



Suggested Reading: Pan Am Stewardesses

Compiled by Leslie Goddard

Come Fly the World: The Jet-Age Story of the Women of Pan Am. By Julia Cooke (2021)

The Girls in Blue: Pan Am 1964-1967 Real Stories of a Bygone Era by Lesley Peters Robson (2014)

Up in the Air: The Real Life Story of Life Aboard the World's Most Glamorous Airline by Betty Riegel (2020)

The Great Stewardess Rebellion: How Women Launched a Workplace Revolution at 30,000 Feet by Nell McShane Wulfhart (2023)

I was a Pan Am Princess of the Sky by Fumiko Takahashi (2013)

Fly Girl by Ann Hood (2022)

An American Saga: Juan Trippe and His Pan Am Empire by Robert Daley (2010)

Pan Am Unbuckled: A Very Plane Diary by Ann Shelby Valentine and Ramona Fillman (2011)

Skygods: The Fall of Pan Am by Robert Gandt (1995)



TIMELINE

1912 – Heinrich Kubis, the first flight attendant, begins work aboard a German Zeppelin

1927 – Juan Trippe founds Pan American Airlines which flies history's first scheduled international flight, a mail run between Key West and Havana

1930 – Registered nurse Ellen Church approaches Boeing Air Transport with a plan to hire female nurses as cabin crew. By 1936, most flight attendants are female

1935 – Pan Am launches the first scheduled transpacific service

1950s-60s – Stewardesses gain a reputation for glamour, but conditions are strict and typically include a required retirement age between 30-35 and a ban on marriage

1958 – Pan Am becomes the first U.S. airline to fly a commercial jetliner, the Boeing 707

1964 – Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 forbids employers from discriminating on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or sex. This bill creates the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission

1968 – Federal courts begin striking down rules on marriage bans, age requirements and sex/race restrictions for flight attendants

1970 – The Boeing 747, the first wide-body jet, enters service

1970s – Federal courts rule that sex and race are not legal occupation qualifications for flight attendants. The word "stewardess" begins to fall out of favor. The oil crisis, nationwide economic recession and high interest rates take a toll on the airline industry

Dec. 4, 1991 – Pan Am formally ceases operations. The last flight arrives in Miami, Florida, from Bridgetown, Barbados