

Biography of Fedor Konyukhov

FEDOR KONYUKHOV – Born December 12, 1951, on the coast of the Sea of Azov (part of the Black Sea).

Graduated Odessa's Maritime College (Ukraine, USSR), majoring in navigation, majoring in ship mechanics. Graduated Bobruisk's College of Arts (Belorussia, USSR) majoring woodcarving.

From an early age, Fedor strived to travel and discover the world and its infinite diversity. He accomplished his first expedition at the age of fifteen, having crossed the Sea of Azov in a row boat.

In 1983, being the youngest member at the time, Fedor, was admitted to the Artists Union of USSR. In 1992 he became a member of the Moscow Artists Union – Graphic Arts section; and in 2001, became a member of the Sculpture section as well.

Gold Medal Laureate and [Honorary Academician of the Russian Arts Academy](#) and author of more than 3,000 paintings; Fedor has participated in more than 100 of Russian and international exhibitions.

A member of Russia's Journalists Union and Russia's Writers Union, Fedor is the author of twenty-two books.

Awarded the 'Friendship of Peoples' medal of the USSR for the trans-Arctic ski expedition 'USSR – North Pole – Canada' (1988).

Awarded the UNEP 'GLOBAL 500' Prize for his contribution to environmental protection. He is also holder of UNESCO's 'Fair Play' Prize.

A Full member of the Russian Geographic Society, Fedor is listed in the 'Chronicles of Mankind' encyclopedia.

An Aerostat Balloon Pilot, and a Yacht Captain, Fedor has circumnavigated the globe five times, including round the world balloon flight and has crossed the Atlantic Ocean fifteen times, including a row boat crossing in 2002.

The first and only person in the world, so far, to have reached the five extreme Poles on earth:

- the [North Pole](#) (three times).
- the [South Pole](#).
- the [Pole of Inaccessibility in the Arctic Ocean](#).
- the top of [Mount Everest](#) (Alpinists pole) (twice). <http://explorersgrandslam.com/>
- sailed around the world via [Cape Horn](#)(Yachtsmen pole) five times.

First person to complete [Adventurers Grand Slam](#) program in chronological order: North Pole (1988), South Pole (1996), and Seven Summits between 1992 (Everest) and Denali (Alaska) in May 1997. It took 9 years to complete Adventure Grand Slam.

First Russian to complete [Seven Summits program](#)— climbed highest peak on each continent. <https://www.7summits.com>

Became a Global Ambassador for [Australia Zoo Wildlife Warriors](#) program in 2015.

FAI/Breitling [Pilot of the Year 2016](#).

Laureate of the International prize “Faith and Fidelity” 2017.

EXPEDITIONS

1977 (May-August) – Scientific Research Sailing Expedition on the 40 ft yacht, ‘CHUKOTKA’ retracing Commodore Vitus Bering’s 1725-1730 voyage. Route: Vladivostok – Sakhalin Island – Kamchatka and the Commodore Islands. Duration: 4 months. Distance: 4,000 nautical miles.

1978 (May-August) – Second leg of expedition – Archaeological Research Sailing Expedition on the 40 ft yacht ‘CHUKOTKA’ retracing Commodore Vitus Bering’s 1725-1730 voyage. Route: Vladivostok – Sakhalin Island – Kamchatka and the Commodore Islands. Duration: 4 months. Distance: 4,000 nautical miles.

1979 (May-August) – Third leg of the Scientific Research Sailing Expedition on the 40 ft yacht, ‘CHUKOTKA’ retracing Commodore Vitus Bering’s 1725-1730 voyage. Including an ascension of the Klyuchevskiy Volcano, on the Kamchatka Peninsula. Organizer of memorial plaques, honoring Vitus Bering and his crew, sited on the Commodore Islands. Route: Vladivostok – Sakhalin Island – Kamchatka and the Commodore Islands. Duration: 4 months. Distance: 4,000 nautical miles. Total Distance: 12,000 nautical miles over 3 expedition periods.

1980 – Participated in the International Baltic Cup regatta as crew member from the Far-Eastern Marine Academy (Vladivostok).

