

# WORLD'S 10 DEADLIEST AVIATION DISASTERS OF ALL TIME

News / Airlines



How safe is flying? Are 2014's crashes one-off accidents or indicators of incipient problems in the aviation industry? A fortnight after AirAsia's flight QZ8501, carrying 155 passengers and seven crew members from Surabaya to Singapore, crashed into the Java Sea, the questions have got louder, the unease more evident.

**Here are the 10 deadliest air travel disasters....**

## **1. Tenerife Airport Disaster, 1977**

Casualties: 583

Airlines: KLM and Pan Am

Cause: Heavy fog, failure in communication and pilot error on part of KLM.

## **2. Japan Airlines Flight 123, 1985**

Casualties: 520

Cause: Crashed into the ridges of Mount Takamagahara due to mechanical failure

## **3. Charkhi-Dadri mid-air collision, 1996**

Casualties: 349

Airlines: Kazakhstan Airlines and Saudi Arabian Airlines.

Cause: The mid-air collision, which took place over the village of Charkhi-Dadri near New Delhi, was the result of an error by the Kazakhstan Airlines pilot.

## **4. Ermenonville Air Disaster, 1974**

Casualties: 346

Airline: Turkish Airlines Flight 981

Cause: Crashed when the cables necessary to control the aircraft were severed due to the decompression caused by the poorly-secured cargo door.

***March 4, 1974: People at the scene in Forest of Ermenonville, where a Turkish Airline DC-10 crashed killing all the passengers on board***

## **5. Kanishka air disaster, 1985**

Casualties: 329

Airline: Air India

Cause: Terror attack/bomb on board

## **6. Saudia Flight 163, 1980**

Casualties: 301

Airline: Saudia

Cause: Pilot error, fire in the cargo hold

## **7. Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, 2014**

Casualties: 298

Cause: Airline shootdown by pro-Russian separatists in Torez, Ukraine

## **8. Iran Air Flight 655, 1988**

Casualties: 290

Cause: The plane was shot down by the USS Vincennes, a US Navy missile cruiser

## **9. Iran Ilyushin Il-76 crash, 2003**

Casualties: 275

Airline: The Ilyushin Il-76 aircraft was carrying personnel from Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard

Cause: Pilot error triggered by poor weather

## **10. American Airlines flight 191, 1979**

Casualties: 271

Cause: Engine detachment resulting from faulty maintenance, leading to loss of control just minutes after take off from Chicago's O'Hare Airport

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