

# Everything on Hot Air Balloons

## How do hot air balloons work?

What makes a hot air balloon go up?

A hot air balloon is a recreational, lighter-than-air aircraft consisting of a bag, called an envelope, which contains heated air.

### SELF SEALING PARACHUTE

Allows the hot air to escape at a controlled rate to slow down the descent, or to start it.

### FEELING HOT! HOT! HOT!

The air within a hot-air balloon can be hot enough to boil water!

### IT'S GETTING HOT IN HERE

Inside the balloon, the hot air from the burner rises, filling the balloon up.

Eventually the force of the hot air rising carries the entire balloon off the ground and into the air!

Burner

### BURNIN' UP

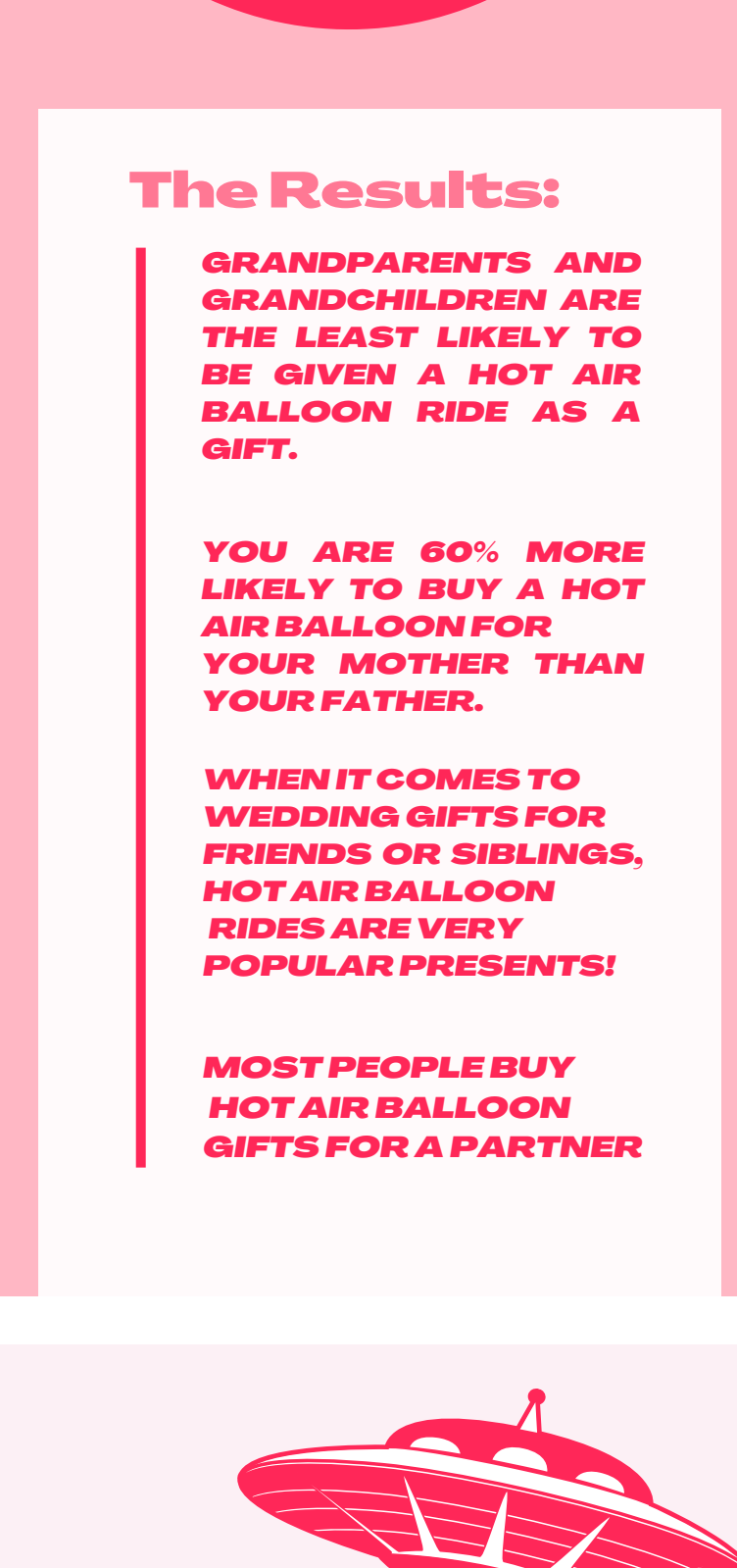
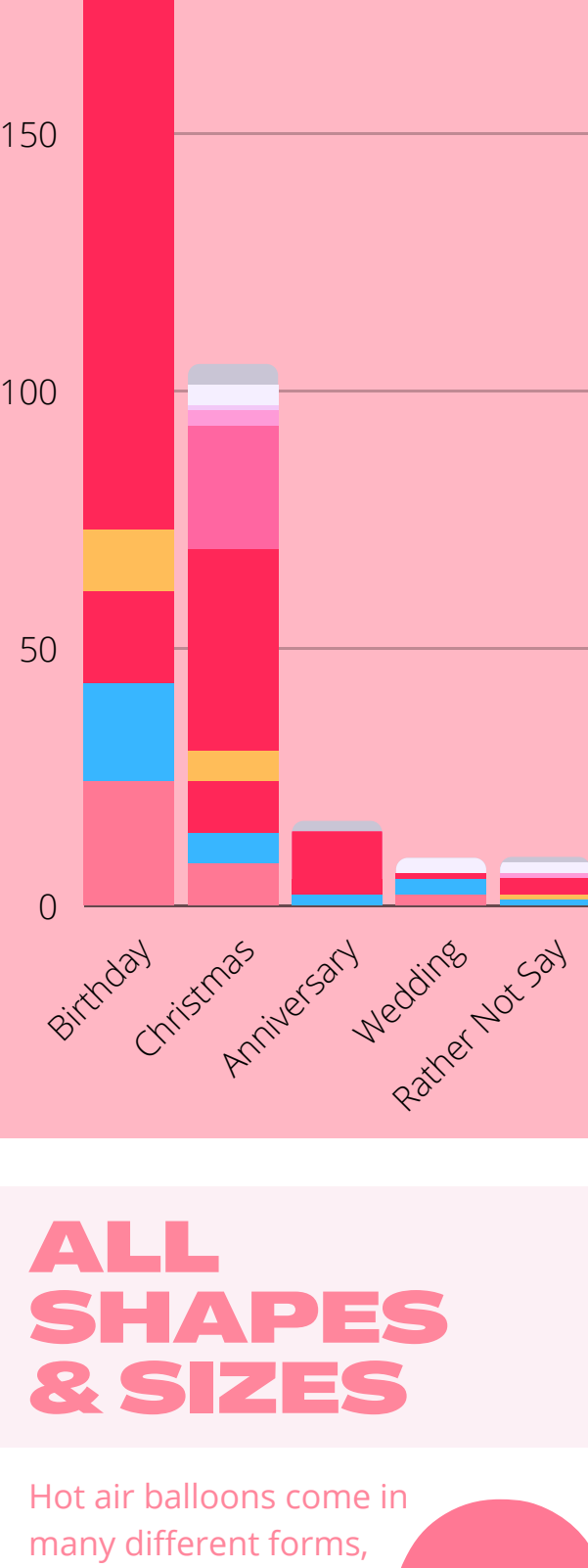
The burners have two basic controls: A blast valve and a regulator. It mixes propane with air to produce flame