1981 – Crossing, Chukotka (Russia’s furthest Eastern Region) on dog-sled; completing a scientific research expedition and accumulated materials for his art works. Route: Novo Chaplino – Providenia – Uelen and back. Distance: 1,500 km.

1983 – Scientific ski team expedition across the Laptev Sea (Arctic Ocean). Fedor’s first polar ski expedition in preparation for the Antarctic crossing. Duration: 30 days.

1984 – Participated in the International Baltic Cup regatta as crew member from the Far-Eastern Marine Academy (Vladivostok).

1984 – Rafting down the Lena River. At 4,472 km in length it is the easternmost of the three great Siberian rivers that flow into the Arctic Ocean. Duration: 2 months. Distance: 2,500 km.

1985 – Expedition across the Ussurian Taiga (Far East of Russia), retracing the 1906 route of Russian explorer V.K. Arseniyev. Studying the Siberian tiger population – traveling on foot, horse-back and rafting. Duration: 45 days. Distance: 1000 km.

1986 (Winter) – Ski team expedition crossing to the Pole of Inaccessibility in the Arctic Ocean lead by Dmitry Shparo. Setting out from the Soviet drifting polar stations “North Pole 26” towards “North Pole 27” on January 29, the group, enduring absolute polar night darkness, reached the Pole on March 7, 1986. Duration: 38 days. Distance: In excess of 700 km.

Footnote: The Pole of inaccessibility marks a location that is the most challenging to reach, owing to its remoteness from geographical features, which could provide access. The term is a geographic construct, not an actual physical phenomenon. Northern Pole of Inaccessibility (84°03 N 174°51 W). Located on the Arctic Ocean pack ice at a distance farthest from any land mass. It is 661 km from the Northern Geographical Pole, 1,453 km north of Barrow, Alaska, and equidistant from the closest landmasses, Ellesmere Island and Franz-Josef Land, 1,094 km away. Due to the constant motion of the pack ice, no permanent structure exists at the pole.

1987 – International Ski expedition to Baffin Island (Canada) as part of the Soviet-Canadian expedition (part of the training program in preparation for the North Pole expedition). Duration: 40 days.

1988 – Soviet-Canadian Polar Bridge expedition. Ski expedition across the Arctic Ocean: Russia – Geographic North Pole – Canada, as a member of Russian-Canadian team. (9 Russians and 4 Canadians). Setting out across the drifting ice pack on March 3, the group reached the Geographical North Pole on April 24, and finished at Ward Hunt Island (Canada) June 1, 1988. Route: Arctic Cape, Sredni Island (Middle Island), Severnaya Zemlya Archipelago – Geographical North Pole – Ward Hunt Island, Canada. Duration: 91 days. Distance: 1,830 km. Expedition leaders: Dmitri Shparo and [Richard Weber](#) (Canada)

1989 (Spring) – Participated in first Russian unsupported 'Arctic' expedition to the North Pole, under the leadership of Vladimir Chukov. Starting March 4, from Schmitt Island, Severnaya Zemlya Archipelago. The expedition reached the North Pole May 6, 1989. Duration: 63 days. Distance: 930 km.

1989 (Summer-Autumn) – Expedition leader of the first joint Russian-American, East to West, transcontinental bicycle crossing, starting June 18 and finishing October 26, 1989. Route: Vladivostok – Moscow – St. Petersburg. Duration: 131 days. Distance: 10,000 km.

1990 (Spring) – Solo ski expedition to the Geographical North Pole. First Russian (and is still the only) to reach the Geographical North Pole alone. Setting out from Cape Lokot, Sredni Island, Severnaya Zemlya Archipelago on March 3, reaching the North Pole on May 8, 1990. Duration: 72 days. Distance: 950 km.

1990 (Autumn) – 1991 (Spring) – The first yachtsman in Russian history (and is still the only), to complete a solo non-stop circumnavigation on a yacht. Setting out October 28, 1990 on the 36 ft yacht 'KARAANA' (Swanson design) – finishing June 8, 1991. The project was supported by Australian Entrepreneur, [Dick Smith](#) and the Australian Geographic magazine. 'Karaana' – 'Quiet place' in the Aboriginal language. Fedor's first successful solo round the world sail. Route: Sydney – Cape Horn – Equator – Cape of Good Hope – Cape Leeuwin – Bass Strait – Sydney. Duration: 224 days. Distance: 25,500 nautical miles.

