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Industry at the Edge of Space



ERIK SEEDHOUSE

Suborbital

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Erik Seedhouse

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From L to R: MiniMach, Lava, and Jasper

To our cats, Jasper, Mini-Mach, and Lava – an integral part of providing comfort in our lives

About the author

Erik Seedhouse is a Norwegian-Canadian suborbital astronaut whose life-long ambition is to work in space. After completing his first degree in Sports Science at Northumbria University, the author joined the legendary 2nd Battalion the Parachute Regiment, the world's most elite airborne regiment. During his time in the "Para's", Erik spent six months in Belize, where he was trained in the art of jungle warfare. Later, he spent several months learning the intricacies of desert warfare in Cyprus. He made more than 30 jumps from a Hercules C130, performed more than 200 helicopter abseils, and fired more anti-tank weapons than he cares to remember!

Upon returning to the comparatively mundane world of academia, the author embarked upon a master's degree in Medical Science at Sheffield University. He supported his studies by winning prize money in 100-km running races. After placing third in the World 100 km Championships in 1992 and setting the North American 100-km record, the author turned to ultra-distance triathlon, winning the World Endurance Triathlon Championships in 1995 and 1996. For good measure, he also won the inaugural World Double Ironman Championships in 1995 and the Decatriathlon, a diabolical event requiring competitors to swim 38 km, cycle 1,800 km, and run 422 km. Non-stop!

Returning to academia in 1996, Erik pursued his Ph.D. at the German Space Agency's Institute for Space Medicine. While conducting his studies, he found time to win Ultraman Hawaii and the European Ultraman Championships as well as completing Race Across America. Due to his success as the world's leading ultra-distance triathlete, Erik was featured in dozens of magazines and television interviews. In 1997, *GQ* magazine nominated him as the "Fittest Man in the World".

In 1999, Erik retired from being a professional triathlete and started post-doctoral studies at Simon Fraser University. In 2005, he worked as an astronaut training consultant for Bigelow Aerospace and wrote *Tourists in Space*, a manual for spaceflight participants. He is a Fellow of the British Interplanetary Society and a member of the Space Medical Association. In 2009, he was one of the final 30 candidates in the Canadian Space Agency's Astronaut Recruitment Campaign. Erik works as a corporate astronaut (www.suborbital-training.com), spaceflight consultant, professional speaker, triathlon coach, and author.

He is the Training Director for Astronauts for Hire (www.astronauts4hire.org) and completed his suborbital astronaut training in May 2011. Between 2008 and 2012, he served as director of Canada's manned centrifuge operations.

In addition to being a suborbital astronaut, triathlete, centrifuge operator, pilot, and author, Erik is an avid mountaineer and is pursuing his goal of climbing the Seven Summits. *Suborbital* is his 12th book. When not writing, he spends as much time as possible in Kona on the Big Island of Hawaii and at his real home in Sandefjord, Norway. Erik and his wife, Doina, are owned by three rambunctious cats – Jasper, Mini-Mach, and Lava.



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