OK, they can't fly but read how Jason Phelan is wing walking for conservation, and how 10 red pandas were spotted on a single ecotrip (sing along!), in RPN eNews.

Dear friends,

We have so much gratitude for the support we received in 2019. Thanks to you, 2020 will be the year we reforest degraded habitat and plant a red panda home in Nepal! Stay tuned for updates on our progress.

Thank you for your generosity and commitment to conservation, which will propel us forward in our mission save the first panda!

Gratefully yours,

Ang Phuri Sherpa
Country Director, Nepal
Red Panda Network

"Winging" It For Red Pandas
Jason's passion for red pandas is boundless as he takes to the skies to save them.

Like many Red Panda Network (RPN) supporters, Jason Phelan has a fondness for red pandas.

Their cuteness and vulnerability led him to first adopt one more than 20 years ago at Dudley Zoological Gardens in the West Midlands, England, and he has continued to adopt over the years at various zoos throughout the United Kingdom. Now based in Ireland, Phelan participates in Dublin Zoo’s animal adoption program.

In June, he created the Facebook page @ailurusfulgensredpanda to use his photography to raise awareness of the species’ endangered status.

But next summer in Ireland, Phelan will take his red panda devotion to even greater heights—literally.

That’s when he will be strapped to the top wing of a 1940s-era Boeing Stearman biplane traveling at more than 130 km/hr to raise money for RPN.

The wing walk will be the culmination of several events Phelan has planned for 2020, including a red panda meet-and-greet at a UK zoo in March, and a fundraiser featuring live music and prizes in April.

Thanks to the sponsorship of Millennium Promotions Ltd. and Executive Helicopters, all money raised will go directly to RPN. AeroSuperBatics Ltd. will provide the pilot and the plane.
Jason Phelan receives sponsorship to support his fundraising efforts.

“With this one, I wanted to create quite a buzz,” Phelan said in a phone interview from his office in Dublin. A GoPro camera attached to the plane will capture the hair-raising adventure. “This is a moment I want to remember when I’m 70 or 80,” he said.

In the early 20th century, the first wing walkers created their own sensation, performing such death-defying stunts as playing tennis on the wing of a plane mid-flight and walking from the wing of one plane to the wing of another while both aircraft were in the air.

Phelan, who said he’s no daredevil, won’t do anything quite that dramatic, and he won’t actually walk on the wings. Instead, he will stay securely in place during the approximately 20-minute flight that will include stomach-churning aerobatics, such as loop-the-loops and barrel rolls.

As a freelance air show photojournalist, and an aviation professional and
enthusiast, Phelan is a fixture at air shows in the UK and Ireland, and he said one of the biggest attractions is the wing walking formation team.

So wing walking for charity was a no-brainer. “If I just approached the media, I don’t think I would get the same reaction I am now,” he said. “The publicity it’s going to generate is exactly what I am going for.”

Although his Facebook page has, to date, more than 1,300 followers, Phelan said it’s not enough to attract the audience he wants to reach, which includes people who don’t know much about red pandas. “It’s the fact that I used to talk about them, and people said, ‘Red pandas, what are they?’”

Dublin Zoo.

Continue reading article

Ten Red Pandas In A Rhododendron Tree
During the 12 days of an ecotrip travelers were able to see, ten red pandas in a rhododendron tree.

Well, that's not exactly how it happened—participants were actually on an Eco Zoo Trip and the pandas weren't all in one tree—but please sing along to the melody of "12 Days of Christmas"!

On the first day of the ecotrip travelers were able to see,

Nepal's capital, Kathmandu city.

Eight travelers, representing zoos and conservation groups around the world—including Auckland Zoo, Animals Asia Foundation and Hogle Zoo—joined trip
leader and former red panda zookeeper, Sarah Jones, for what truly ended up being a trip of a lifetime. The group was also joined by a professor from the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Tennessee.

**On the second day of the ecotrip travelers were able to see,**

![Swayambhunath temple and lots of monkeys.](image)

**Swayambhunath temple and lots of monkeys.**

**On the third day of the ecotrip travelers were able to see, breathtaking views from a jeep and a plane to a house of tea.**

Ecotrippers then began their long journey east to red panda habitat in the Himalayan foothills of Ilam district. This can take two days of traveling by plane and jeep, climbing a total of over 2,000 meters in elevation (up to 3,600 meters; Kathmandu is at 1,400 meters).

Their first stop was the beautiful and world-famous tea gardens of Ilam district where they enjoyed homestay amenities in a teahouse.

**On the fourth day of the ecotrip travelers were able to be**
Red Panda Ecotrips

We have 2020 ecotrips with spots available! Sign up today for a Himalayan adventure to experience red pandas in their native habitat!

Your payment will support RPN’s community-based ecotourism initiative which contributes directly to sustainable livelihoods. All food, lodgings and hospitality are provided locally, creating sustainable employment for the native communities that are alternatives to forest exploitation.
Red Panda Network is committed to the conservation of wild red pandas and their habitat through the education and empowerment of local communities.