1991 (Summer-Autumn) – Facilitator of the Russian-Australian East to West, transcontinental 4x4 expedition across the Soviet Union as part of a documentary film project 'Across the Red Unknown' by Australian TV presenter [George Negus](#) for SBS TV. Setting out on August 5, and finishing in September 15, 1991. Route: Vladivostok to Moscow. Duration: 41 days.

Footnote: The expedition started off in the Soviet Union and finished in the Russian Federation, due to the collapse of the USSR in August 1991.

1992 (February 26) – Climbed the highest mountain in Europe – Elbrus/Russia (5642 m) as a part of the '7 Summits of the World' program. Duration: 1 week.

1992 (May 14) – Climbed the highest mountain in Asia – Everest (8,848m) (Together with [Evgeny Vinogradski](#)) as a part of the '7 Summits of the World' program. The climb was the first successful Russian ascension of Mt. Everest. Duration: 2 months.

Footnote: (The first successful Everest ascension for the Soviet Union was in 1982)

1993-1994 – Captain of the round world expedition on the 56 ft ketch 'FORMOSA'. Setting out on March 25, 1993 from Kilun Bay, Taiwan and finishing in Vladivostok on 26 August 1994. Route: Taiwan – Hong Kong – Singapore – Ve Island (Indonesia) – Victoria Island (Seychelles) – Yemen (Aden port) – Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) – Suez channel – Alexandria (Egypt) – Gibraltar – Casablanca (Morocco) – Santa Lucia (Caribbean) – Panama canal – Honolulu (Hawaii) – Mariana Islands – Taiwan – Vladivostok. Fedor's second successful solo round the world sail. Duration: 508 days. Distance: 40,000 nautical miles.

1995-1996 – The first in the history of Russia (and is still the only), to reach solo unsupported the Geographical South Pole, followed by an ascent to the highest peak in Antarctica – Vinson Massif (4,892 m) as a part of his '7 Summits of the World' program. Setting out from Hercules Bay 8 November 1995 – Reached the South Pole on January 6, 1996. Duration: 64 days.

1996 (January 19) – Solo climb of the highest mountain in Antarctica – Vinson Massif (4,897 m) as a part of the '7 Summits of the World' program.

1996 (March 09) – Climbed the highest mountain in South America – Aconcagua, (6,962 m) as a part of the '7 Summits of the World' program. Duration: 2 weeks.

1997 (February 18) – Solo climb of the highest mountain in Africa – Mt. Kilimanjaro (5,895 m) as a part of the '7 Summits of the World' program.

1997 (April 17) – Climbed of the highest mountain in Australia – Mt. Kosciusko (2,228 m) as a part of the '7 Summits of the World' program.

1997 (May 26) – Climbed the highest mountain in North America – Mt. McKinley (6,195 m) as a part of the '7 Summits of the World' program. Mt. McKinley (Denali) was the final summit in the program. Placed #51 in 7 [Summits statistics](#).

Footnote: Fedor is the first Russian to complete the '7 Summits of the World' program. Taking him 5 years to accomplish. 1992 – 1997. Web source: <http://www.everestnews.com/seven.htm>

1997 (Autumn) – Participation in multiple European regattas: the Sardinia Cup, Gotland Race, and Cowes Week as co-skipper of the Russian Team, on the maxi-yacht 'Grand Mistral-80' under the command of skipper Sergei Borodinov.

1998-1999 – Participation in the International solo around the world yacht race 'Around Alone' (ex BOC Challenge) on the yacht 'Open 60' type 'Modern University of Humanities'. (Nandor Fa design) Setting out Sept 1998 from Charlestown arriving back in Charlestown May 1999. Fedor's third successful solo round the world sail. Route: Charleston (USA) – Cape Town (RSA) – Auckland (New Zealand) – Punta Del Esta – (Uruguay) – Charleston (USA). Duration: 9 months. Distance: 27,000 nautical miles.

