2026 Biography of Captain Luiz Bassani

I am a Brazilian-born aviation professional, safety expert, and former aircraft accident investigator with a distinguished career spanning over five decades in commercial aviation, training, and safety investigation.

I was born in Rio de Janeiro in 1955 and completed my early education at Santo Inácio School and Liceu Franco-Brasileiro High School. During the 1960s and 1970s, I was an accomplished athlete, competing in basketball for Fluminense Football Club and representing state teams, as well as excelling in spearfishing and offshore fishing at the Rio de Janeiro Yacht Club, where I earned multiple national and state titles.

I began my aviation career in 1973, graduating from the Civil Aviation Preparatory School (EAPAC). By 1976, I had obtained my Commercial Pilot License with multi-engine and instrument flight rules (IFR) qualifications. My early career included roles as a flight simulator instructor and Jeppesen flight computer instructor, followed by operational flying in air taxi operations (VOTEC and Atlanta Air Taxi Operators, Part 135), before joining Cruzeiro do Sul Airlines in 1980 as a Boeing 727 Flight Engineer.

I progressed to Boeing 727 First Officer and later transitioned to VARIG during the VARIG–Cruzeiro merger, operating internationally as a DC-10 First Officer. In 1987, I was promoted to Captain on the Boeing 727/100, and in 1991 became an International Captain on the DC-10-30, later transitioning to the Boeing 767-200/300. Over my career, I accumulated more than 18,000 flight hours, retiring in 2008 as an International Captain on the Boeing 767-300.

In parallel with my airline career, I dedicated myself to aviation safety and education. I conducted a pioneering field study on fear of flying, founded the aviation portals oaviao.com and PersonalFlyer.com®, and authored the book The World of the Airplane and Everything You Need to Know to Overcome Fear of Flying, published by Globo Publishing House. I also created the Personal Flyer® service, offering in-flight support and reassurance to anxious passengers.

In addition to my aviation and safety background, I completed the Policy and Strategy Studies Course (Class 44/2008), delivered by ADESG/ESG – Superior War College.

In 2010, I was certified by the Brazilian Aeronautical Accident Prevention and Investigation Center (CENIPA) as a Credited Element in Accident Prevention. I later served as a Flight Safety Tutor for CENIPA, having been trained and certified by Getúlio Vargas Foundation (FGV), contributing to distance learning programs in aviation safety. I also taught aviation subjects including Meteorology and Crew Resource Management (CRM).

After relocating to Portugal in 2015, I joined the Portuguese Air and Rail Accident Investigation Authority (GPIAAF) in 2016 as an aircraft accident investigator. I became a certified investigator through the Southern California Safety Institute (USA) and completed advanced training with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Airbus, ICAO, FAA, EASA, and other international organizations. In 2019, I was certified in Human Factors, Risk Management, and Air Safety Investigation by the European Association for Aviation Psychology (EAAP) in Lisbon. In 2020, I

further enhanced my qualifications by completing a Flight Safety Certification program delivered by the Inspectorate General of the Portuguese Air Force. I also participated in European safety initiatives, including ICAO iSTARS implementation.

As Investigator-in-Charge (IIC), I led and participated in multiple accident and incident investigations in Portugal and abroad. My experience includes on-scene investigation of major aviation accidents and involvement in high-profile cases with complex operational and safety factors.

I retired from active investigation in 2023 and continue to contribute to aviation through writing, research, and safety dissemination. In 2024, I launched a blog focused on flight safety, technical developments, and international accident analysis. In 2025, I resumed my work as an author, developing the comprehensive bilingual collection Wings of Knowledge, comprising 18 volumes in Portuguese and 18 volumes in English, aimed at pilots, aviation professionals, and enthusiasts.

I remain active as an Aviation Safety Specialist, lecturer, technical advisor, and mentor, with a lifelong commitment to advancing aviation safety, education, and human factors awareness.