

# Biography of Erich von Däniken

Erich von Däniken  
April 14, 1935  
Zofingen, Switzerland

*During his formative years at the renowned Collège St-Michel in Fribourg, Switzerland, Erich von Däniken immersed himself in ancient holy writings and unsolved archaeological puzzles. As a young gastronome, he began writing topic-related articles before eventually authoring his international best seller Chariots of the Gods. Erich von Däniken has held countless lectures and discussions at public forums and educational institutions. His 47 books have sold over 72 million copies and have been translated into 32 languages.*

His bestselling books, *Chariots of the Gods* and *Mysteries of the Gods* have inspired two documentary films. The Baden-Baden-based television station *Sudwestrundfunk* filmed a three-part documentary on Erich von Däniken's works.

In 1993, Erich von Däniken moderated a 25-part television series on *SAT-1*, Germany's biggest TV-Station. Its success kept it in broadcast twice a month for a whole year.

In 1996, the US television network *ABC* produced a \$1.2 million dollar documentary with Erich von Däniken. The German station *RTL* broadcast the film throughout Europe that the same year. With 4.57 million viewers, the show reached the highest audience rating on every channel. In total, 69% of the viewers were under 50 years of age. Even the rerun event on May 1, 1997 attracted 3.17 million viewers.

The world's largest public broadcaster, *ARD*, produced a 1998 documentary about Erich von Däniken and in February of 2001, the British television station *Twenty-Twenty* also made a biography about Erich von Däniken. It was first broadcast on *Channel 4* and has since travelled throughout the world. In 2009, the US television channel *History* began a groundbreaking series about Erich von Däniken's hypotheses entitled *Ancient*

*Aliens*. The series received the highest audience rating *History* has ever received. This success launched continued filming and by March of 2018, this series will boast a total of 150 shows while running in many languages throughout the world.

## Honours

Erich von Däniken has received many honours throughout the years. Including an honorary doctorate (Dr.h.c.) from the *University of Bolivia* (1975), as well as honorary citizenship from the city of Nazca, which gained notoriety through its mysterious lines and carvings. In the fall of 1987, he became an honorary member of the *Cordon bleu du Saint-Esprit* order together with the German astronaut Ulf Merbold. Erich von Däniken received the *Premio Lourenço Filho* in gold and platinum in Brazil. (Lurenço Filho was a Brazilian educator comparable to the Swiss Heinrich Pestalozzi).

In 2004, the *World Explorer's Club* awarded Erich von Däniken with the World Explorer Prize. The ceremony was held at the University of Lodz in Poland.

On April 8, 2013, the Brazilian metropolis of Curitiba honoured Erich von Däniken for his entire body of work on unsolved mysteries from the past.

## And the science...

Year after year, Erich von Däniken's ideas gain more momentum in scientific circles. For example, the Nobel Prize holder Francis Crick published a book, *Life Itself* (Piper Verlag), where he states "Life on earth began in the form of micro-organisms that were sent into space towards Earth by a higher civilisation billions of years ago with an unmanned rocket."

Together with the mathematics genius Nalin Chandra Wickramasinghe, the world-famous British astrophysicist Sir Fred Hoyle published the work *Evolution from Space* (Ullstein-Verlag), where the scientists support the idea that life was not created on earth and Darwinian theories should be amended. In reality, mutations came from intelligent lifeforms from space. Erich von Däniken initially proposed these same ideas in his

1977 work *According to the Evidence* (Chapter 5).

In the *Journal of the British Interplanetary Society*, No. 36, Dr. Robert A. Freitas from the Xenology Research Institute (Sacramento, California) suggested a new research project by the name of *SETA*. In contrast to the existing project *SETI* (Search for Extra-terrestrial Intelligence), *SETA* (Search for Extra-terrestrial Artefacts) would research evidence of extra-terrestrials in our solar system. This is the precisely what Erich von Däniken has done for 50 years.

The Russian scientist Dr. Vladimir V. Rubtsov suggested in 1980 at a symposium in Kaliga that a new branch of science by the name of *Palaeovisatology* be created. This new field describes extra-terrestrial visits in geological and prehistoric times.

At the 33rd conference of the *International Astronautical Federation*, held in Paris from September 27 to October 2, 1982, Dr. Michael Papagiannis, astronomer at the Boston University, suggested searching for traces of extraterrestrial intelligence in the asteroid belt: "We would look pretty stupid to future generations if we would continue to search for extra-terrestrial civilisations on far-distant stars while the answer could be found here directly in our solar system."

