



In 2003, David Hempleman–Adams became the first person to cross the Atlantic Ocean in an open–basket balloon. On September 26 he set off in his balloon from New Brunswick, Canada. He survived the 83–hour sleepless trip by eating canned soup that he heated on a Bunsen burner in his seven–by–four–foot basket. His most frightening moment came when the Concorde supersonic airliner passed overhead, and its sonic boom caused his basket to plunge sharply. He was surprised to discover that sailing through heavy rains and bitterly cold temperatures proved far more challenging than his Arctic trips. "There was no heater and some nights my teeth were chattering so hard that I couldn't get on the radio to talk," he told Emily Bearn of the *Sunday Telegraph*. "It was colder than going to the North Pole because at the North Pole you're skiing and keeping warm. But here it was just endurance." Four days, he touched down in a field in Hambleton, Lancashire, England.



*Oh My Cod: David Hempleman-Adams kisses a cod as part of a Newfoundland good-luck tradition before taking off.
Photo courtesy of metro.co.uk*

The only prior solo crossing was in 1984, but in an enclosed heated basket. Hempleman–Adams had attempted crossing the Atlantic in 2002 (a mechanical failure with his autopilot device forced him to turn back); and in June of 2003 (this time a lack of wind stymied the trip).

In total Hempleman-Adams has set 47 FAI (Fédération Aéronautique Internationale - The World Air Sports Federation) records. Some of his accomplishments are:

2000 - First man to fly a balloon over the North Pole.

January 2007 - Small size hot air balloon altitude record, 32,500 ft. (9,906 m) over Alberta, Can.

July 2007 - crossed the Atlantic in the smallest helium balloon.



October 2008 - along with co-pilot Jon Mason won the 52nd Gordon Bennett Cup, having flown a helium balloon 1,000 miles from Albuquerque NM to Madison WI. They are the first British team to win the coveted prize in 102 years.

September 2009 - Endurance record for a flight using the smallest man-carrying helium balloon, flying 200 miles from Butler Mo, to Cherokee OK, in 14 hours 15 minutes using a class AA-01 balloon.



October 2011 - Hampleman-As with co-pilot Jon Mason, won the Americas Challenge Balloon race.

Photo courtesy of telegraph.co.uk

Other notable accomplishments include being the only man to have reached both the magnetic and geographical North and South Poles, and having climbed the highest peak on each of the seven continents.