

Elon Musk's BFR will fly from London to Cape Town in just 34 minutes

By [Andy Walker](#)

2 Oct 2017

Elon Musk may be nuts, but a remarkable number of the South African-born businessman's ventures have been successful. This week at the International Astronautical Congress in Australia, he announced another “really special” proposal.



His space exploration company SpaceX is pondering a new method of transporting people from one corner of the Earth to the other. And it involves a space vehicle/rocket system called the BFR.

“The BFR will be capable of taking people from any city to any other city on Earth in under one hour,” the company revealed.

More specifically, the company quoted flight times of 39 minutes for a journey between New York and Shanghai, 37 minutes for a Sydney to Johannesburg trip, and a 34-minute flight between London and Cape Town.



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Currently, a flight to London from Cape Town requires half a day.

The BFR system will reportedly hold around 100 people, breach the Earth's atmosphere, reach speeds of 27 000km/h in sub-orbit, and conduct an automated landing on a platform.

Both the passenger-filled space vehicle and the launcher will be reusable.

SpaceX gave excited travellers an idea of how the system would work in a video that feels straight out of *Mass Effect*.

But here's the kicker:

"Cost per seat should be about the same as full fare economy in an aircraft," Musk [notes](#) on Instagram. "Forgot to mention that."

Development of the craft will be funded by the company's current commercial space contracts. But eventually, the BFR will become the backbone of SpaceX's ambitions in the Solar System, including transporting cargo to the International Space Station, the Moon and Mars.

As for the first launch date of Elon Musk's remarkable travel system? Let's just say you won't be able to buy a ticket just yet.

ABOUT ANDY WALKER

Camper by day, run-and-gunner by night, Andy is editor at Memeburn and prefers his toast like his coffee -- dark and crunchy. Specialising in spotting the next big Instagram cat star, Andy also dabbles in smartphone and game reviews over on Gearburn.

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