WHAT DOES IT TAKE to be a member of the Mile High Club?

According to Dave, a member several times over, all that is required is sexual intercourse at 5,280 feet (one mile) or more. As a pilot, he’s both witnessed and participated in several in-flight rendezvous.

His most memorable experience? His first one – as a first year university student flying to Spain for a holiday. "I met this girl at check-in, she let me cut ahead of her in line because she was waiting for her friend. We chatted for a bit and ended up sitting next to each other on the plane. An hour before we landed, she slipped me a note, got up and went to the loo. I followed. It was pretty epic. Definitely gave me a taste for it."

Even the Mile High Club has its snobs. Preethi says that she would never have gone for it if she hadn’t been flying first class. "I hate the idea of getting it on in a bathroom. It’s disgusting. Especially on planes. Yuck. The first class seats are way better suited for it. And if you pick your moment – no one will see or interrupt you. It’s hot."

Interruption is definitely an obstacle. As is the fact that having sex on a commercial flight is considered illegal in most airspace. Kalyani, a former hostess on the now defunct Indian Kingfisher Airlines says: "It’s not something you really want to interrupt. It’s so awkward! I can imagine why most people risk it – if you’re ok with the danger it must be fun. But it’s not for us! We were obligated to go say something. I mean, it’s illegal! It was a job that new guys got though – no one wanted to do it."

The Mile High Club, despite being an ‘unofficial’ entity, has quite a following. There are several websites dedicated to the topic featuring the stories of members. Dozens of companies are capitalising on the airborne kink. Bristol-based Natasha and her boyfriend, Tom, decided to treat themselves to the experience for their anniversary.

She says: "It’s funny because when we first started dating, we were going on a group trip to New York."
“We thought it would be sexy – and it was! We tried it again on a private plane with a bed and everything. It was still fun. The risk of being caught was sexy though and that was missing. Though there’s a lot to be said for having a nice big bed!”

It is not always the fun experience it is made out to be. There is always the risk of being caught, humiliated and possibly arrested. For Jason and his girlfriend Alexa, it was more of an ordeal. They were flying to Ibiza for a holiday and after several glasses of wine, they decided to get frisky.

The mood turned sour when they realised that a fellow passenger was recording them on his mobile phone. Jason confronted the man, resulting in a fight. In the scuffle, Jason shoved him into a steward who was unimpressed by both the argument and the reason for it. Both parties were blackballed by the airline.

Shaking her head, Alexa confesses, “It was the most humiliating moment of my life. There is no way that I’m ever going to do that again.” Jason says, laughing, “It was definitely not our smartest idea. We’re lucky they didn’t have us arrested. God, that would’ve been 10 times worse! I would have definitely been fired.”

The Mile High Club appears to be a global phenomenon with members from all over the world, including some famous personalities. Richard Branson, the owner of the Virgin group claims to have joined the club in his teens.

Branson’s Virgin Airlines introduced a social networking option on their flights – allowing passengers to send each other drinks and snacks. They can even text message each other using seat numbers. The idea, according to the airline, was to leave plus one. Though judging by Branson’s attitude – the fun could begin prior to disembarking.

One thing is for certain – gaining membership to the most exclusive club in the world could be a memorable experience. So buckle up and prepare for an interesting ride.