

**Jetman Live on National Geographic Channel**  
**Q&A with Yves Rossy**

**Q. What inspired you to become the Jet Man? Have you always been such a risk-taker?**

*A. My inspiration has always been to realise my dream. The actual technology allows it but at the beginning, I could only glide with the wing. The next step was to motorise the wing, so I went to JetCat in Germany, the company that made it possible for the wing to have power/engines.*

*I used to have a tendency to be a bit of a daredevil. Now I do not take unnecessary risks.*

**Q. How exactly is the jet-propelled wing designed?**

*A. The very first wing was based on an aerodynamic model from the Ukraine. It was an inflatable wing, which over the years through trial and error I have modified into a solid wing, which folds out.*

**Q. How many prototypes did you develop before finding something that worked, and how long did it take you to perfect the jet wing that you are currently using?**

*A. I have developed about 15 wings over the last 15 years! The first time I used a wing was in 1992. I have been working on this prototype (the one with four engines) for almost three years and I never stop trying to improve it.*

**Q. How are you able to navigate while in flight?**

*A. I navigate by sight, and steer only with the movement of my body (essentially using my head, shoulders and arms). All I need to do is shift slightly to my right for the wing to move right, etc. The only instrument I have is the fuel lever.*

**Q. How have you been preparing for your flight across the English Channel? What sort of challenges have you had to overcome to make this monumental event happen?**

*A. The greatest challenge remains the length of the flight. It is crucial to succeed in flying for 35 kilometres at the risk of winding up in the water. I have to do one more 35-kilometre distance test because I have added extra fuel in the wing and that will enable me to fly longer.*

**Q. Flying on a jet-propelled wing seems like an incredibly risky manoeuvre. Have you had any close calls in your testing flights?**

*A. Oh yes, I must have dropped the wing about 20 times! Luckily, every time I have dropped the wing, it has been ok. I let the wing go to become a normal parachutist. These problems during flight have already happened and they will certainly continue to occur.*

**Q. How does it feel to be soaring through the air so fast? What goes through your mind while you are flying?**

*A. It is a combination of concentration and pure happiness and euphoria. I am in another state of mind; it is a little unreal. It is hyper euphoria, and it gives me a huge feeling of freedom.*

**Q. Have you always had such an obsession with flying? Do you have any role models that helped motivate you to pursue this dream?**

*A. Oh yes, it is second nature to me. I have always wanted to fly. In the beginning, for example, when I was an aspiring pilot, it was not easy. I was thinking about what had gotten myself into, but you persevere and you get there. I have read Richard Bach. I think that if one is absolutely convinced about what they want to do then they will get there.*

*I have enormous admiration for the pioneers of aviation. Discovering a route never explored. There is a beauty and greatness in the efforts of Bleriot and Lindberg, for example, who risked their lives to find the way. To go where no one has gone before!*

**Q. What preparations and safety precautions do you make before flying? Do you feel nervous before each test run?**

*A. There is a certain tension, because I have had quite a few setbacks in the past. With each flight I try to eliminate them, so as to not make the same mistakes twice. Do not forget my wing is the premier model, the goal is to simplify it. Before each flight I have a kind of positive tension ; that tension helps me to concentrate.*

*On top of physical and mental preparation, I prep the wing. I have a checklist of what has gone wrong in the past and I make sure that those issues have been resolved and that makes the flight more feasible.*

**Q. After conquering the English Channel in the live September broadcast, what are your next plans?**

*A. Let my friends try out the wings! I want to share my invention so that we can eventually fly in formation with several wings.*

- *Fly over the Grand Canyon in the United States*
- *Create a new prototype with much more powerful engines that will give me the freedom to fly in three dimensions! Vertical flight, be able to perform aerobatics. The idea is to have as much thrust as weight. That would be total freedom! I would also like to put in place a new parachute system that would let me fly as low as 200 metres, as right now I open my chute at 800 metres.*

*After that, I want to explore all the potential the wing has because the potential is enormous. I have gone down this road and I do not want to stop.*

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**Notes to Editors:**

- *Jetman Live* will air live on National Geographic Channel and will be streamed live online at [www.natgeotv.com/jetman](http://www.natgeotv.com/jetman)
- To view clips of Yves Rossy in action, visit [www.jetmanlive.com](http://www.jetmanlive.com)
- For more information about Yves Rossy, visit his website, [www.fusionman.ch](http://www.fusionman.ch)