2000 (March) – Completed the longest dog race IDITAROD – from Anchorage to Nome, Alaska USA. Duration: 15 days. 5 hours. 44 min. Distance: 1,150 miles (1.800km) Web source: <http://iditarod.com/race/2000/>

Footnote: Fedor only had 3 months to prepare for the race, utilizing a rented dog team and equipment by Linda Pletner, Nevertheless he showed amazing results for a rookie and was awarded the 'Red Lantern' prize for finishing the race. Of the 81 registered participants, 13 were scratched or withdrew from the race.

2000-2001 – The first in the history of Russian yachting, participation in the French solo non-stop round the world yacht race ‘Vendee Globe 2000’ on the ‘Open 60’ type ‘Modern University of Humanities’ yacht. (Nandor Fa design) Setting out from Les Sables D’Olone in 9 November 2000. Footnote: Due to a technical breakdown, Fedor had to stop in Sydney and was forfeited from the (non-stop) race. The boat was then sold in Australia.

2002 (Spring) – Organization of the first Camel Caravan Expedition in modern Russian history – ‘Along the tracks of the Great Silk Road-2002’. The 13 camel caravan ventured around Russia’s southern regions; setting out on April 4 and finishing in Elista, Kalmykia June 12, 2002. Route: Kalmykia – Astrakhan – Dagestan – Stavropol region – Volgograd region – Kalmykia. Duration: 69 days. Distance: 1,050 km.

2002 (Autumn-Winter) – A first in Russian history; a solo Atlantic Ocean crossing on a 7 meter rowing boat ‘URALAZ’. Starting from October 16, and finishing in Barbados, December 1, 2002. Setting a New World Record (under the solo crossing category). Record registered by Ocean Rowing Society. Route: Canary Islands (La Gomera) – Barbados (Port St. Charles). Duration: 46 days. 4 hours. Distance: 3,000 nautical miles.

Footnote: Also setting the best 24-hour distance of 110 nautical miles in the same boat.

2003 (March) – A joint Russian-British transatlantic record crossing from East to West (Canary islands to Barbados) with [Tony Bullimore](#) (UK) on the 100ft maxi-catamaran ‘ALYE PARUSA’ (Sir Peter Blake’s ex. ENZA.) Setting a New World Record for a maxi multihull for this route. Registered by WSSRC. (World Sailing Speed Record Council). Duration: 9 days.

2003 (April) – A joint Russian-British transatlantic record crossing from West to East (Montega Bay, Jamaica to Lands End (UK) with [Tony Bullimore](#) (UK) on the 100ft maxi-catamaran ‘ALYE PARUSA’ (Sir Peter Blake’s ex. ENZA.) Setting a New World Record for a maxi multihull for this route. Registered by WSSRC. (World Sailing Speed Record Council). Duration: 16 days.

2003 (September) – Co-skipper during the Trans-Baltic record, sailing the newest maxi boat ‘BOLS’ from Helsinki (Finland) to St. Petersburg (Russia). Setting a New World Record. Registered by WSSRC. (World Sailing Speed Record Council). Duration: 11 hours.

2004 (February) – A solo transatlantic crossing from East to West on a 85ft maxi yacht ‘ALYE PARUSA’ from Canary island (La Gomera) to Barbados (Port St. Charles). Setting a New World Record for a solo Atlantic crossing and the fastest record for a solo ocean crossing on a maxi monohull for this route. Registered by WSSRC (World Sailing Speed Record Council). Duration: 14 days. 7 hours. Distance: 3,100 nautical miles.

2004-2005 – Solo round the world sailing on the ‘Open’ type 85ft maxi-yacht ‘ALYE PARUSA’. Fedor’s fourth successful solo round the world sail. Route: Falmouth (England) – via Cape of Good Hope – Hobart (Tasmania) – via Cape Horn – Falmouth. Distance: 29,000 nautical miles.

