

PRESS INFORMATION



Gliding in the UK

Gliding in the UK is administered by the British Gliding Association (BGA). Over 25,000 people fly in a glider each year making approximately ½ million flights.

Gliding is many different things to many different people. For some, it is just a casual hobby, and a way to meet new people. For others, it is an inexpensive way to get airborne. For others, gliding offers the exhilaration of spectacular looking aerobatics. For many, including our very successful international team, it is a cutting edge sport.

For all, though, it is a silent and graceful way of flying without an engine. Gliding is the ultimate free flying experience. It is a truly diverse sport that can be enjoyed at all levels: from the thriving club scene, to aerobatics, to the international racing competitions.

Gliders soar using the same air currents that birds use to fly, but have also been designed with the kind of aerodynamic efficiency that enables top speeds of up to 300 kph. Distances of over 1100km have been covered in one day in the UK and heights of almost 40,000 feet have been achieved.

Although the weather here is not always kind to us, the UK offers pilots a tremendous range of flying possibilities, from soaring across the plains of southern England, or ridge running along the south coast, to using the mountainous terrain of Scotland and Wales to achieve long, fast flights.

Gliding is also a sport for all ages - from those who go solo on their 14th birthday through their club cadet schemes; there is no upper age limit. The

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BGA supports younger pilots through its network of accredited Junior Gliding Centres.

There are approximately 90 gliding clubs in the UK, each of which offers full training to those wishing to take up the sport. Instruction is provided by BGA-trained instructors and, whilst each club is an independent organisation with its own special 'feel', all conform to BGA and, where appropriate, European flying regulations.

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