

Search

70-Year-Old Man Sets World Record for Flying Hot Air Balloon — Underground



Brittany Jones Cooper
Editor, Yahoo Travel
Oct 1, 2014



Follow

Ivan Trifonov became the first person to fly a hot air balloon underground. (Photo: Haron Markičević)

In a feat that would be impressive at any age, 70-year-old Ivan Trifonov became the first person to successfully fly a hot air balloon underground. The record-breaking event took place at Mamet Cave in Croatia's Velebit mountain range.

The descent down into the 675-foot deep cave took nearly 25 minutes, and the Austrian adventurer used a special hot air balloon to accomplish the undertaking. The balloon was smaller than the typical hot-air balloon use in tourist locations, and the craft was missing the traditional basket. Instead, Trifonov used two gas cylinders framed by iron pipes as improvised seating.



The view from inside the Mamet Cave. (Photo: Haron Markičević)

This is actually the Austrian adventurer's fifth record-breaking achievement. Trifonov has been honored with four Guinness World Records for hot air ballooning over the South Pole, the North Pole, and the Mediterranean Sea. He is also the first man to stand, dive, and fly over the North Pole all within 12 hours.

Related: 9 Caves for Amateur Spelunkers

Others have tried to fly a hot air balloon underground in the past, but none have succeeded until now. Trifonov predicts he'll hold this record forever. "This has been a difficult project. You must have the right balloon, the right weather, and the right support," he said. "It was very difficult and I don't believe this is going to be repeated by anyone ever again."

WATCH: Ivan Trifonov Fly a Hot Air Balloon Underground:



Let Yahoo Travel inspire you every day. Hang out with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Pinterest](#).



Be the first to comment.