

Beat: Travel

British Airways Concorde G-BOAA

A decade in retirement

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USPA NEWS - Concorde will celebrate her 10th year in retirement this October. British Airways Concorde G-BOAA left on her final journey 10 years ago from Heathrow airport in London for a logistical nightmare trip to the National Museums of Scotland's, National Museum of flight.

Alpha-Alpha's Final Journey to East Fortune (Source: National Museum Of Flight)

The British Airways Concorde fleet retired in October 2003. The following year, G-BOAA said farewell to Heathrow and took to the water on the first step of a seaborne journey to Scotland. Concorde was loaded on to a specialist barge at the tiny Thames port of Isleworth. It was moved on a transporter at walking pace on a Saturday night along the main A30 and A4 from Heathrow to Isleworth. It travelled down the Thames from Isleworth on the Terra Marique, a multipurpose pontoon and sailed up the east coast. It arrived on Scottish soil a day early on the following Saturday and rolled ashore at the British Energy jetty at Torness, East Lothian.

Concorde's week-long journey from London ended in an hour-long trundle across muddy fields to East Fortune. It was guided by members of 39 Engineer Regiment's 53 Field Squadron (Air Support), with a helicopter hovering overhead, to a greeting by two pipers.

At the time, Concorde's journey north was thought to have been one of the most complex of any transport venture undertaken.

For almost 30 years it was possible to buy a ticket and fly at supersonic speeds across the globe. Now Concorde, the world's only successful supersonic passenger plane, has been retired and you can follow in the footsteps of the world's rich and famous by visiting Scotland's Concorde, Alpha Alpha, on the ground at the National Museum of Flight.

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