Propane Tank

## Hot Air Balloon Gifting The Breakdown

We did a survey to find out just how much people like buying Hot Air Balloon Rides, and exactly who and when everyone is buying them for.

Here are some awesome facts we found about gifting hot air balloons:



### The Results:

**GRANDPARENTS AND GRANDCHILDREN ARE THE LEAST LIKELY TO BE GIVEN A HOT AIR BALLOON RIDE AS A GIFT.**

**YOU ARE 60% MORE LIKELY TO BUY A HOT AIR BALLOON FOR YOUR MOTHER THAN YOUR FATHER.**

**WHEN IT COMES TO WEDDING GIFTS FOR FRIENDS OR SIBLINGS, HOT AIR BALLOON RIDES ARE VERY POPULAR PRESENTS!**

**MOST PEOPLE BUY HOT AIR BALLOON GIFTS FOR A PARTNER**

## ALL SHAPES & SIZES

Hot air balloons come in many different forms, these are some of our favourites we've seen over the years!



Richard Branson once flew a Spaceship shaped hot air balloon while dressed as E.T. over the M25 and the army was called because so many people thought it was a UFO!

## Hot Air Balloon Festivals in the U.K.

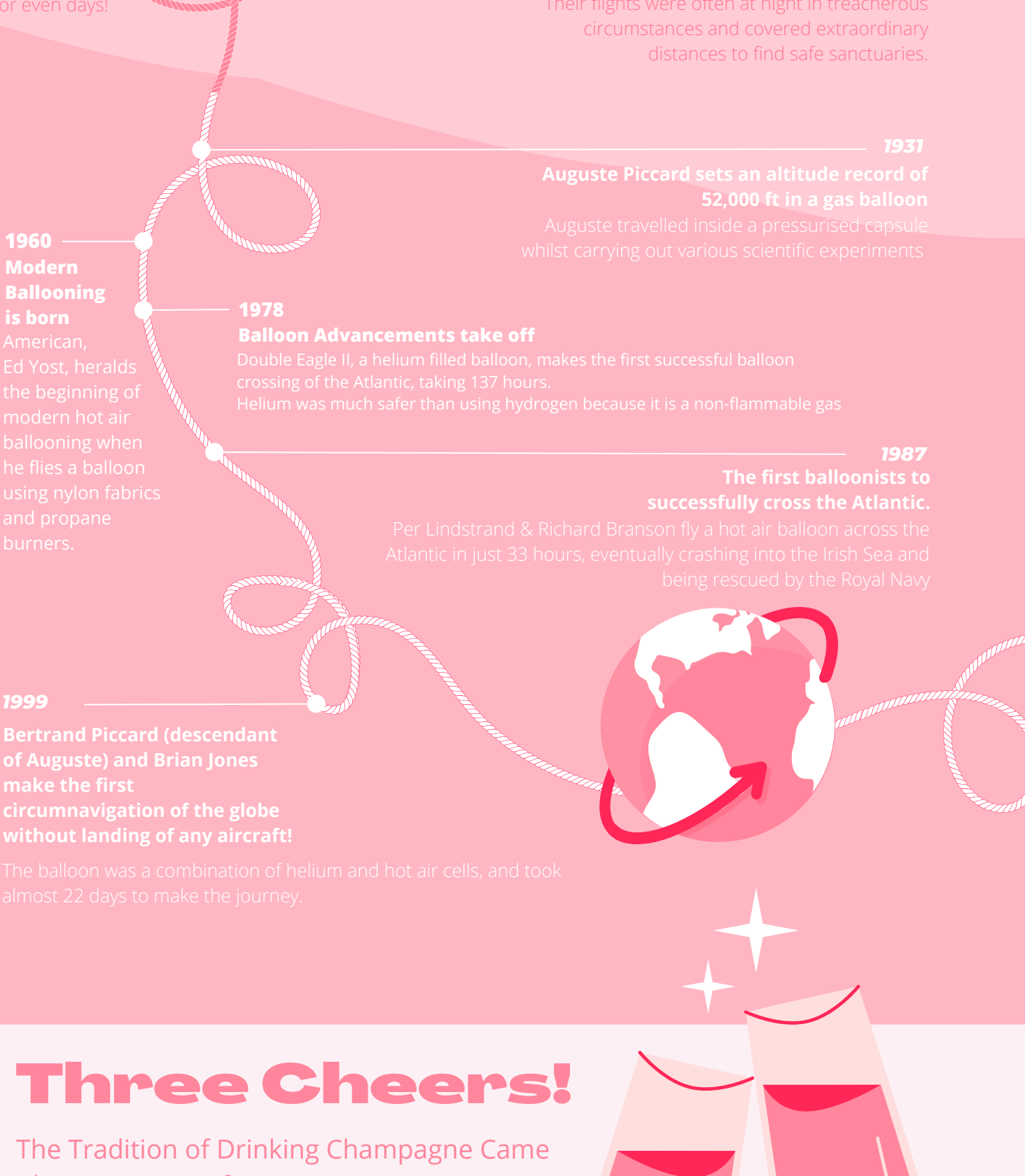
**The big leagues.** From carnivals, fetes, and fairs, these fiestas are fun for everyone!

- Bristol International Balloon Fiesta
- Telford Balloon Fiesta
- Midlands Air Festival
- Oswestry Balloon Carnival
- Yorkshire Balloon Fiesta

## Who lit the first flame?

A QUICK JUMP THROUGH TIME:

### When did the first hot air balloon fly?



## Three Cheers!

The Tradition of Drinking Champagne Came About Because of Superstition

Drinking champagne is very popular when flying hot air balloons. The tradition started in the 17th Century when flying hot air balloons was very popular with upper classes in France. However, lesser enjoyed by the French agricultural industry.

France suddenly had to contend with aristocrats sailing over their land, setting down wherever the wind took them and terrifying the livestock. Champagne was thus shared between the pilots and any onlooker who might have gathered at the landing site.

A few glasses, as a post-landing toast it transpired, were enough to smooth any tensions and thus a longstanding tradition was born, known as the "Ballooning Prayer".

## Adventure Sports

Many balloonists compete in races, target games, speed records and duration distances.

Hot air balloons are completely dependent on the wind for their movement. Pilots great skills and judgement are required to interpret potential changes of wind direction at various altitudes, which makes it a very popular sport due to its difficulty.

### Hot Air Balloon Competition Pilots are awarded points for:

- Good performance
- Placing markers
- Long distance
- High Altitudes
- Hugging the contours of the land

### How to win?

Team of judges measure distances from dropped markers to the center of the target. Flying performances are also analyzed using the data from the flight recorder, with penalties awarded for any rule infringements.

Pilots carry GPS flight recorders and tracking units to record position and coordinates. This also allows the judges to calculate the results!

RACER WINNER

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### SOURCES:

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WonderDays Hot Air Balloon Gifting Research conducted through HotJar Survey

For the full list of sources please visit: [wonderdays.co.uk](https://wonderdays.co.uk)