747.AEROPLANES.IM

First flight and first service

A first take-off in 1969, and airline service in 1970. Official pages that look close are kept distinct.

Typographic only. No photographs inside.

Official desk	Official wording
First flight	San Diego Air and Space Museum catalog 00062326: “Boeing 747 with F-86 Chase Plane on its first flight on February 9, 1969 over the Puget Sound area of Washington State, USA.” Boeing’s 747-8 page: “The first 747 takes off on its first flight Feb. 9, 1969.”
Around it	Boeing: the journey began in 1967; “The first 747 rolls out of the Everett factory on Sept. 30, 1968.” Public debut at the Paris Air Show in 1969.
Airline service	National Air and Space Museum: entered service in 1970; on the Pan American page, “the first Boeing 747 entered service in January 1970.” Boeing: “On Jan. 22, 1970, the first 747 entered service on Pan Am Airlines’ New York–London route.”
A 1970 first flight that is not the type’s	The museum’s Jumbo Jet essay, about N601US: “First flown in 1970, the aircraft—number N601US—has a remarkable history.” That sentence is about the first 747 built for Northwest, not about the type’s first take-off.

A short quiz

1. What official date is given for the type’s first flight?
2. What three official wordings are used for airline service?
3. What does “First flown in 1970” refer to in the Jumbo Jet essay?

Answers. 9 February 1969. 1970; January 1970; and 22 January 1970, New York to London, on Boeing’s page. N601US, the first 747 built for Northwest.

Wording from the San Diego Air and Space Museum catalogue caption, the National Air and Space Museum, and Boeing’s 747-8 commercial page (from the copy saved 16 November 2026). Re-checked 18 November 2026 where the live pages were re-opened. 747.aeroplanes.im is independent of Boeing and the museums. Typographic sheet: no photographs inside.