

FREE METRO

&

Jeep

PRESENT

BE RENEGADE

DISCOVER EXPERIENCES THAT DEFY CONVENTION

MAYDAY! Mayday! Mayday!' These aren't the words you want to hear when you're flying at 250mph and the engine suddenly cuts out.

Strapped into the cockpit of a stunt plane, my heart lurches as we plummet towards an open field for an emergency landing.

I'm gripping the 'control column' - a silver steering stick between my knees - and I'm sure my shaking hand is going to send us off-course.

Luckily, I don't have to steer at this crucial moment, because Mark Greenfield - an ex-RAF pilot with 35 years' flying experience - is at the helm behind me.

Even better, his 'Mayday' call is just a simulation of an engine failure - and part of my adrenaline-fuelled Fly With a Fighter Pilot experience at Goodwood Aerodrome.

Mark, CEO of aerobic flight provider Ultimate High, is putting me through this procedure to reassure me. Ironically.

'Many guests think the world will end if the engine stops,' he says. 'But a skilled pilot will always be able to sort things out seamlessly and calmly.'

We fly low over the airstrip, before the engine kicks back in and we pull up into the air, leaving my stomach near the grass.

My 25 minutes in the air begin with a full briefing. Mark uses a toy plane to demonstrate an eye-watering array of aerobatics, from flying inverted (upside down), to rolls, stall turns and G-force-inducing loops.

He also explains how to use the controls and deploy my parachute in the 'very unlikely' event I need it.

But this is more than just a safety briefing. Mark is reading me, working out what sort of flier I might be so he can start to gauge my capacity for when we are airborne and begin the tricks.

'We tailor the experience to the individual,' Mark explains. 'No two flights are ever the same because people have different limits.'

'What constitutes fun for you might be too much, or not enough, for someone else - and ultimately we want you to have fun.'

Heart pumping, I pull on a jumpsuit, then pick a call-sign from a board of velcro name tags. I feel like choosing

Petrified or Dead Meat, but settle for Braveheart.

At take-off, I can barely speak. Mark must sense my fear because he starts humming You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling. Soon I'm joining in, belting out a tuneless rendition of the Top Gun hit over the headset.

Before I reach the second verse, we are racing down the runway and shooting up into the air.

It's already a fantastic feeling being so high, but Mark quickly cranks up the fun.

I yelp as we flip upside-down - my hair is everywhere and I feel like my brain is falling out of my forehead.

We loop and roll and tumble down before soaring up again and all the time Mark is checking how I am and giving me breaks between the moves.

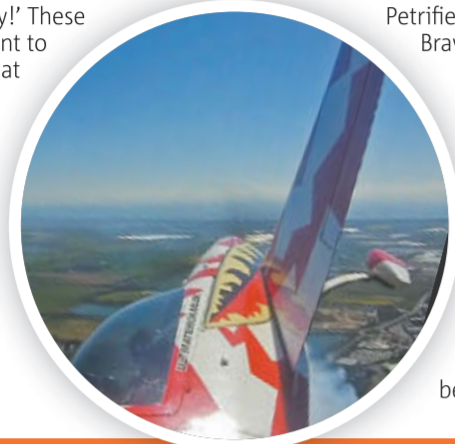
Then it's my turn. 'You're in control,' he says as I take over, steering the plane towards the shimmering coastline. Fortunately, Mark talks me through everything until I feel confident enough to try something new.

Using tiny movements, I pull the nose up, feeling my belly leap with the added G-force. I try small tilts from side to side, watching the wings dip on the horizon.

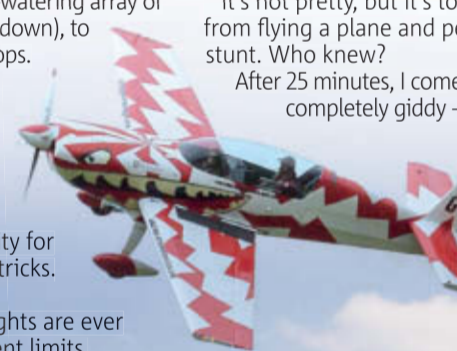
Then Mark asks if I fancy trying some tricks. I squeeze the stick to the left, tipping the whole aircraft into a body-jerking, mind-spinning, 360-degree roll.

