



Steve Ridgway CBE was Chief Executive Officer for Virgin Atlantic between 2001-2013 and part of the executive team running the company since 1994. During his time at the airline, he saw Virgin Atlantic grow from two 747s to a fleet of 40 long haul aircraft, flying six million passengers a year all over the world and with a £3 Billion turnover.

Virgin Atlantic is considered by many to be one of the most innovative and formidable airlines, having won top business, consumer and trade awards from around the world. In his 12-year tenure as CEO, Virgin Atlantic has pioneered a range of innovations setting new standards of service, which its competitors have subsequently tried to follow.

Born in Devon, Steve Ridgway grew up on a farm near Salcombe before going to Newton Abbot College and gaining an honorary Economics degree from Oxford Brookes University. He later gained a PGCE in 1976. Steve's early career saw him working as a Sales Manager for Cavenham Foods and for a brief period he was also a teacher.

Steve moved to Miami and began working for power boat builder Ted Toleman. He worked there for two years as Business Development Manager which had Virgin as one of its clients and built the Virgin Atlantic Challenger. From 1981-'85 Steve worked for Cougar Marine, during which time he was the Project Head and Chief Pilot on the two Virgin Atlantic Challengers, designing and developing the boats, which culminated in the successful recapturing the Blue Riband record for the fastest crossing of the North Atlantic. Along with Chay Blyth, Steve then founded Epsilon, Business Development Consultancy in 1989, which led to the creation of the hugely successful British Steel Challenge and The BT Global Challenge Round the World Race ...

Testimonials

“ Steve’s industry knowledge and business acumen has ensured Virgin Atlantic remains a consumer favourite... he has been a close friend and confidant since the early days [of Virgin Atlantic]. He has been a hands-on, inspirational leader and has shaped the airline into the company it is today.” ”

- Sir Richard Branson.

Steve Ridgway

Speech Topics

- Management
- Leadership
- Innovation
- Executive Speaker
- Entrepreneur
- Customer Service