

## Rocket Man: The Life of Tim Peake

Tim Peake, whose full name is Timothy Nigel Peake, is an astronaut with the European Space Agency. He was the first British astronaut with the agency, and was the 7th British born person to go into space.

Peake was born in Chichester, West Sussex in 1972. He studied at the town's high school for boys, and later attended the well-known military academy at Sandhurst. After graduating in 1992, he joined the army and became a flight instructor and helicopter pilot. In 2006, he completed a degree course in flight dynamics at the University of Portsmouth.

In 2012, Tim Peake spent 12 days underwater on the Aquarius underwater laboratory. The lab is located 19 metres below the surface of the water, off the coast of Florida, and is used for scientific research. In December 2015, Peake joined the International Space Station (ISS). His first meal on board the space station was a bacon sandwich and he received messages of support from Queen Elizabeth II and Elton John.

During his stay on the ISS, Peake researched new medical cures. However, he also had to help with more mundane tasks, such as vacuuming the dust on board, which floats in the air. On January 14th 2016, Tim Peake took part in a spacewalk along with another astronaut based at the ISS. The pair spent 4 hours laying cables, installing a vent and changing light bulbs. Peake cut his historic spacewalk short when water was discovered in his partner's helmet. The liquid probably leaked from the suit's cooling system and in 2013 a similar problem almost killed another astronaut.

Tim Peake has been a strong supporter of the ISS being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize one day. Past recipients have included Mother Teresa, the Red Cross and Nelson

Peake made a phone call to his family from the ISS, but mistakenly dialled the wrong number and got through to a stranger. He also made a short video message for the Queen.