

SkyAfrica Newsletter

September 2011

Greetings dear friends!

The African spring has surely sprung, and it is amazing to see how swiftly and unannounced it spreads itself across the lands.

For the past few months I have been living in London, which basically means that I did not really get the chance to experience much of a summer this year (frankly, it was nonexistent!). I thus greatly looked forward to my 2-week holiday back home in South Africa at the end of August, yet as it was still winter there I made sure to pack a warm jersey - just in case. Upon arrival in Johannesburg I was greeted with blue skies, loads of sunshine and 27 degrees Celsius! Man, I LOVE AFRICA!

The picture you see at the top of the page was taken at the Addo Elephant Park in the Eastern Cape Province. This is the only national park in the southern region of South Africa that boasts the "Big 5". In fact, at Addo you even have the chance to catch sight of the "Big 7" as the park reaches all the way to the Indian Ocean giving you the chance to spot whales and great white sharks.

Never in all my life have I seen lions, elephants and zebras surrounded by a dense carpet of brightly coloured flowers. Truly a spectacular - if somewhat surreal - sight!

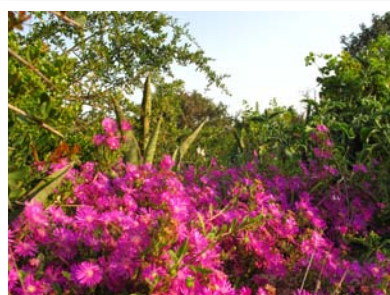


Bush Pilot Group Course Dates

15. - 22. November 2011

10. - 18. December 2011

Individual courses can be held
throughout the year!



September and October are two of the best months in which to experience an African flying safari. The days are wonderfully warm and the rainy season has not yet begun, which allows for great game viewing on the ground as well as from the air, as the animals are drawn towards the watering holes and cannot easily disappear into the overgrown bushveld.

Winter in Southern Africa needn't bow its head in shame when compared to spring or summer time, as these pictures taken from the comforts of our Sky cockpits clearly show:



The wonderful "Roof of Africa" dusted lightly with snow



Golden Gate National Park in the Free State boasts these orange-hued deeply eroded sandstone cliffs and outcrops, which appear beautifully golden as the last rays of the setting sun fall on its cliffs



Aviation Blog

It is always good to try and see things from a different point of view, which is precisely what Fabian has enabled us to do by attaching his GoPro camera to the elevator of our C172 ZS-FIF, and flying off over the great plains of the South African Highveld. Here is the link of Fabian's posting on [flightforum.ch](http://www.flightforum.ch), which features a multitude of great aerial pictures as the one shown above. The forum is in German, but that shouldn't stop anybody from taking a look at Fabian's sensational pics: <http://www.flightforum.ch/forum/showthread.php?>

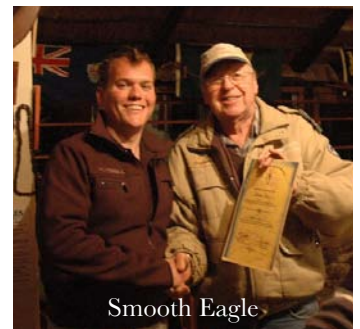
Congratulations!

SkyAfrica's youngest Eagle

A flying instructor once said to my father: "It is really great teaching somebody to fly who has already flown her first 500 hours with dad!" Sky Instructor Glen had a similar experience whilst flying with 14-year-old Henrik from Germany. Earlier this year Hendrik's father Helmut flew his C206 Turbine from Europe to South Africa and back again. On his second trip to SA he decided to leave the plane at home but take young Hendrik along once more. Already a rather experienced aviator, Hendrik logged his first official 20 flying hours in our C150 ZS-FIF, and it soon became apparent that he was more capable and passionate than many a pilot twice his age.



The home base of our bush pilot courses, Kunkuru, has a somewhat precarious runway, in that during the approach there is a 'point of no return' by which time you must decide if you wish to continue the approach or do a go-around. After that point you are committed to the landing, as the mountains are just too close and you won't be able to out-fly them (unless you have 450HP under the hood like ol' Helmut's C206). After a successful landing all pilots are accepted into the Eagles Club and awarded their own Eagle name. After over 20 landings at Kunkuru, Hendrik is now the youngest Eagle in the club, and thanks to his flaming red hair and Russian mother Hendrik was given the name "*Krasny (red) Eagle*". Welcome to the world of bush pilots!



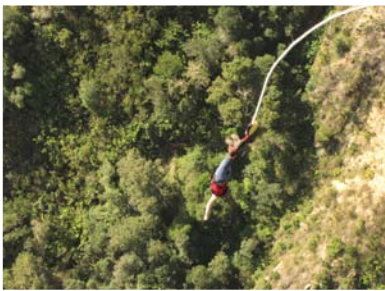
Smooth Operator

"Smooth Eagle" is the name of our mohawked Viennese friend Clemens who completed his PPL and CPL/IFR at SKY in record time. You too are heartily welcomed into the Eagles club!