In 1985, the first scientific anthology about Erich von Däniken's topics appeared (*Aus Den Tiefen Des Alles - From the Depths of Space* - Grabert/Hohenrain-Verlag). The following scientists provided contributions for this:

- Dr. Luis Navia, Philosophy Professor at the New York Institute of Technology, New York, USA
- Dr. Philip A. Ianna, Astronomy Professor at the University of Virginia, USA
- Dr. Harry O. Ruppe, Aerospace Engineering Professor at the Technical University Munich
- Prof. Dr. Sir Fred Hoyle, Astrophysics Professor, Great Britain
- Dr. Francis H.C. Crick, Nobel Prize holder and Microbiology Professor, San Diego
- Dr. Dileep Kumar Kanjilal, Sanskrit Professor at the Calcutta Sanskrit College, Calcutta, India

In the meantime, hundreds of book titles about Erich von Däniken's ideas exist throughout the world by a multitude of authors. Countless television series and films are based on his thoughts, such as *Stargate* and *Prometheus*.

In general it can be concluded that despite criticism from conservative chairs, the science community is warming up to Erich von Däniken's ideas more and more. Erich von Däniken is already no longer capable of fulfilling the countless requests for lectures and discussions.

That is why Erich von Däniken holds more and more lectures in closed societies like the *Lions*, the *Kiwanis*, the *Rotarians*, international corporations, banks and lodges. The Masonic Grand Lodge *Grande Oriente Do Parana* honoured Erich von Däniken in April of 2013 for his courageous life's work in the city of Curitiba/Brazil.

Erich von Däniken is a member of the *Swiss Pen-Club* and the *Swiss Writer's Guild*. He is a co-founder of the association for *Archaeology, Astronautics and SETI* (AAS), a non-profit association that deals with his topics. He also founded the *Mystery Park* in Interlaken, Switzerland and wrote all the texts for it. (Today: *Jungfrau-Park*).

In June 2018 EvD was the Special-Guest at the AlienCon in Pasadena, USA. This gigantic 3-day-convention was produced by the US History Channel. As „Godfather of Ancient Alien Theory“ Erich von Däniken was welcomed by 24 000 fans with Standing Ovations.

## Books from Erich von Däniken

- 1968 Erich von Däniken's first book appeared, CHARIOT'S OF THE GODS. This caused a worldwide breakout of "Dänikenitis" as *The New York Times* wrote.
- 1969 His second book, RETURN TO THE STARS, was published. This book was on the best seller lists throughout the world within two weeks.
- 1972 THE GOLD OF THE GODS appeared with an extract from a large world trip.
- 1973 Erich von Däniken was the first author of his kind to introduce the visual objects of his theory in the illustrated book MEINE WELT IN BILDERN. Sceptics started listening.
- 1974 The author appeared to take a step from the beaten path with his book MIRACLES OF THE GODS. In all reality, this was just a stepping stone for his theory.
- 1977 After nearly three years of work, Erich von Däniken introduced his book ACCORDING TO THE EVIDENCE. The circumstantial evidence amazed opponents and opened new dimensions.
- 1978 ERICH VON DÄNIKEN IM KREUZVERHÖR appeared. With this book, the author gave 194 answers to sample questions from his readers around the world.
- 1979 Däniken paid homage to the title that the publicist Rolf R. Bigler gave him in the successful SIGNS OF THE GODS and also confirmed the sentence from Bigler: "Erich von Däniken is always in season."
- 1981 With PATHWAY TO THE GODS, Däniken set new milestones: the research product of his expeditions resulted in an adventurous idea that "normal mortals" would never have.
- 1982 What Däniken presented in the GODS AND THEIR GRAND DESIGN is a product of years of searching: Gods deposited traces and visible signs of their former presence.
- 1983 ICH LIEBE DIE GANZE WELT (*Ullstein Verlag*) is the first booklet with lively and conceived bright stories penned by Erich von Däniken.
- 1984 DER TAG AN DEM DIE GÖTTER KAMEN - 11. AUGUST 3114 V.CHR. After ten titles with the Econ-Verlag, the new Erich von Däniken title appears for the first time with *Bertelsmann*.
- 1985 HABE ICH MICH GEIRRT? (New Reminders of the Future) appeared. With a brave look into the future, Erich von Däniken forms a bridge to the remote past. An actual continuation of ERINNERUNGEN AN DIE ZUKUNFT.
- 1987 WIR ALLE SIND KINDER DER GÖTTER came on the market. Where does life come from? Where do humans come from? A book that is well received by critics and readers.
- 1989 THE EYES OF SPHINX. The first book from Erich von Däniken that deals exclusively with the old country on the Nile (*Bertelsmann*).
- 1990 DIE SPUREN DER AUSSER-IRDISCHEN. After 17 years, Erich von Däniken releases another illustrated book (featuring 280 images). The book deals with the entire topic of extra-terrestrials in the remote past. (*Bertelsmann*).
- 1991 DIE STEINZEIT WAR GANZ ANDERS. An exciting non-fiction book about prehistoric history. Dolmen, menhir and megalith creations are examined. (*Bertelsmann*).
- 1991 DIE RÄTSEL IM ALTEN EUROPA. This is the first book from Erich von Däniken for the youth of the world. Written for children between 11 and 18 years old. (*Bertelsmann*).
- 1992 DER GÖTTER-SCHOCK. A travel thru time from the remote past to the present. (*Bertelsmann*).
- 1993 Two books inspired the television series

