

World Kite Records

Largest Kite – The largest kite ever flown, has a total lifting area of 950 m² (10,225.7 ft²). When laid flat, it has a total area of 1019 m² (10,968.4 ft²). The kite measured 25.475 m (83 ft 7 in) long and 40 m (131ft 3 in) wide. The kite was made by Abdulrahman Al Farsi and Faris Al Farsi and flown at the Kuwait Hala Festival in Flag Square, Kuwait City, Kuwait on 15 February 2005. (Guinness World Records)

Largest Delta – 1,406 sq ft – 131 sq meters. 37 ½ feet high with a wingspan of 75 ft. Flew in San Diego on 4 September 1982 for 25 minutes.

Longest Thai Cobra kite – 2,313 feet – 705 meters. On 15 November 1987 a crew of 16 fliers flew this 128 lb kite in France. They estimated that the kite took 2,000 hours and 45,000 francs to build.

The highest altitude by a single kite – Richard P Synergy flew a kite to an altitude of approximately 4,422 m (14,509 ft) on 12 August 2000 near Kincardine, Ontario, Canada. The massive kite, with an area of 25 m² (270 ft²), was designed and built by Synergy himself. (Guinness World Records)
Previous record: 12,471 feet (3,801m). On 28 February 1898 in Milton, Massachusetts. A modified Hargrave box with about 86 sq ft of sail. The line was piano wire with a breaking strength of 330 lbs.

Highest altitude by a kite train – 31,955 feet – 9,740 meters. Eight kites flew over Lindenburg on 1 August 1919.

Most consecutive days of individual kite flying – 366 days. Bill Mosely of Converse, Texas flew one or more kites every day from 25 October 1983 to 24 October 1984, a leap year.

Duration – outdoors – 180 hours and 17 minutes. Under the direction of Harry Osborne, the Edmonds Community College kite team at Long Beach, Washington, kept a J-25 parafoil aloft from 21 – 29 August 1982.

Distance – traction on land – 113 miles – 182 kilometres. In the 1820's George Pocock speed at about 25 mph in his "Char-volant", a four wheeled carriage towed by controllable kites. Precise details are unknown, but estimates range up to 113 miles in 1827. He made one documented journey of 60 miles as the crow flies from Southampton to London.

Most kites on one line – 2,233. The record was set in Japan flying 13 x 13 inch (34 x 34 cm) diamond kites made of bamboo with plastic sail material.

Most dual-line kites stunted in train – 179. On 23 August 1986 at Long Beach, Washington flying a stack of modified Hyperkites.

Most figure-of-eights – 2,911. On 25 September 1988 Stu Cohen performed 2,911 figure-of-eights with his kite in one hour at Ocean City, Maryland.

Fastest kite – measured speed: 120 mph – 193 kph. On 22 September 1989 Pete DiGiacomo flew a modified 10ft Flexifoil at Maryland, USA. Readings were taken by a local police officer with a radar gun.

First aerial photograph by a kite-borne camera – 20 June 1888. Arthur Batut took the first aerial photograph from a kite-lifted camera in Labruguiere, France.
William A. Eddy of Bayonne, New Jersey, took the first kite aerial photographs in the US on 30 May 1895.

First US Kite Patent – 2 January 1866. Patent #51,860 was issued to William Perrins for a hexagon-shaped flat kite with two inwardly bent masts. Since then over 575 kite patents have been issued by the US Patent Office. There are also 101 patents cross-referenced to kite subclasses.

Most kite books written by one author – 20. Kazuo Niisak, of Japan, wrote about 20 kite books between 1969 and 1987.

Sources: *Kiteworks, Explorations in Kite Building & Flying* by Maxwell Eden
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