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[Snapshot, 1976: A rare bird touches down in Rio](#)

Lead

The Cariocas (or natives of Rio de Janeiro, in case you're unfamiliar with the term), are an unflappable bunch, as a rule. But in 1976, a rare bird spread its wings above the famous Christ the Redeemer statue, stirring the inhabitants below into a frenzy of awe...

On 21 January 1976, two Concorde's simultaneously completed their maiden journeys out of Europe: the British Airways machine flew from London to Bahrain, while its Air France sister streaked from Paris to Rio, via Dakar. Twice a week, the supersonic bird left Paris's Charles de Gaulle airport en route to Brazil, a journey that took just over 11 hours. One of the flight's most prominent passengers was James Bond, who completed the cross-continental 'hop' over to Rio in the 1979 film Moonraker. However, the glamorous connection wasn't as popular as Air France predicted, and was discontinued in 1982.

Gallery

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