It's not pretty, but it's totally thrilling. I'm buzzing from flying a plane and performing my very own aerial stunt. Who knew?

After 25 minutes, I come back down to Earth completely giddy - and that's from more than just the G-force.



'I YELP AS WE FLIP UPSIDE-DOWN. MY HAIR IS EVERYWHERE AND I FEEL LIKE MY BRAIN IS FALLING OUT OF MY FOREHEAD.'



Flying high: Mark shows Ellie the ropes
PICTURE: VICTOR FRANKOWSKI

DON'T LOOK DOWN

Ellie Ross takes to the skies as she plays fighter pilot for the day

UNLEASH YOUR 360°

For more information visit ultimatehigh.co.uk

MAVERICKS WELCOME
WIN TICKETS TO THE ULTIMATE SPY EXPERIENCE



We have 28 sets of three tickets to immersive spy experience Infiltration to give away, meaning you can experience the Jeep adventure for free and take two friends along for the ride

ENTER NOW AT METRO.CO.UK/JEEP

GETTING SOME AIRTIME

Jeep has been inviting people to express their inner renegade and star in a Matrix-style video while they're at it. Rachel Tarley finds out more...

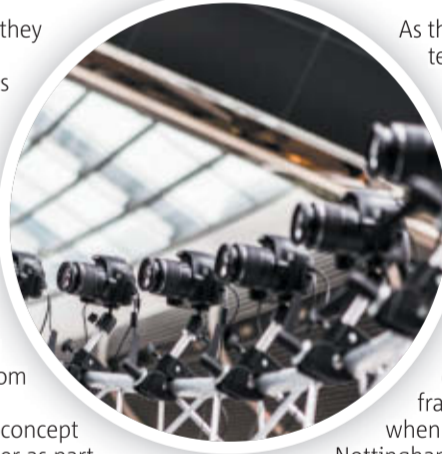


ANYONE who says they don't take a good look at themselves in those shop changing rooms with multiple mirrors is, frankly, lying. It's more than seeing how you look in that new pair of jeans from behind, or checking out how your chin really looks from the side; it's seeing yourself - and things - from a different angle.

Jeep has embraced this concept and then gone one better as part of the promotional campaign for its new Renegade SUV models, inventing a high-tech experience where participants can create a 360-degree video of themselves from every angle.

The 360 tour, which is currently making its way around the UK, is basically the changing room mirror-stare with the excitement factor dialled up to 10. Jeep says the video allows users to 'stop time' for a full six seconds and it's certainly true that the results are quite something to look at: Matrix-style visuals, where the subject is viewed in whatever pose they've chosen from every angle.

How do they pull it off? The technology is relatively simple, but certainly full-on: 48 HD DSLRs on 5.5m rig are assembled around a circular stage, in which participants are encouraged to leap into a pose - the more energetic the better - and are given the option of props, such as a hula-hoop to jump through, to help them create a striking shot. The cameras do their work and the result is the six seconds of science-fiction-esque video, which can then be viewed immediately and shared on social media.



As the Be Renegade campaign tells its audience, 'mavericks [are] welcome' and that certainly seems to be the case for the 360 videos: participants in the tour so far have included free runners and professional athletes. Jamell Anderson, a basketball player on the Great Britain squad, even squeezed his 6'8" frame into one of the videos when he visited the tour at its

Nottingham stop-off. 'As a basketball player, I'm used to getting airtime,' he tells me. 'Usually, I get photos of dunks or action photos in games so I thought it'd be great to get a 360 video of me in the air. Plus the car looked awesome.'

'I've always looked up to Michael Jordan, so thought I would give his signature move a go for the 360 video. I thought it looked pretty cool.'

Naturally, the attraction is also proving extremely popular with the younger end of gathered audiences. Families with children are flocking to the Jeep showcases and kids are keen to try out as many poses and props as possible.

The quality - particularly the lack of blurring in the resultant images - is quite something. True, in some shots there is low-level distortion around the edges or extremities of a subject's body - for example blurred hands on the end of outstretched arms - but for the most part, these are images that don't suffer from the usual problems action shots do.

As it turns out, seeing yourself from a different angle can be more exciting than checking out how flattering those jeans are from behind...

FOR 10% OFF YOUR OWN FIGHTER PILOT FLIGHT, PLUS MORE OFFERS AND EVENTS, VISIT METRO.CO.UK/RENEGADE