

Bertrand Piccard

Serial explorer, psychiatrist and ambassador for clean technologies combining innovation and adventure to tackle the great challenges of our time



It is in Bertrand Piccard's DNA to go beyond the obvious and achieve the impossible. From a legendary lineage of explorers who conquered the stratosphere and the abysses, he made history by accomplishing two aeronautical firsts, around the world non-stop in a balloon, and more recently in a solar plane without fuel. Pioneer in his way to consider ecology through the lens of profitability, he began working in the early 2000s to promote renewable energies and clean technologies. Solar Impulse was born to carry this message around the world.

His dual identity as a psychiatrist and explorer makes him an influential voice heard by the largest institutions which today consider him as a forward-thinking leader on the themes of innovation and sustainability. Founder and Chairman of the Solar Impulse Foundation, he has succeeded with his team to select 1000 efficient solutions to protect the environment in a profitable way. In a third round-the-world tour, he will bring them to decision-makers in order to help them meet their environmental targets while ensuring clean economic growth.

Aware that sustainable development is not limited to the protection of the planet's resources, Bertrand is also actively involved in humanitarian causes, fighting for the eradication of Noma, a disease associated with extreme poverty, caused by malnutrition and lack of hygiene.

Whether it is to protect the environment or to reduce inequalities, Bertrand seeks to highlight solutions by developing synergies where others see only oppositions. To support his approach, he strives to unite the forces involved, raise public awareness and encourage political action.

A true communicator at heart, Bertrand has become a prominent speaker, invited to express his vision of the pioneering spirit at public, private and institutional events. Bertrand also enjoys sharing his experiences and ideas through writing, as well as inspiring younger generations.

Bertrand is currently United Nations Ambassador for the Environment and Special Advisor to the European Commission.

Awards and Honors

Champion of the Earth, 2012

Grand Prix of the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences

Olympic Order (IOC)

Officer of the Legion of Honor
France

Officer of the Order of Alawites
Morocco

Officer of the Order of Leopold
Belgium

Commander of the Order Adolphe de Nassau
Luxembourg

Knight of the Order of Saint Charles
Monaco

Aeronautics Medal
France

Gold Medal for Youth and Sports, gold class
France

Gold Medal of the International Aeronautical Federation –FAI

Hubbard Medal of the National Geographic Society

Gold Medal of the Explorers' Club

Academic Distinctions

Honoris Causa Doctor for Science, Technology and Letters in Cranfield, Fribourg, Geneva, Mons, Leuven and Silesian Universities

Publications

«Objectif Soleil» with André Borschberg
Editions Stock 2017

«Changer d'altitude»
Editions Stock – best-seller in 2014

«Around the World in 20 Days»
with Brian Jones
Wiley Editions, New York – best-seller in 1999

«Une Trace dans le Ciel»
Editions Favre 2005

EXPLORATION

Pioneer of hand gliding and ultralight flying in Europe
European Hang-Glider Aerobatics Champion in 1985

Winner of the first transatlantic balloon race
Chrysler Challenge in 1992

Initiator of the Breitling Orbiter project; Captain of the first non-stop round-the-world balloon flight
8 FAI world records for the longest unrefuelled flight in distance and duration in the history of aviation
45,633 km in 20 days

Initiator, Chairman and Pilot of Solar Impulse; first round-the-world solar flight
22 FAI world records in solar and electric categories
43'000 km without fuel

MEDICINE

Medical doctor, specialist in psychiatry and psychotherapy for adults and children

Lecturer and supervisor for the Swiss Medical Hypnosis Society

Professor at the Nice Faculty of Medicine

ENGAGEMENT

Initiator and Chairman of the Winds of Hope Foundation

Initiator and Chairman of the NoNoma Federation

United Nations Goodwill Ambassador for the Population Fund (UNFPA), from 2000 to 2012

United Nations Goodwill Ambassador for the Environmental Program (UNEP), from 2015

Initiator and Chairman of the Solar Impulse Foundation

CONFERENCES

More than 2500 public, private and institutional lectures