in all the newly accessible corners of the globe. Juan T. Trippe, founder of Pan American World Airways, saw this opportunity as the airline industry grew and developed at great speed, and did not let the moment pass him by.

A cultural icon of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Pan Am was the largest international air carrier in the United States from 1927 right through to 1991. The unofficial flag carrier of the United States, the airline, under the leadership of Trippe, is credited with having shaped the international airline industry, with its ground breaking Clipper flying boats, pioneering partnership with Boeing and its development of an unprecedented worldwide hotel company: InterContinental.

Entrepreneur Trippe had entered the airline business in the early 1920s, but faced stiff competition. In an inspired move, Trippe hired celebrated transatlantic flier Charles Lindbergh, arguably the most famous man in the world at the time. In hiring Lindbergh as a technical advisor and pilot of survey flights through Latin America, Trippe secured the support of the US government as its airline of choice to facilitate economic expansion into Latin America and the Caribbean, awarding Pan Am every foreign airmail route for which bids were invited. The service flourished in the 1930s, delivering both mail and passengers, and gained a reputation as one of the most dependable and glamorous air services in the world.

Following WWII, Trippe was convinced of the need for more hotel accommodation, particularly for the business traveller. Believing that air travel should be enjoyed by ordinary people and not just the globe-trotting elite, Pan Am had already introduced a relatively inexpensive tourist-class fare from New York to London, causing huge controversy and resistance in the airline industry. The introduction in 1944 of President Roosevelt's 'Good Neighbour Policy' – generous government

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loans and credit made available to companies investing in South America – led directly to Pan Am's diversification into the hotel business. Trippe's vision was for accommodation with what he considered to be basic comforts: cleanliness, a comfortable bed, reliable hot water, a private bathroom, laundry and valet services, good food, telephone and wire services in the guests own language, and all at an affordable price.

International Hotels Corporation was thus born in April 1946, changing its name to InterContinental Hotels Corporation the following year to reflect the company's intention to develop worldwide.

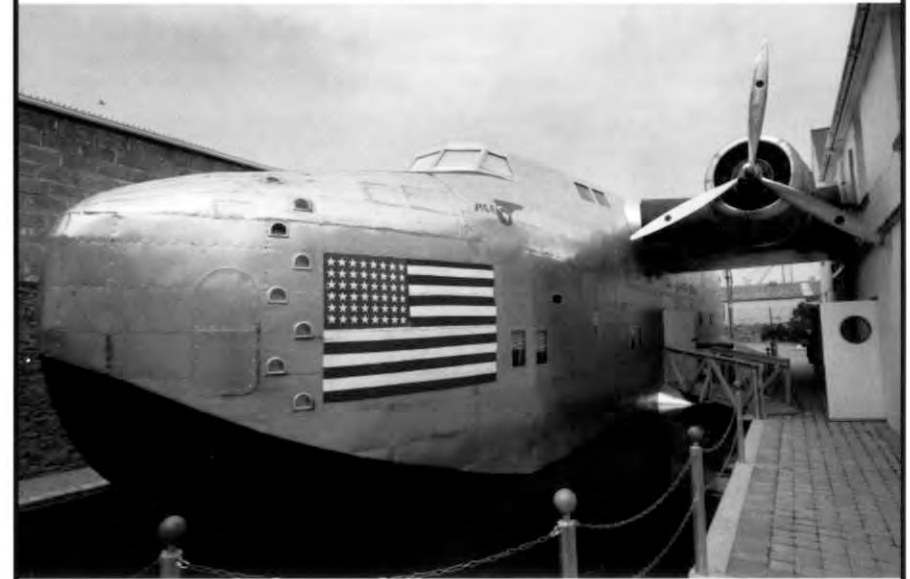
The first hotel to open under the name of InterContinental Hotels Corporation was The Grande in Belém, Brazil, a four-floor hotel boasting one telephone per floor. A phone attendant would run to summon a guest from their room when a call arrived. The hotel's losses under its previous ownership were quickly turned to profit, and this was doubled in its second year under the ownership of IHC.

During the 1950s the chain expanded alongside Pan Am's routes in Latin America. By 1953 IHC had doubled in size, with hotels in Bermuda, Bogotá, and Caracas amongst other exotic locations. The jet age brought more and more passengers in the late '50s, the first Pan Am Boeing 707 leaving New York for Paris in October 1958. By the 1960s InterContinental had opened hotels outside Latin America and become the first international hotel brand to establish a presence in the Middle East, Asia and Africa. In 1963 the first four European hotels were opened, and the brand finally arrived home with hotels in the United States the following decade.

By the time the pioneering Juan Trippe retired in 1968, Pan Am was flying to 85 nations on six continents and feeding the ever-expanding hotel business. However, the company's fortunes began to wane in the 1970s, the consequences of deregulation only adding to its woes, and InterContinental was sold in 1981. Over the next few years the hotel group changed hands, headquarters and staff several times, eventually becoming InterContinental Hotels Group.

Proud of its origins and forever linked with the legendary Pan Am name, InterContinental Hotels and Resorts now boasts over 170 hotels and resorts in more than 60 countries, successfully blending consistent global standards with the distinctive local cultures of the many and varied locations.

*Best wishes to all our Pan American Friends,  
from  
Directors and Staff of  
Foynes Flying Boat Museum*



*I hope you enjoy your reunion in Monaco and I am now extending an open invitation to all of you to come and meet in Foynes, Ireland in 2014 for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of that famous Atlantic crossing by Captain Harold Gray in July 1939.*

*You can go on board our full-size Boeing B314 Flying boat "Yankee Clipper" and walk in the footsteps of all those wonderful pioneering crews and passengers who opened up the skies for all of us.*

***Have a great party!***

Margaret O'Shaughnessy, Director  
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