- SAT-I: RAUMFAHRT IM ALTERTUM and AUF DEN SPUREN DER ALLMÄCHTIGEN.
- 1993 Erich von Däniken published the archaeological novel DAS ERBE VON KUKUKLAN. (*Bertelsmann*).
- 1995 THE RETURN OF THE GODS. Erich von Däniken analyses the Messiah ideas and the Parousia of the gods.
- 1997 ARRIVAL OF THE GODS explores the puzzle of Nazca. Despite all theories, the secrets of Nazca are still unsolved. Erich von Däniken delivers 150 new images and a convincing theory. (*Bertelsmann*).
- 1999 ODYSSEY OF THE GODS (Career Press). A fresh observation of Greek mythology and the Atlantis description from Platon.
- 2001 THE GODS WERE ASTRONAUTS. Evidence of the True Identities of the Old "Gods" (*Bertelsmann*).
- 2002 Erich von Däniken amazes with his exciting non-fiction novel DIE SELTSAME GESCHICHTE VON XIXLI UND YUM. (*Edition Othello*).
- 2003 The first volume of experienced and conceived short stories appears: FÜR HUNDERT FRANKEN DIE GANZE WELT (*Edition Othello*).
- 2005 The illustrated book MYSTERIES appears. The only book where German and English texts are next to each other.  
(Order: [ralf.lange@lange.com.sg](mailto:ralf.lange@lange.com.sg)).
- 2006 Erich von Däniken presented TOMY AND THE PLANET OF LIES, a novel story with strongly autobiographic traits (*Tantor media*)
- 2007 HISTORY IS WRONG (Career Press) Erich von Däniken's best creation in decades. A non-fiction book filled with information about the antediluvian Prophet Henoch and an underground metal library in Ecuador.
- 2009 TWILIGHT OF THE GODS - THE MAYAN CALENDAR AND THE RETURN OF THE EXTRATERRESTRIALS. (Career Press). Erich von Däniken shows phenomenal pictures above Puma-Punku, Bolivia, and proves the ruins are definitely not from Stone Age man. Will the gods return? Yes, Erich von Däniken verifies: "A Judgement Day of realisation lies ahead."
- 2009 In November, the Chinese publishing company GOLD WALL PRESS purchased the rights to all Däniken titles.
- 2010 The first part of a five-volume project follows: EVIDENCE OF THE GODS – A visual tour of Alien influence in the Ancient World (Career Press)  
Erich von Däniken emphasises his knowledge with 194 powerful images.
- 2011 The American *History Channel* produces a 150-piece series by the title of ANCIENT ALIENS. This deals with Erich von Däniken and his theories.
- 2011 ASTRONAUT GODS OF THE MAYA (Inner Traditions 2017)  
Volume II of the planned five-piece collection. The most recent interpretations of the Mayan temples and sculptures Featuring 212 images
- 2012 REMNANTS OF THE GODS  
A visual tour of Alien influence in Egypt, Spain, France, Turkey and Italy.  
Volume III Deals with geometric plans of megalithic constructions around the Mediterranean Sea. (Career Press)
- 2013 IMPOSSIBLE TRUTHS. (Watkins, 2018) Volume IV of the planned five-piece work. Erich von Däniken dissects the South American puzzle and shows breathtaking new images above Nazca.
- 2014 DAS UNHEILIGE BUCH.  
Volume V of the richly illustrated series on gods.
- 2014 The end of Silence. (Order: [ralf.lange@lange.com.sg](mailto:ralf.lange@lange.com.sg)).  
Erich von Däniken first ebook. A long overdue broadside against non-objective critics.

