

Catalina Flying Boats

A DC-3 Route Being Flown Today



The real part: The DC-3 video entitled *A Living Legend: The DC-3* highlights, in part, the Catalina Flying Boats, an air cargo business named for the World War II reconnaissance plane, based in Long Beach, California. The company makes daily flights delivering commodities to Catalina Island, located about twenty miles off the California coast. The business owns two DC-3s, and chose them when the smaller planes they had been using proved less capable of handling increased freight demand. The pilots who fly this route regularly, often several times daily, report that the DC-3 is a stable, dependable aircraft that is easy and inexpensive to fly. One of the two pilots has 3000 hours in the air, most of it logged in a DC-3 making runs to Catalina.

The challenge: The runway at the Catalina Airport, near the city of Avalon, was developed when two mountain tops were sheared off and leveled. As a result, the island's only airport is 1600 feet above sea level. To add to the challenge, the single runway is 2970 feet in length with sharp drop-offs on either end, leaving little room for error. As if that's not enough, low cloud cover or fog regularly drapes the island, especially during morning hours.

The scenario: The company, Catalina Flying Boats, has experienced mechanical breakdowns. In addition, the company pilots are home sick with influenza. You guessed it; DC-3 Airways has been called to the rescue. <trumpet fanfare>

The mission: Skilled DC-3 Airways pilots have been requested to help out by making one of the daily flights to deliver supplies to the people on the island (leg 1). Once supplies have been offloaded at Catalina, take off and head back to Long Beach (leg 2).

The tactics: Load "real weather," and decrease your plane's fuel supply to lighten the load. The distance, both legs, totals 70 nautical miles. Since fuel is not available at the island (KAVX), you'll want enough to get back safely to Long Beach. 100 gallons is plenty. The residents of Catalina Island and Catalina Flying Boats thank you for accepting this important mission. Enjoy the scenery, and good flying!

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1. To Catalina Island

From – To	Flight Description. "Allocated runways and related information may change when flying online or using Real Weather"				Course (leg) deg	Distance (Leg) Nm	ETE (leg) HH+MM
	Dep. Rwy – 30	Init. Hdg – 191deg.	Init. Alt – 2,500ft	Apt Elev. – 60ft			
Long Beach (KLGB) California To Avalon (KAVX) California	Departure: To Fix 1. Tune Nav 1 to SXC VORTAC, 111.40 and set the OBS needle to 191deg. After takeoff, commence climb to 2,500ft. Waypoint is when the needle centers.....				301deg	2.2NM	
	Enroute: To SXC. Turn left to 191deg and head towards SXC.....				191deg	30.0NM	
	To Fix 2. At station passage, turn right to 221deg, and maintain course for one minute or 2.6NM.....				221deg	2.6NM	
	Approach: To runway. Make a standard-rate right turn to come to the runway heading of 043deg. Land Catalina runway 04 - Length – 2,999ft. Width – 75ft. surface – Asphalt.				043deg	5.1NM	
Flight No. 519-05-01	Arrival Airport Elev. – 1,602ft.		Estimated totals for this flight>>>			40.1NM	

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2. Return to Long Beach

FSX / P3D

From – To	Flight Description. "Allocated runways and related information may change when flying online or using Real Weather"				Course (leg) deg	Distance (Leg) Nm	ETE (leg) HH+MM
	Dep. Rwy – 4	Init. Hdg – 026deg.	Init. Alt – 3,500ft	Apt Elev. – 1,602ft			
Avalon (KAVX) California To Long Beach (KLGB) California	Departure: To Fix 01. Tune the ADF to LG NDB 233.0. After take off, commence climb to 3,500ft. Waypoint is when the RMI reads 026deg.				042deg	1.0NM	
	Enroute: To LG Turn left to 026deg and head towards the NDB. Start your descent 7 minutes after take off. Aim to cross LG at 1,200ft.....				026deg	26.0NM	
	Approach: To Runway. Turn left to 301 deg, and make a visual approach to runway 30..... Land Long Beach runway 30 – Length 10,002ft – Width 200ft – Surface Asphalt				303deg	5.2NM	
Flight No. 519-05-02-A	Arrival Airport Elev. – 60ft.		Estimated totals for this flight>>>			31.6NM	

Nota : If LG NDB is not available into your own simulator setup, use 519-05-02-B

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2. Return to Long Beach

MSFS / X-Plane

From – To	Flight Description. "Allocated runways and related information may change when flying online or using Real Weather"				Course (leg) deg	Distance (Leg) Nm	ETE (leg) HH+MM
	Dep. Rwy – 4	Init. Hdg – 026deg.	Init. Alt – 3,500ft	Apt Elev. – 1,602ft			
Avalon (KAVX) California To Long Beach (KLGB) California	Departure: Tune NAV1 to the Seal Beach (Los Alamitos) VORTAC, SLI, 115.70. To Fix 1. After take off, commence climb to 3,500ft.....				043deg	1.0NM	
	Enroute: To Fix 2. Turn left to 026deg and head towards the VORTAC. Start your descent 7 minutes after take off. Aim to cross Fix 2 at 1,200ft..... Waypoint is reached when DME reads 2.0NM.				026deg	26.0NM	
	Approach: To Runway. Turn left to 303 deg, and make a visual approach to runway 30..... Land Long Beach runway 30 – Length 10,002ft – Width 200ft – Surface Asphalt				303deg	5.1NM	
Flight No. 519-05-02-B	Arrival Airport Elev. – 60ft.		Estimated totals for this flight>>>			32.1NM	