Fresh off the grill

A big congratulations also to Klaus who successfully completed all of the prescribed flying hours as well as his written and practical flight tests in 5 weeks, and is now the proud owner of a private pilot licence. Certainly a job well done! Here is Klaus receiving his First Solo certificate from SKY boss Karl.





My 2nd First Solo Flight



Along the well-known Garden Route between Plettenberg Bay and Port Elizabeth you will find the Bloukrans arch bridge, which stands at an impressive height of 216m above the Bloukrans River. It is also the site of the highest commercial bungee bridge in the world. On crossing this bridge during my recent SA visit, I was confronted with the deafening cries of those taking a leap of faith and jumping down into the gorge below me. Interpreting their panicked screams as nothing more than silliness I thought to myself "I can do that! How hard can it be?"

I thus decided to also throw myself off the bridge (cord attached, thank you very much!) as it is always something I wanted to try. I felt relatively fine until Kate, a young American tourist who was first in my group to jump off the bridge, returned in a bit of a state. Shaking uncontrollably and with tears streaming down her face she still managed to inform me that this had been the most awful experience of her entire life. "Never again. NEVER AGAIN!" she yelled. And I believed her. Of course, I was now next in line. Looking down towards the large drop before me and with Kate's confidence boosting speech in mind I inhaled deeply and waited for the countdown: "Three, Two, One...BUNGEE!" And then I jumped.

To my shame, I screamed like a little girl. Even as I was falling and screaming I was embarrassed by it and promised myself that I would go and apologise to all of those people whose screams prior to mine I had giggled at. Nevertheless, the 4 second free fall was amazing! Once I got over the fact that I was falling (I probably wasted 1 whole second on that!) I was just in a state of pure bliss, because I **was flying!**

I used to live by the motto of: "Why jump out of a plane if the prop is still soundly spinning?", but I think I might give parachuting a bit of a 'fair go' after all. Because, at the end of the day, I can do that. How hard can it be...

Many safe and happy landings to you all!

Erika



SkyAfrica Offer 2011

See you in a little while!

Enjoy a Week Long Flying Safari in South Africa

- Had enough of
- ☹ fog?
- ☹ rain?
- ☹ an overcrowded airspace?
- ☹ overregulation?
- ☹ annoying security checks?



At SkyAfrica you will be greeted with sunshine, blue skies and great flying without limits!

Come to Africa where aviation is still unrestricted, fun and affordable. Anything your heart desires, SkyAfrica will be happy organise!

Our Offer: African Flying Safari Week for Two!

± 1500 Euro per person sharing in double room

± 2700 Euro single traveller

(Please enquire for quote)

- 15h worth of scenic flights: Highveld, Bushveld, Drakensberg etc.
- 5 day stay at SkyAfrica Guesthouse
- 1 night stay at bush lodge incl. game drive

SkyAfrica Getaway Safaris



- Affordable Flying Safaris for Pilots
- Memories to Last a Lifetime!

Bush & Beach Safari (12 Day - ± €250/day per person)

Gain great insights into the coastal and bushveld regions of South Africa! This safari will see you flying over the South African high plateau and enjoying an evening game drive in the bush - soar over the great Soutpansberge to Tshipise, which will enchant you with its warm thermal springs, many elephants and grand baobab trees - enjoy breathtaking flights over the Drakensberg and Blyde River Canyon into the Kruger National Park, which boasts the Big 5 - delight in flying over the Kingdom of Swaziland and Lake Pongola - a short hop over north Zululand will take you to the untouched beaches of the Indian Ocean, and a delightful flight over the 1000 Hills of Zululand and the Highveld will return you to Johannesburg.

SA's Undiscovered South (14 Day - ± €250/day per person)

Fly to Parys, where the Vaal River winds gently through the impressive meteorite dome - onwards over the vast plains into the Kalahari desert - enjoy a 4x4 game drive through the dry dune landscape - scenic flight over the Augrabies Waterfall and low level through the gorges of the Orange River into the beautiful Namaqualand to Springbok! Take pleasure in landing on a salt pan on the Atlantic coast before exploring the fishing town of Port Nolloth encompassed by the stony desert of the Richtersveld and the diamond-clad Namib sand dunes - fly passed ancient shipwrecks to the stunning & fertile mountains of the Cederberg - into the wheat fields of the Cape before flying over historic Robben Island, Cape Town, past Table Mountain to the Cape of Good Hope before landing in the heart of the charming Cape wine-lands in Stellenbosch! Explore Chapmans Peak, Hout Bay, Cape Point and many other must-see places before flying to Cape Agulhas, Africa's southern most point and the meeting place of the mighty Atlantic & Indian Oceans. Fly onwards over the Outeniqua Mountains into the Klein Karoo to the gliding paradise of Gariep - take in the beauty of the savanna of the Freestate and the Highveld before returning to Johannesburg - the City of Gold!

What are you waiting for?

[**team@skyafrica.com**](mailto:team@skyafrica.com)



SkyAfrica is now also
on Facebook!