

Dr. BERTRAND PICCARD



Aviation Pioneer Active Environmentalist and Visionary

Bertrand Piccard is an internationally renowned adventurer and aviation pioneer. He belongs to a dynasty of explorers and scientists and is continuing his family's legacy, which has been shaped by a pioneering spirit and a passion for discovery for generations. As the initiator and founder of the Solar Impulse project, he and André Borschberg successfully completed the first round-the-world flight in a solar-powered aircraft without fuel in 2015–2016.

As early as 1992, the pioneer of free flight won the Chrysler Challenge, the first transatlantic balloon race, and as the initiator of the Breitling Orbiter project, he successfully completed the first non-stop round-the-world flight in a hot-air balloon in 1999. In 2010, the prototype Solar Impulse 1 achieved the first purely solar-powered night flight in aviation history, followed in 2012 by the world's first solar-powered intercontinental flight together with his co-pilot André Borschberg.

Known for his ambitious projects, Swiss pioneer Bertrand Piccard is not only a modern-day balloonist but also an active environmentalist and visionary. He is the founder and president of the humanitarian foundation 'Winds of Hope' and served as a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) from 2015 to 2023. In 2016, Bertrand Piccard founded the World Alliance for Efficient Solutions as part of the Solar Impulse Foundation, with the aim of supporting start-ups and established companies in developing solutions that both protect the environment and are economically efficient. He is currently working on his third major world record-breaking adventure with the 'Climate Impulse' project: he aims to become the first person to circumnavigate the globe non-stop in a hydrogen-powered aircraft.

Bertrand Piccard masterfully combines science and adventure to promote a sustainable lifestyle. He has already received numerous awards for his commitment. In 2001 he was knighted and in 2017 became an Officer of the French Legion of Honour; he has also been awarded the Olympic Order and the highest honours from the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale, the National Geographic Society and the Explorer's Club.

In his fascinating talks, with their spine-tingling atmosphere, he shares his experiences, visions and insights. He highlights the enormous potential of renewable energy and new technologies, and speaks on topics such as crisis management, interpersonal communication and the pioneering spirit.

Topics (Selection):

- Adventure, a state of mind: a metaphor for travelling around the world in a balloon•
- Be a balloonist in your business• Solar Impulse: a vision of sustainable development•
- Pioneering work - for a sustainable future• Hypnosis and self-hypnosis (for a medically interested audience)