



Papillon Helicopters, the World's Largest and Longest-Running Helicopter Tour Company, Celebrates 60 Years of Flight

Honoring six decades of awe-inspiring experiences and over 250,000 annual passengers with a Las Vegas Strip getaway giveaway



The Halvorson family circa 1966. Courtesy photo.

LAS VEGAS (Nov. 11, 2025) – Papillon Helicopters, the world's largest and longest-running helicopter tour company, is celebrating its 60th anniversary in November, marking six decades of aviation innovation and family-driven success.

Founded in 1965 by visionary entrepreneur Elling Halvorson, Papillon began when Halvorson used helicopters to complete a record-breaking 13.5-mile water pipeline construction project across the Grand Canyon. The breathtaking views inspired him to start one of the world's first aerial sightseeing companies and the first to offer helicopter tours over the Grand Canyon.

By the numbers:

- 250,000 annual passengers
- 30 different tour products
- 300+ total employees, including 75 pilots
- 60+ aircraft

- Nearly 30,000 annual flight hours

Now under the leadership of the Halvorson family's second and third generations, Papillon has expanded operations across the Grand Canyon's West, North and South Rims, as well as Las Vegas and Page, Arizona. The company's partnerships with Native Nations and federal agencies underscore its commitment to safety, sustainability and community collaboration.

"Papillon's 60th anniversary is a great source of pride and a testament to our team and our guests," said Vice President Sales & Marketing Matt Mette. "Our focus has always been on creating unforgettable experiences, and we look forward to continuing to innovate and inspire for generations to come."

To commemorate the milestone, Papillon is hosting a giveaway that includes a Neon Night Flight experience for two over the Las Vegas Strip, a guided visit to the Neon Museum's Brilliant! Jackpot show, a four-night stay at The Conrad Las Vegas, and a \$200 dining credit at Matteo's Ristorante Italiano. Participants can enter by visiting Papillon's Instagram page [@iflypapillon](https://www.instagram.com/iflypapillon).

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ABOUT PAPILLON GROUP

Celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2025, Papillon is the world's largest and longest-running helicopter tour company. Papillon serves 250,000 passengers annually on 75 state-of-the-art helicopters and airplanes, specifically designed to reveal panoramic views beyond imagination. Family owned and operated, its brands include Papillon Helicopters, Grand Canyon Scenic Airlines and Buck Wild Hummer Tours. Papillon is also one of the few companies that fly the entire Grand Canyon, including the West, North and South rims, as well as Las Vegas and Page, Arizona. Tours afford maximum flight time, enabling guests to fully discover the Grand Canyon's great wilderness and scenic attractions. For more information, go to [Papillon.com](https://www.papillon.com) or find on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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