

BIG SKY HANG GLIDING SCHOOL

Suppliers of Hang gliding Instruction
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Introduction:

Flying like an eagle is fun and very exciting. For most people its something they only dream about, but for us here at *BIG SKY* it is a reality and has become as natural as driving a car, or riding a bicycle.

To learn to fly is not all that easy and prospective pilots must know that to succeed takes a lot of very hard work, determination and a real will to fly in order to become a competent and safe pilot. There is often obstacles to overcome, such as family pressure, work commitments, fear of heights, etc.

Remember, every qualified pilot who makes it look so easy, has been through the same. Hang gliding is a fantastic sport, and after the hard work is done, it is very rewarding. Hang glider pilots soar effortlessly for hours at a time and can fly hundreds of kilometers, often alongside birds of prey.

Safety:

Hang gliding is an aviation sport. It is important to realise that all aviation sports have inherent risks. You must learn to fly in a safe environment, with a competent instructor, and make use of safe equipment. *BIG SKY* provides all of these.

It is unsafe to teach oneself to fly. There is more to the sport than just being able to take off and land. To fly safely you must have knowledge of glider control, weather assessment, safety procedures and air law. Proper education minimizes the risks involved, and maximizes the pleasure of flight.

Licensing:

It is a legal requirement to have a licence in order to fly. The South African Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association (SAHPA) is the only organisation allowed to issue a hang gliding licence in South Africa, through dispensation from the Civil Aviation Authority.

Licences can only be obtained through SAHPA approved schools with SAHPA rated instructors, like *BIG SKY Hang Gliding School*.

Training procedures

Our mission is to equip a new pilot with all the skills required to make him or her enjoy flying and be able to deal safely with the vagaries of the air.

The course starts off with an intro theory lecture, that is later reinforced with more advanced lectures.

Students are first taught the rigging and ground handling of a hang glider. This is followed up by running with the glider on flat ground. Only when the student shows the right responses to the gliders movements will he/she be allowed to run down small slopes to achieve assisted short, low altitude, groundskimming flights. Progress is very gradual and training happens on soft sand dunes at the Atlantis nature reserve.

The second part of the course students are taught how to control the glider once airborne, the rules of the air, the landing approach and emergency procedures. The new pilot will have to pass written exams and complete several practical exercises, slowly building up experience, knowledge and confidence.

Once students have done the required high flights (100m or higher), they will achieve a Novice License. This allows them to fly at Novice Rated sites on their own and at other sites under the supervision of senior pilots.

The instructors will follow strict safety procedures at all times to ensure an enjoyable and safe learning experience.

Students are taught on a very personal basis, although they may start in a group. That means that every student gets a lot of direct attention. Your progress is entirely dependent on your individual ability, but it usually takes about ten days of physical dune training before you can do your first high flights.

Details of the Training Course

1 Day Beginners Course: for newcomers to the sport

This is a one-day introduction to hang gliding with the focus on having lots of fun. Only the most essential theory on the basic controls of a hang glider is covered. Then lots of runs, with the instructor holding the wing wires keeping you safe, but allowing you to get your feet off the ground, achieving low and slow ground skimming flights down the sand dunes!! We use a glider specifically designed for this type of training.

It is very forgiving, easy to handle and very lightweight, making your first small flights easy and safe, but still giving you a good idea of what the Intro Course will entail and demand from you on a physical level. After a 'crash' course you will be able to make a realistic decision about your potential to become a hang gliding pilot.

The crash course students will receive entry at the Atlantis Nature Reserve; a 4x4 ride on the sand dunes, cool drinks and water, plus a sun umbrella and camping chairs when taking a break. Transport to and from Atlantis must be negotiated separately.

Course fee: R750-00 for a one on one with the instructor, R600-00 per person for two people, R500-00 per person for a group of 3 people, R400-00 per person for a group of 4 people.

Course 1: Intro Course

For the pilot who is still unsure whether hang gliding is what he/she really wants to do.

