

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	<u>Flight Description.</u> "Allocated runways and related information may change when flying online or using Real Weather"				Course (Leg)	Distance (Leg)	ETE (leg) HH+MM
	Dep. Rwy – 30	Init. Hdg – 191deg.	Init. Alt – 2,500ft	Apt Elev. – 55ft			
Long Beach (KLGB) California To Avalon (KAVX) California	Departure: To Fix 01. Tune Nav 1 to XSC VOR, 111.40 and set the OBS needle to 191deg. Waypoint is when the needle centers.....				301deg	2.2NM	00+01
	Enroute: To XSC. Turn left to 191deg and head towards XSC.....				191deg	30.2NM	00+14
	To Fix 2. At station passage, turn right to 221deg, and maintain course for one minute or 2.6NM.....				205deg	2.6NM	00+01
	Approach: To runway. Make a standard-rate right turn to come to the runway heading of 041deg..... Land – Catalina runway 4 Length – 2,970ft Width – 75ft Surface – asphalt				041deg	5.1NM	00+02
Flight No. 519-5-01	Arrival Airport Elev. – 1,601ft.		Estimated totals for this flight>>>			40.1NM	00+18

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2. Return to Long Beach

From - To	<u>Flight Description.</u> "Allocated runways and related information may change when flying online or using Real Weather"				Course (Leg)	Distance (Leg)	ETE (leg) HH+MM
	Dep. Rwy – 4	Init. Hdg – 024deg.	Init. Alt – 3,500ft	Apt Elev. – 1,601ft			
Avalon (KAVX) California To Long Beach (KLGB) California	Departure: To Fix 01. Tune the ADF to LG NDB 233.0. Waypoint is when the NDB reads 024deg....				041deg	1.0NM	00+01
	Enroute: To LG Turn left to 024deg and head towards the NDB. Start your descent 7 minutes after take off. Aim to cross LG at 1,200ft.....				024deg	26.3NM	00+11
	Approach: To Runway. Turn left to 301 deg, and make a visual approach to runway 30.....				301deg	4.3NM	00+02
	Land – Long Beach runway 30 Length – 10,002ft Width – 200ft Surface – asphalt						
Flight No. 519-5-02	Arrival Airport Elev. – 55ft.		Estimated totals for this flight>>>			31.6NM	00+14