

## How a man survived a flight by hiding in landing gears

**Date:** June 11, 2010 9:33 AM

**Author:** [Andrea Watts](#)

**Source:** [AP](#)

**Tags:** [aircraft](#), [aviation](#), [aviator college](#), [FAA](#), [pilot](#)

**Permalink:** <http://bit.ly/9wCpiZ>

An unidentified Romanian man somehow miraculously survived a flight from Austria to the United Kingdom on Sunday by hiding in the landing gear undercarriage of a [Boeing 747](#). The man was apprehended immediately and confessed that he had crawled under a fence and climbed into the undercarriage of the aircraft.

After a 90-minute flight, the man apparently fell out of the jet's rear wheel compartment after it touched down at [London Heathrow Airport](#). He was taken into custody and later released without charges. The U.K. Border Agency is not intending to deport him.

The 20-year-old man had bruises and hypothermia due to the fact that he was exposed to temperatures as low as -41.8 degrees F. Experts say the only reason he survived is because the plane flew at a low enough altitude due to stormy weather.

According to BBC News:

A spokesman for the [U.K. Civil Aviation Authority](#) (CAA) said the man was "very lucky" to be alive.

He said: "If they don't find the right part to stow away, they can be crushed when the undercarriage comes up.

"Because of the altitude and temperatures during the flight, there is a severe risk to them through exposure and lack of oxygen.

"If that doesn't kill them, then they could be unconscious when the aircraft descends, and that can mean that when the undercarriage opens again, they will fall out."

Obviously, survival in these cases is quite rare.

According to Veronika Oleksyn of the [Associated Press](#):

In February, it was reported that a man's body was found inside the landing gear compartment of a Delta Air Lines plane that flew from New York to Tokyo. The body had no visible injuries, just frostbite. Authorities say he may have died from hypothermia.

In 2007, a man's body was found in the nose gear wheel compartment of a United Airlines plane that flew from Shanghai to San Francisco.

The Landing Gear of a Boeing 747 consists of four main landing gears with 16 wheels. These provide a spread of support on

the ground and safety in case of tire blow-outs. The main gear allows for landing on two opposite landing gears of the others to not function properly.

During [flight training school](#), you will be able to learn all about the dynamics of aircrafts, how they function on the ground, how they operate in the air, and the aeronautics of the concept of flight.