

How to Fly a Bubble Balloon

Can you imagine an exhilarating machine that is so exciting that it will make adrenaline pump through your veins? This brand new mode of transport is so unusual that everyone will stop and stare. This phenomenal contraption simply cannot be missed! Have you ever wondered what it would be like to travel up amongst the clouds? Would you like to experience the gentle wind in your hair as you glide through the sky like a bird? Read this explanation text and find out all about how simple they are to fly!

Components

Bubble balloons can fly to incredible heights: the world record is over 21,000 metres (68,900 feet). It can be challenging to breathe at that , so oxygen is needed from around 5,000 metres (16,400 feet). In contrast to the cold temperatures of the skies, the temperature inside a bubble balloon is usually kept just below 120 degrees Celsius (248 Fahrenheit). A bubble balloon comprises a large woven basket, four tempered steel gas tanks, a burner and the balloon (or bubble, as it is often referred to).

Flight

Firstly, the aviator puts four nylon poles into sockets located at the top of the basket. Then, they carefully place the burner on top of the poles. Next, she connects the cables to the burner frame - the cables also go under the basket in order to hold everything together.

After this, she connects the hoses from the full gas tanks to the burner – this allows it to be tested.

Next, two people hold the mouth of the bubble open (it takes two people because of its large size) while it is filled with cold air from the fan. This process is completed until the material becomes rounded and stretched.

The most demanding task requires the lead aviator to crouch on the ground (partly inside the basket). They then need to cautiously turn the gas burner on and position the flame into the 'mouth' of the bubble; this is a hazardous process so it must be done accurately. As a result of the heat entering the bubble, it gradually rises up.

When the aviator is ready to set off, whilst standing in the basket, they heat up the air in the bubble by 20 degrees: the air in the bubble subsequently becomes hot enough to get the balloon to rise off the ground. The aviator can control how high the balloon elevates by increasing or decreasing the pressure of the flames.

When ready to land, the aviator gradually reduces the strength of the flames. This causes the bubble to deflate and eventually it reaches ground once more.

Is it for you?

Are you excited? Do you feel like you could have a go? If you are fascinated by escalating heights, if you see yourself as a bit of a daredevil, then why not have a go yourself at flying bubble balloons (under 18's must be accompanied by an adult).