Kenya's First Murphy Elite

How Andrew Fernandes brought Murphy Aircraft to new skies in Africa Searching for the Right Aircraft

For many years, Andrew Fernandes flew as a part-owner of a Cessna 182 in Kenya. The C182 offered reliability, but as costs escalated, Andrew began to look for a more efficient, versatile aircraft that could meet the unique challenges of flying in East Africa.



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murphyair.com/customer-stories

A Super Cub project was his first consideration — a re-covered frame with no engine. Friends suggested experimenting with a Honda auto-conversion, but Andrew wanted something proven, capable, and with long-term support. His research soon led him to the **Murphy Aircraft community**.

Through online forums, he connected with other owners and even traveled all the way from Kenya to Minnesota to inspect a nearly complete Rebel. That trip cemented his impression of Murphy's all-metal durability and smart design — but import hurdles kept him from bringing that particular aircraft home.

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The dream, however, was alive: Andrew knew his next aircraft would be a Murphy.

Discovering the Elite

Not long after, Andrew spotted an advert for a **Murphy Elite in Canada**. The Elite, with its wider cabin and greater carrying capacity, was well suited to the kinds of missions he envisioned in Kenya: high-altitude takeoffs, rugged bush operations, and long cross-country journeys.

With the help of a trusted aviator friend in Canada, Andrew arranged for the aircraft to be inspected, made the decision to purchase, and began the long process of import. Months later, his Elite finally arrived in Kenya — marking a historic milestone as **the very first Murphy Aircraft in the country**.

"It doesn't bat an eyelid taking off at gross—even at 9,000 ft density altitude."

Taking on the African Skies

Before taking to the skies, Andrew gave his Elite a few important upgrades:

- A third seat for greater flexibility in carrying passengers
- eMags to modernize and enhance reliability of the Aero Sport O-360 engine

Flying in Kenya is no small challenge. Many of the airstrips Andrew uses sit around **6,500 feet above sea level**, and density altitude regularly climbs to **9,000 feet**. Thin air can make operations difficult for many aircraft — but the Elite proved itself.



"It is an absolutely amazing aircraft and doesn't bat an eyelid taking off at gross," Andrew shares.

The **robust shock-monster landing gear** has also become a favorite feature, giving him confidence when operating on rough strips and in remote locations.

In just over a year, Andrew has already flown **120 hours** in the Elite, demonstrating how well the aircraft thrives in demanding environments.

Looking Ahead

Like many Murphy owners, Andrew sees his aircraft as a project that evolves with him. His next plan is to replace the existing gauges with a **modern MGL EFIS panel**, improving situational awareness and making his cockpit as capable as the Elite's airframe.

For Andrew, the Elite represents more than just an airplane — it's a gateway to adventure, freedom, and connection across Kenya's vast landscapes.

"Loving it, and no regrets whatsoever!"

A Landmark for Murphy Aircraft

Andrew's Elite stands as a milestone for both him and the Murphy community:

- First Murphy Aircraft in Kenya proof that Murphy's reach continues to expand worldwide
- **Performance under pressure** thriving at high density altitudes and rugged strips where few aircraft excel
- Community inspiration showing fellow builders and aviators what's possible with determination and the right design



Nandrew's journey is a powerful reminder of why Murphy Aircraft has earned a global following. Whether in the backcountry of North America, the outback of Australia, or the highlands of Kenya, Murphy owners are proving that rugged, versatile designs can open doors to adventure everywhere.

Last Few Slots — December 2025 Production Batch



Our expanded batch is almost full. If you want your kit this year-end, act now—once these are gone, the window moves to the next cycle.

As of this week: Moose 1 • Radical 1 • Elite 2 • Rebel 1

Reserve / Inquiry:

https://www.murphyair.com/quickdelivery 2025

Reserve your production slot quick-delivery batch doses soon



Disclaimer: Target delivery; actual timing depends on configuration, documentation, and shipping logistics. Next manufacturing window moves into 2026 once this batch is full.

Murphy Aircraft Around the World



Lucky Winner : Kristan from Kybong, Australia

Contact Us

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