

Cracking the Sky

Snowboarder Ingemar Backman flew up the huge curved wall of the **quarterpipe**. He reached the top, then soared above the **lip**. He rose into the sky—higher and higher.

At the top of his 25-foot (7.6-m) **backside air**, Ingemar reached down and grabbed his board. Then he swooped back down to the snowy ground like a graceful, diving bird. He landed his trick perfectly, arms thrown up in the air. No rider had ever flown so high before. One snowboarder said, “Ingemar was the first guy to crack the sky.”

Swedish snowboarder
Ingemar Backman



Ingemar landing his
record-breaking trick in
Riksgränsen, Sweden, in 1996



In 1996, Ingemar's backside air set a record for highest air from a quarterpipe. It wasn't broken until 2001 when Heikki Sorsa flew even higher.