2005 (December) – 2006 (January) – ‘Around the Atlantic Ocean’ campaign. Captain of the Russian crew, of the ‘Open’ type 85ft maxi-yacht ‘ALYE PARUSA’. In training for a fully crewed ‘Round the World’ record attempt. Route: Falmouth, England – Canary Islands – Barbados – Antigua – Falmouth, Cornwall, England. Duration: 15 days. 22 hours. Distance: Exceeding 10,000 nautical miles.

2006 (April) – Organization of trans-Greenland ice boat-crossing expedition from the East coast to the West coast of Greenland.

2007 (May) – Dog Sled Expedition across the Greenland Ice Cap from East to West. Starting from Isortoq (East Coast) and finishing at Ilullisat (West Coast) setting a Record for the fastest East to West crossing. Duration: 15 days. 22 hours. Distance: Approx. 800 km.

2007-2008 – First person to sail the ‘Antarctica Cup’. Solo non-stop circumnavigation around Antarctica. Route: Albany, Western Australia – Cape Horn – Cape of Good Hope – Cape Leeuwin, Albany, WA. Duration: 102 days. Distance: 15,000 nautical miles.

2009 (May-September) – The second stage of the international expedition, ‘Along the tracks of the Great Silk Road-2009’ Setting out from Ulan-Bator, Mongolia and finishing in Elista, Kalmykia. Route: Mongolia (Ulan-Bator) – Kalmykia (Elista). Duration: 4 months. Distance: 5,500 km.

2011 (Spring) – Crossed the Danakil dessert in Ethiopia on camel-back. Enduring record 60° C. temperatures, Fedor plotted a course to all the ‘9 highest peaks of Ethiopia’ Africa, ascending all the respective heights in succession. Duration: 42 days. Distance: 1,200 km. Web source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danakil_Desert

2012 (May 19 – April) – As part of the Russian 7 Summits’ team expedition, Fedor reached Everest’s peak for the second time. Their ascension was via the Northern Ridge (Tibet). Duration: 2 months. First Orthodox priest to climb highest mountain on Earth.

2013 (April-May) – Dog Sled Expedition from the Geographical North Pole to Canada. Setting out April 6, from the North Pole, Fedor and his partner Victor Simonov, crossed the Arctic Ocean and reached the shores of Ward Hunt Island (Canada) on May 20, 2013. Duration: 46 days.

2013–2014 – First solo row mainland to mainland non-stop across Pacific East to West, setting out on December 22, 2013 from the Chilean port of Concon and finishing May 31, 2014 in Mooloolaba (Sunshine Coast) Australia, without entering ports and without any external help or assistance. Covering the distance in record time and setting a New World Record for the Guinness Book of Records. “Turgoyak” rowboat was named “[Turgoyak](#)” after lake in Urals (Russia). Duration: 159 days. 16 hours. 58 min. Distance: 17,408 km (9,400 nautical miles).

2015 (March) – Set a new Russian flight duration record in the ‘B&N Bank’ hot air balloon. AX-9 Class balloon, total volume: 3,950 m³. Duration: 19 hours. 10 minutes.

2016 (January) – Set a new world’s flight duration record in the ‘B&N Bank’ hot air balloon. AX-9 Class balloon, total volume: 3,950 m³. Duration: 32 hours. 12 minutes. Approved by FAI.

2016 (February) – A joint dogsled expedition with Viktor Simonov ‘Onega Pomorie 2016’. Route: Petrozavodsk, Republic of Karelia to Severodvinsk, Arkhangelsk region. Duration: 2 weeks. Distance: 800 km.

2016 (July) – Solo nonstop round the world balloon flight. R-550 “MORTON” balloon. Dates: 12-23 July. Set 4 world records approved by FAI. Fastest round the world balloon flight – 11 days 4 hours 20 minutes or 268 hours and 20 minutes ([FAI record ratified](#)). Fedor had covered 33,521km around the world, and beaten the previous record – set by Steve Fossett in 2002 – by 52 hours and 13 minutes. <https://www.fai.org/athlete/fedor-konyukhov>

2017 (February) – Together with Ivan Menyaylo set new duration world record for hot air balloon – 55 h 09 min 57 sec for classes AX 12-13-14-15. Take off from Rybinsk (Yaroslavsakay oblast). Landed at Krasniy Kut airfield. Ratified by FAI. <https://www.fai.org/record>

8 August 2018 – climbed highest mountain of Altai (Russia) – Belukha (4 509 meters) with his youngest son Nikolay Konyukhov.

