

# Concorde - Intrepid Museum

## ## Concorde on the Intrepid: A Supersonic Icon

The Concorde on display at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum in New York City is a British Airways Concorde Alpha Delta G-BOAD, offering visitors a glimpse into the pinnacle of supersonic passenger travel.

### \*\*1. Historical Background and Significance:\*\*

- \* **Joint Venture:** The Concorde was a product of Anglo-French collaboration between Aérospatiale and the British Aircraft Corporation (BAC), initiated in the 1960s.
- \* **Supersonic Ambition:** It represented the culmination of a post-war dream of achieving sustained supersonic flight for commercial purposes.
- \* **Technological Marvel:** Its development pushed the boundaries of aeronautical engineering, incorporating innovative designs and materials to overcome the challenges of high-speed flight.
- \* **Luxury and Exclusivity:** Concorde became a symbol of luxury and prestige, offering a transatlantic crossing in a fraction of the time compared to conventional jets, attracting celebrities, business elites, and the jet set.

### \*\*2. Technical Specifications:\*\*

- \* **Maximum Speed:** Mach 2.04 (2,179 km/h or 1,354 mph), over twice the speed of sound.
- \* **Cruising Altitude:** 50,000 - 60,000 feet (15,000 - 18,000 meters), significantly higher than subsonic airliners.
- \* **Wingspan:** 83 feet 10 inches (25.6 meters)

\* **Length:** 203 feet 9 inches (62.1 meters)

\* **Engines:** Four Rolls-Royce/Snecma Olympus 593 turbojet engines with afterburners.

\* **Passenger Capacity:** Typically around 100, in a relatively small but luxurious cabin.

### **3. Interesting Facts and Stories:**

\* **Droop Nose:** The distinctive droop nose and visor were essential for improved visibility during takeoff and landing.

\* **Heat Management:** The aircraft's skin would expand several inches in length due to friction-generated heat during supersonic flight.

\* **Sonic Boom:** The characteristic sonic boom, created when the aircraft exceeded the speed of sound, was a source of both fascination and controversy.

\* **Record-Breaking Flights:** Concorde held numerous speed records, including the fastest transatlantic crossing, just under 3 hours.

\* **G-BOAD's Specific History:** This particular Concorde made the fastest transatlantic commercial flight from New York to London on February 7, 1996, in 2 hours, 52 minutes, and 59 seconds.

### **4. Role in History:**

\* **Aviation Pioneer:** Concorde represented a significant milestone in aviation history, demonstrating the feasibility of supersonic passenger travel.

\* **Cultural Impact:** Its unique appearance and speed captured the public imagination and made it a cultural icon.

\* **Technological Advancement:** Concorde's development led to advancements in materials science, engine technology, and aerodynamics, benefiting subsequent aircraft designs.

\* **End of an Era:** Its retirement in 2003 marked the end of the era of supersonic passenger travel, at least for now.

#### **5. Current Condition and Display Information:**

\* **Location:** Pier 86, Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, New York City.

\* **Display:** The Concorde is prominently displayed on Pier 86, allowing visitors to view the exterior. Special guided tours provide access to the interior, offering a glimpse into the luxurious passenger cabin.

\* **Preservation:** The museum actively works to preserve the aircraft, ensuring that it remains a testament to the era of supersonic flight.

\* **Educational Resource:** The exhibit includes information about the Concorde's history, technical specifications, and cultural impact, providing a valuable educational experience for visitors.

The Concorde at the Intrepid Museum offers a unique opportunity to experience a legendary aircraft up close. Its story is a blend of technological achievement, luxury travel, and a fascinating chapter in aviation history.