- 2015 EYEWITNESS TO THE GODS  
Spectacular eyewitness reports and the revealing of insider information
- 2015 EvD – DIE WELTBESTSELLER ZU DEN UNGELÖSTEN RÄTSEL DER VERGANGENHEIT  
In honour of Erich von Däniken's 80th birthday, Kopp Verlag re-designed 18 best-sellers into a complete work.
- 2015 DER GROSSE INTERNATIONALE ERICH VON DÄNIKEN KONGRESS – DVD.  
Renowned speakers inspire 3000 guests at Erich von Däniken's big birthday event (April 11, 2015).
- 2015 Additional new editions emerge:  
-DIE SELTSAME GESCHICHTE VON XIXLI UND YUM – *A novel*.  
-THE GODS WERE ASTRONAUTS – Evidence of the True Identities of the old "Gods"
- 2017 THE GODS NEVER LEFT US – new Memories of the future. (Career Press)  
EvD describes his 40th book as the continuation, part two, of his first bestseller *Chariots of the Gods*.
- 2018 WAR OF THE GODS - Skulls and skeletons have appeared in Peru that are not terrestrial. EvD has been tracking them. (Career Press)
- 2019 THE CONFESSIONS OF THE EGYPTOLOGIST ADEL H. tells among other things the story of a young grave robber - who later became an Egyptologist - who spent days in corridors under the Sakkara desert.
- 2020 Evolution is wrong - EvD demonstrates with innumerable examples the impossibility of the previous evolution thought. He quotes scientists who argue against the previous teaching, but also those who defend it. To be published in English in fall 2022.
- 2021 Book of Answers - EvD receives countless letters from readers every year. After reading thousands of messages, he has summarised them thematically and provides his answers and cross-references.  
*Not yet available in English.*
- 2022 Why are we on earth? - In this book, EvD addresses the question of what the reason for our existence might be. Is it religion? Do we live in a virtual world? What's behind it all - a philosophical hammer à la Däniken.  
*Not yet available in English.*
- 2023 And they were there!  
The ultimate proof of a visit from extraterrestrials  
A reckoning with the phenomenon of the "Zeitgeist" and ignorant science.  
*Not yet available in English.*
- 2024 Notes from my life -  
with a contribution by Ramon Zürcher  
"This is my last book" says EvD and talks about his life. About his research, but also his personal experiences. Zürcher picks up the thread and writes about his own research, which builds on the work of his long-time boss.

**Voices from the science world about  
Erich von Däniken's theories:**

*(Prof. Dr. Dileep Kumar Kanjilal,  
Professor for Sanskrit and Indology at the  
Sancrit College, Calcutta, India )*

**"Erich von Däniken's hypothesis will have an increasing effect on society, science, literature and art. Furthermore, he contributes to the solution to terrestrial problems. The search for extraterrestrial intelligence is a concern that affects all of humanity."**

*(Dr. Vladimir Avinsky, Geologist,  
Kuibyschew, Russia)*

**"This theory throws more light on the gathered documents about early human history than some other explanatory hypotheses. With this you have an extraordinary tool in your hands and you can detect the common theme throughout the confusing labyrinth of human development on this planet."**

*(Dr. Luis E. Navia, Professor for  
Philosophy, New York Institute of  
Technology)*

**"It is possible that extraterrestrials visited our home planet in the past."**

*(Dr. Harry O. Ruppe, Professor for  
Aerospace Technology, TU Munich)*

**"Throughout the entire history of the Earth and life up to the time of historical records, the traces of extraterrestrial intelligence on our planet are clear. It is a great task to detect the true backgrounds of countless historical puzzles and to reconsider the early history of humanity."**

*(Dr. Johannes Fiebag [+], Geologist, Bad  
Neustadt, Germany)*

**"Old Indian texts clearly prove that the Earth was visited and influenced by extraterrestrials in the distant past."**