

Find out much more online at gliding.co.uk



Gliding also offers an affordable way of getting airborne. Flying a club glider costs around £40 an hour. Once fixed costs and the launch are paid for, you can fly powerlessly for free!

“There’s a challenge to gliding...working with Mother Nature to stay airborne for as long as you can!” Polly Whitehead - Supermunk Pilot

If you're a qualified powered aircraft pilot you might be looking for another challenge. Converting to gliding is a great way of broadening your skills and discovering the thrill and passion of pure flying and soaring flight. Some gliders have engines. They don't always land in fields. Powered forms of aviation all have their place within GA depending on your passion and spare time. Gliding simply offers different challenges and opportunities.

“The challenge of exchanging the height from a thermal into kilometres flown in a task is awesome. It's a feeling you will never get from a Lycoming engine.” Mark Mannering-Smith - A320 Pilot

The UK height record is just under 38,000ft

Whether you fly for a living or enjoy recreational flying with an engine, gliding is about flying the glider in a way that extracts the maximum amount of energy from the environment to explore the boundless possibilities of powerless flight. Discover gliding and be part of a GA community that is working together with shared values to enhance the experiences of all those who participate in the sport of gliding and aviation.

“I'm an experienced pilot with around 15,000 hours and I've been flying for 35 years, but I learn something new about gliding every time I fly.” Graham Sturgeon A380 Pilot

Even commercial pilots with thousands of hours find that time in a glider improves their existing skills, knowledge and airmanship. It's also fun and rewarding.

Gliding... add new dimensions and improve your skills

Gliding... feel free

Discover the thrill, excitement and challenge of pure flying!

Get in touch to change your perspective Be part of something bigger

Gliding... explore the possibilities of powerless flight



Find out more gliding.co.uk



Flying on a whole new level

Gliding isn't just about booking an aircraft, flying and then going home. After a successful cross-country flight, pilots have plenty to talk about and tales to tell, comparing and learning from each other's experiences of the day.

Most pilots also enjoy getting involved in the social aspect of half a day on the airfield, learning new skills, promoting teamwork and helping others for instance by going on retrieves if someone lands out... it's all part of the experience.

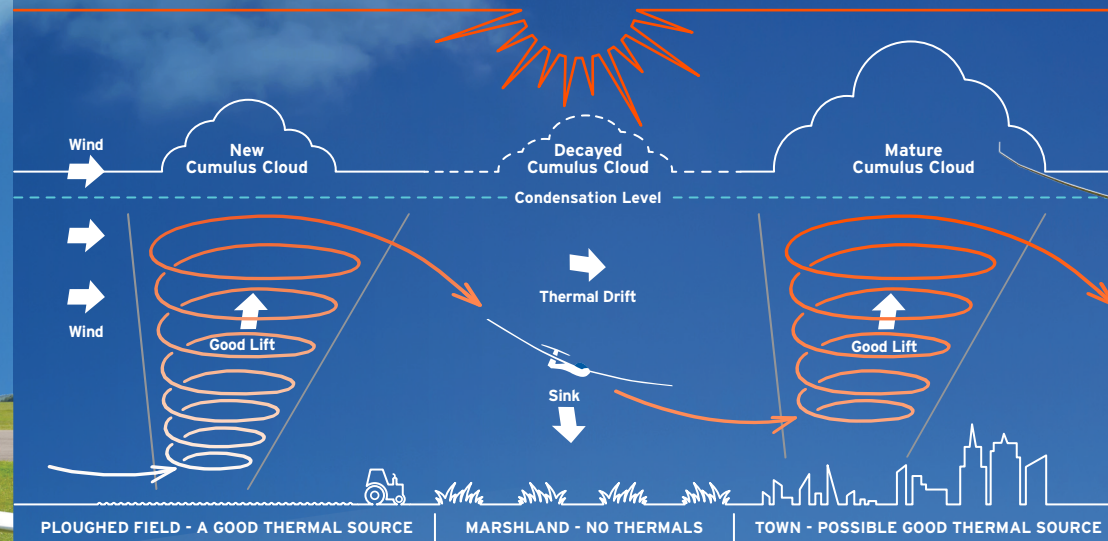
The training you will receive at your local gliding club is all about giving you the skill set to fly a glider cross-country, focusing on the many skills you don't learn in powered flying. The field landing selection and practise; spinning and stalling exercises; circuit planning - there's no go around or missed approach in gliding.

There's also the appreciation of the different types of lift that will allow a pilot to stay airborne.

As well as using thermals, pilots also enjoy ridge running using the rising air along an into-wind-ridge or climbing to airliner height in lee waves. Expeditions are organised to sites in Scotland, Wales and Europe to experience different terrain and conditions.



How gliders stay up



Sarah Kelman flies an Airbus A320 for work and a high-performance glider for pleasure. Sarah says gliding can be superior to powered aircraft training for upset avoidance and recovery.

"The skills that I practise in my glider have a direct relevance to my day job in the Airbus A320, both in day-to-day flying and also, particularly, in the non-normal situation. The core skills maintained by sport pilots do have a direct and beneficial relevance to the modern jet airline environment."



Find out more
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"When you fly a glider you feel part of the aircraft, sensitive to the air around you and able to make the most of its energy. A light touch of the responsive controls is all that's needed."

Ellie Youle - Scout, Chipmunk, Jodel and Motorglider Pilot

The longest glider flight in the UK was just over 1,100km

Gliders can be flown for many hours, covering hundreds of kilometres and achieve heights of up to 40,000ft.



"Once you're hooked on gliding you will never have another day in your life where you don't look up and try to predict what the sky and environment around you is doing!"

Andrew Neofytou - B787 Deamliner Pilot

There's a club close to you

With over 80 gliding clubs in Britain it means there's one close to you. Fly for hours, cover vast distances and at great heights with the camaraderie, learning and experience of other gliding club members.

"Gliding is like a big family; you work together in all the activities that get you airborne. It hones all your flying skills and is a great way to learn about engineering, safety, lookout and airmanship"

Andrew Perkins - B777 Pilot

