



Yves « FusionMan » Rossy Succeeds in Crossing English Channel Using a Single, Jet-Propelled Wing

Dover, September 26th 2008. Today, Yves Rossy successfully completed an amazing challenge at 1:19pm (BST) and became the first man to fly across the English Channel from Calais, France to Dover, UK, using a homemade, single, jet-powered wing. FusionMan covered a distance of 35 kilometres in 13 minutes.

Swiss adventurer Yves traced the route of French aviator Louis Blériot, who became the first person to fly across the English Channel in an airplane 99 years ago. Beginning his journey at Calais Airport, Yves Rossy was transported in a plane to nearly 2,500 metres, at which point he started his four engines. Then at 1.06pm, Yves jumped out of the plane above Calais. Once his wing stabilised, FusionMan began his flight travelling full throttle and heading for the United Kingdom.

With a light wind on his back, he reached the South Foreland Lighthouse on the iconic White Cliffs of Dover in 13 minutes, covering the 35 kilometre trip at an average speed of 200 kilometres per hour. When finally the White Cliffs of Dover appeared, Yves deployed his parachute and landed at 1.19 pm (BST).

Speaking of his historic feat, elated Yves said, “So many people were with me on that flight, I want to say thank you...everything was perfect. I show that it is possible to fly a little bit like a bird.”

This achievement happened after many months of preparation and numerous test flights. Only one of his test flights lasted longer than eight minutes. Yves spent much of his time concentrating on wing modifications to increase its performance. He conducted a wind tunnel test and identified ways to add more fuel and develop a better engine ignition system, all of which made this challenge to cross the English Channel possible.

The flight across the Channel was broadcast live and exclusively by National Geographic Channel in 164 countries, in **Jetman Live** and was also streamed live online at www.natgeotv.com/jetman. In the UK and ROI, National Geographic Channel viewers can see **Jetman Live** again at 10pm tonight. In the US, footage from Rossy's flight will air on National Geographic Channel in primetime tonight at 8pm. The event was also broadcast on TSR (Switzerland) and France3 (France).

A crucial step has been achieved today. Yves Rossy will be continuing the adventure. His next challenges? Flying over the Grand Canyon, taking off from the ground, sharing his passion on a patrol flight, and especially continuing to develop his wing in order and make it lighter and easier to handle. The ultimate dream? To be able to perform acrobatics and have even more freedom and pleasure during the flight.

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