



BIOGRAPHY

BERTRAND PICCARD

Initiator, Chairman and Pilot of Solar Impulse

Born into a dynasty of explorers and scientists who have conquered the heights and depths of our planet, Bertrand Piccard made the first ever non-stop round-the-world balloon flight. As a psychiatrist, aeronaut and lecturer, chairman of the Winds of Hope charitable foundation, and a United Nations Environmental Program Goodwill Ambassador, he combines science and adventure in order to tackle some of the great challenges of our times. By initiating the Solar Impulse project and aiming to fly round the world in a solar airplane, he is seeking to promote technologies that help conserve our planet's natural resources.

Bertrand Piccard, born on 1 March 1958, is pursuing three parallel careers, as doctor and psychiatrist; explorer with a passion for aviation; and public speaker.

To deepen his understanding of the "inner world", Bertrand Piccard studied medicine, completing a double specialization in psychiatry and psychotherapy, for both adults and children. His doctoral thesis entitled "La Pédagogie de l'Épreuve" ("Ordeal, a Learning Experience"), was awarded a prize by the Lausanne Faculty of Medicine. Attracted by the opportunity of administering therapy under hypnosis, he underwent training in Europe and the United States, and became a teacher and supervisor at the Swiss Medical Hypnosis Society.

Since childhood, he has been fascinated by how humans behave in extreme situations, and passionate about exploration. In the 1970s, he was one of the pioneers of hang gliding and ultralight flying, becoming European hang-glider aerobatics champion in 1985. An enthusiastic aviator, he then went on to obtain his licenses to fly balloons, airplanes, gliders and motor-gliders.

As a balloon pilot, he used his hypnosis skills during the first transatlantic balloon race, which he won in 1992. He then initiated the "Breitling Orbiter" project. In March 1999 he made the first non-stop round-the-world balloon flight, thus achieving, together with Englishman Brian Jones, the longest flight ever in the history of aviation, both for duration and distance.

Following his success, Bertrand Piccard was decorated with the Légion d'Honneur, the Olympic Order, the Wissam Al Alaoui, the Order of Saint-Charles, the Order of Leopold and the French government's Medals for



Aeronautics and Youth and Sport, and received the highest distinctions of the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI), the National Geographic Society and the Explorers Club. Professor at the Nice Faculty of Medicine and honorary doctor in science, letters and technology, he also received the Grand Prix of the Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques.

But his concerns also extend to the fight against poverty, which is why – with Brian Jones and Breitling – he launched Winds of Hope, the humanitarian foundation. Teaming up with the World Health Organization (WHO), he committed Winds of Hope to fighting Noma through direct action in the field, by raising public awareness, and by bringing under one roof the organizations that fight this terrible disease. The United Nations appointed him a goodwill ambassador for its Population Fund (UNFPA) and “Champion of the Earth” in 2012.

By taking an approach to adventure centered on human values, Bertrand Piccard has become a speaker who is highly appreciated by the general public and big companies. Since 1992 he has been the main attraction at several hundred private and public events on all the continents. Taking his balloon flights as a metaphor for life, he examines motivation, the spirit of adventure, the psychology of communication and team-working, and how to deal with crises, stress and the unpredictable.

Following the family tradition that combines scientific exploration with protection of the environment, Bertrand Piccard came up with the idea of flying round the world in a solar aircraft with no fuel or polluting emissions, so as to promote a spirit of pioneering in the field of renewable energies. He teamed up with André Borschberg to officially launch the Solar Impulse project in 2003 and started building a revolutionary aircraft.

“Adventure in the 21st century consists in using human creativity and the pioneering spirit to develop the quality of life to which present and future generations are entitled.”

A pioneer, an explorer and an innovator free from hidebound certitude and stereotypes, Bertrand Piccard is above all a visionary and communicator. As chairman of Solar Impulse, he developed the project’s avant-garde philosophy and outlined its symbolic and political power, convincing financial partners to support the challenge.

As a UNEP Goodwill Ambassador, his vision of clean technologies and protection of the environment is used as a benchmark in conferences as well as in economic, scientific and environmental forums.

He shares control of the enterprise with André Borschberg, just as he takes turns with him at the aircraft’s controls. Sharing like this, they achieved with a single-seat cockpit the first intercontinental flight and first coast-to-coast crossing of the USA by solar aircraft. The two of them are now preparing to complete the project’s ultimate objective – a Round-The-World solar flight in Solar Impulse 2, that started in Abu Dhabi on March 9th 2015.

Bertrand Piccard is married to Michèle and they have three children. He lives near Lausanne, where he still finds time to write descriptions for us of his impressions, his philosophy of life, and his ideas for the future.



BIOGRAPHY – RESUME

BERTRAND PICCARD

Initiator, Chairman and Pilot of Solar Impulse

Born into a Swiss dynasty of explorers and scientists, who conquered the heights and the depths of our planet, Bertrand Piccard seems predestined to perpetuate one of the greatest family adventures of the 20th century. Psychiatrist, aeronaut and lecturer, chairman of the Winds of Hope humanitarian foundation and Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Environmental Program, he is passionate about today's great human challenges.

A pioneer of ultralight flying in the 1970s, an airplane and glider pilot, Bertrand Piccard achieved in 1999 the first ever non-stop round the world balloon flight, which was the longest flight in terms of duration and distance in the history of aviation.

Initiator, Chairman and Pilot of Solar Impulse, he developed the project's philosophy and outlined its symbolic and political reach, convincing the project's financial partners. Seeking to link science with adventure to promote a better quality of life, he shares with André Borschberg control of this project, just as he shares with him the controls of the aircraft.

- > Born 1 March 1958 in Lausanne (Switzerland), married and father of three children
- > Medical doctor, specialist in psychiatry and psychotherapy for adults and children (1996)
- > Lecturer and supervisor for the Swiss Medical Hypnosis Society
- > Professor at the Nice Faculty of Medicine and Honorary Doctor of Science, Technology and Letters
- > Pioneer of hang-gliding and microlight flying in Europe; European hang-glider aerobatics champion (1985)
- > Winner of the first transatlantic balloon race (Chrysler Challenge, 1992)
- > Initiator of the Breitling Orbiter project and captain of the first non-stop round-the-world balloon flight: 45 633 km in 19 days, 21 hours and 47 minutes (capturing a total of 7 world records)
- > President of the Winds of Hope Foundation which is fighting against malaria
- > United Nations Environmental Program Goodwill Ambassador (UNEP), Champion of the Earth (2012) and Energizer of the Year (2014)
- > Official decorations: Légion d'Honneur; The Olympic Order; Order of the Alawi (Morocco); Order of Saint-Charles; Order of Leopold; Médaille de l'Aéronautique; Gold Medal of Youth and Sport
- > Lecturer (several hundred public and private lectures since 1992)
- > Initiator and chairman of the "Solar Impulse" project to fly round the world in a solar aircraft in order to promote the use of renewable energies; pilot of the 1st solar-powered intercontinental flight, first coast-to-coast USA crossing by a solar aircraft, alternating with André Borschberg
- > Author of: "A Trace in the Sky" (Editions Favre, 2005)
"Around the World in 20 Days" (Wiley, New York, 1999, a best seller),
"Changer d'altitude" (Editions Stock, 2014, a best-seller)
- > Records: 8 FAI world records for distance and duration in a balloon;
2 FAI world records for distance with a solar airplane

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