06 December 2018 – 09 May 2019 – Starting from the New Zealand port of Dunedin on 6 December 2018, Fedor Konyukhov crossed the Southern Ocean and reached the Drake Passage, Diego-Ramirez Islands (Chile) on 9th of May 2019. It took him 154 days and 13 hours to cover distance of 11,525 kilometers or 6,402 nautical miles. First successful crossing of the Southern ocean in the history of ocean row. http://oceanrowing.com/Konyukhov2018/dist_map.htm

On this rowing expedition, Fedor Konyukhov set several world records verified by the Ocean Rowing Society International in England and presented for registration in the Guinness Book of Records: Fedor Konyukhov was the oldest solo rower at 67 years old;

He reached the Southernmost point on a rowing boat: 56°40 southern latitude;

He spent the largest number of days in the Southern Ocean – 154 days in total (the previous record of 59 days belonged to a French rower Joseph Le Guen);

He covered the longest distance in the “roaring forties” and “furious fifties” latitudes – 11,525 kilometers;

He is the first and only person who was able to cross the Pacific Ocean in a rowboat in both directions (from east to west Chile – Australia in 2014 and from west to east in 2019).

03 January 2020 – Climbed highest mountain of Africa – Kilimanjaro (5 895 meters) with his sons and grandson.

07 August 2020 – Climbed highest mountain of Europe – Elbrus (Western summit 5642 meters) with sons and granddaughter.

Fedor Konyukhov Guinness World Records

On 9 Feb 2017, Fedor Konyukhov and Ivan Menyaylo (both RUS) completed the longest-duration non-stop hot-air balloon flight (FAI approved) clocking up an airborne time of 55 hr 9 min – beating the previous record, which had stood since 1997, by 4 hr 37 min.

Previous record was set by Michio Kanda (JAP) of 50 hours 38 minutes for FAI Class AX-10 up AX-15, from Calgary, Canada to Jordan Montana, USA.

2016. The fastest circumnavigation by balloon (FAI approved) was performed by Fedor Konyukhov (RUS), who flew around the world alone in 268 hr 20 min in Morton from 12 to 23 Jul 2016. He took off from Northam in Western Australia, and landed at Bonnie Rock also in Western Australia.

The longest-distance solo hot-air balloon flight (FAI approved) is 33,521.4 km (20,829.2 mi), achieved by Fedor Konyukhov (RUS) during a round-the-world journey in Morton on 12 to 23 Jul 2016. He took off from Northam in Western Australia, and landed at Bonnie Rock in Western Australia.

2014. The first person to row solo non-stop across the Pacific Ocean from mainland South America to mainland Australia on board Turgoyak, Fedor Konyukhov rowed 9,400 nautical miles (17,408 km) from Concon, Chile, to Mooloobala, Queensland, Australia, in 159 days 16 hr 58 min between 22 Dec 2013 and 31 May 2014

On 7 May 2008, Fedor Konyukhov (RUS) became the first person to complete a solo sailing circumnavigation of Antarctica, along a route that fell between the 45th and 60th parallels south, in 102 days 1 hr 35 min 50 sec. The circumnavigation, starting and ending in Albany, Western Australia, was accomplished under [WSSRC](#) rules.

2002. The fastest solo transatlantic row east to west (“Trade Winds” route) in a classic ocean-rowing boat, as recognized by the Ocean Rowing Society, is 46 days 4 hr by Fedor Konyukhov (RUS) in Uralaz, who rowed from La Gomera, Canary Islands, to Port St Charles, Barbados, from 16 Oct to 1 Dec 2002



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The first person to row solo non-stop across the Pacific Ocean from mainland South America to mainland Australia is Fedor Konyukhov (RUS) on board *Tourgoyak*, who rowed 6,424 nautical mi (11,897.9 km) from Concon, Chile, to Mooloobala, Queensland, Australia, in 159 days 16 hr 58 min between 22 Dec 2013 and 31 May 2014

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