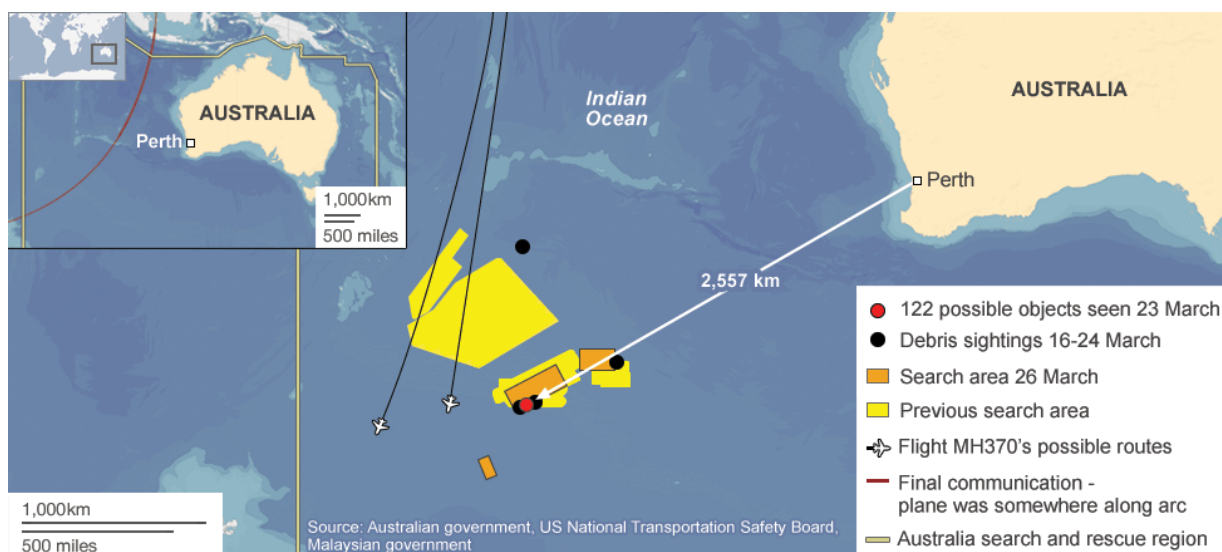


# MH370

Flight MH370 a Malaysian airlines Boeing 777-200ER disappeared over 3 weeks ago. The plane vanished without trace just north of the Malaysian peninsula. The plane was heading to Beijing its final destination. The plane went off civilian radar but a mystery plane was tracked by the military heading west. The plane flew back over Malaysia still heading west, then the trail went cold.



After the planes disappearance several countries searched for a few days north of Malaysia but nothing was found. After the military radar data was released the search area was expanded to north and south of Malaysia near the straits of Malacca. Again nothing was found after days of searching. A British satellite aided the search by giving data which then enabled investigator to calculate and locate an arc where the missing jet could have gone down. The data concluded that the jet made a sharp turn heading south where it continued on that heading where it must have crashed into the southern Indian Ocean.



After the conclusion that the jet crashed somewhere into the Indian ocean the RAAF (Royal Australian Air Force) the RAN (Royal New Zealand Air Force) the US Navy and the Chinese Air Force have all sent reconnaissance aircraft to the search area 2557km off the Australian coast. The aircraft searching fly at low altitude scanning the ocean with high powered cameras and scanning equipment. For possible smaller parts of debris the crew use their eyes alone. Yesterday 122 floating objects were spotted where the red marker is on the map below. Today more than 300 objects have been sighted by a Thai satellite floating around the other sightings although these objects may move hundreds of kilometres in the past few days because of the harsh weather conditions. The black box flight data recorders are going to be a key part of the investigation but they only have a battery life of one month so they will need to be found quickly.

The search has been hampered by harsh weather conditions in the southern Indian Ocean where visibility has been reduced on several days stopping the search on three or four days. Unfortunately the weather conditions in that area are typically poor so time is running out for the searching team.

Much speculation has taken place around why this plane has disappeared. Much of the suspicion surrounds the two pilots of MH370, and they will be a big role of the investigation. There are three main theories amongst aviation experts around the world:

Firstly pilot suicide is a popular theory because after the co-pilots last message no contact was held with the plane. Only eight confirmed cases of pilot suicide have taken place since 1976. Because the transponders from the plane were switched off this makes the theory even more likely.

The second theory is the plane was hijacked. This also is unlikely because the door leading to the cockpit is bullet proof and can't be broken into. But this still needs to be taken into consideration. Hijackers can teach themselves to fly using simulators, this is what happened at 9/11. Two men on board the plane were using fake passports but it seems they were seeking asylum but we can't be sure.

Catastrophic failure is another option to take into consideration. As you know the plane made a sharp turn to the south; this could mean that something went wrong with the plane and the pilots turned back. For this theory to work the cabin would have filled with smoke and the pilots fell unconscious and the plane kept on flying on autopilot until it ran out of fuel.