The course includes:

1. SAHPA temporary membership, valid for 6 months
2. Training manuals and a logbook
3. Theory classes including:
 - Introduction to the hang glider: name of parts; materials; Aerodynamic qualities; rigging procedures and pre-flight checks.
 - Basic principles of flight: how an aerofoil creates lift; angle of attack and stall; the importance of airspeed; stability.
 - Wind speed, airspeed, groundspeed, drift; wind gradient; wind shadow.
 - Turbulence and rotors; assessment of weather conditions.
 - Licence requirements and general rules: details on practical and theoretical tests; site regulations; logbooks.
4. The use of the schools equipment for Practical training including:
 - Ground handling
 - Basic take off and landing techniques.
 - Groundskimming flights on the dunes.

The duration of this course will vary depending on how regularly the student can attend and on individual progress. Only when the instructor is satisfied that the student has mastered the basic controls of the glider allowing safe take-offs, level and straight controlled ground skimming flights and constant controlled landings will he or she be allowed to move onto the next Course, which starts with medium altitude flights off higher dunes and small in-flight turns, progressing to high flights.

Course fee: R3500-00

Course 2: Completion of Novice licence

For the pilot who has completed the Intro Course and would like to continue with the sport.

The course includes:

1. The use of equipment, including radios (vario when possible)
2. Theory lectures covering glider design, meteorology, aerodynamics, flight and control and air law.
3. Proficiency card for practical training mastered
4. Mountain flying training
5. Marked theory tests
6. Minimum of 5 high flights (100m) of +-2min, top to bottom.
7. All the practical requirements needed for a Novice licence is completed under supervision
8. Debriefing and general discussion after each flight and session.

At least one weekend will be spent at a mountain site to familiarise the student with the take off techniques used on mountains, ridge soaring, and the rules for flying with other pilots on the ridge, as well as understanding mountain weather.

Course fee: R3500-00

What to bring along to training

- A good pair of running shoes.
- Comfortable clothing, suitable for running.
- Protection against the sun, i.e. hat and suntan lotion (even in winter)
- Notebook and pen
- Food and drink (water and cold drinks) for during the day. Especially in summer LOTS of fluid is essential as one can easily get dehydrated.
- Warmer clothes for the cool times of the day or during winter

Terms and conditions of training

- 1.All courses must be paid in full prior to the commencement of training or flying.
- 2.Once training has started, no refund of course fees will be considered. The School undertakes and is prepared, within the time limits and conditions below, to provide training to the enrolled person, or to discuss a reasonable extended time frame to complete training.
- 3.Training fees cannot be transferred to another person.
- 4.The Intro course must be completed within 8 weeks of commencement, unless the student has been in constant communication with the School, and events beyond his control has necessitated the delay. Non-communication will make this concession null and void, and Big Sky Hanggliding School will be under no obligation to provide further training.
- 5.The Novice Licence course must be completed within 6 months of the Intro course start date. It is possible to complete the course in as little as two to three weeks provided the pilot is prepared to attend training sessions regularly.
- 6.If a student does not achieve his licence within the period of 6 months and did not attend training or contact the school on a regular basis about the reasons for the non-attendance, he will be required to renew his SAHPA Temporary membership as well as pay an additional training fee, comprising a total of R2,000-00, valid for a further 6 months. Any further delays will have to be negotiated with the School. The SAHPA Temporary membership is valid for 6 months at a time.
- 7.A student or pilot causing extensive damage to the school equipment he was using, could be expected to contribute to the cost of the repairs, taking into account the reason for the damage.
- 8.All students and pilots are required to sign the indemnity form before flying takes place.
- 9.All students will submit a signed Medical Fitness Declaration form, or a form signed by a Medical Practitioner.



Booking Form

Please pay your fees into the bank before commencing training. Proof of payment will be required. The form below is to book a course in order to facilitate our planning. Please take note that most insurance policies do not insure against hang gliding accidents. Please check with yours before commencing training.

Bank details: LE Olivier, ABSA Bank, Account Number: 4059168708

Course(s) entered for:.....

Preferred dates for courses:

Name:

ID:

Occupation:

Contact numbers:.....

Address:.....

Email:

Phone/cell:.....

Signature:.....

Date signed: