



# YOU CAN *Fly!*



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Photos by Tom Lippert

*You Can Fly!*

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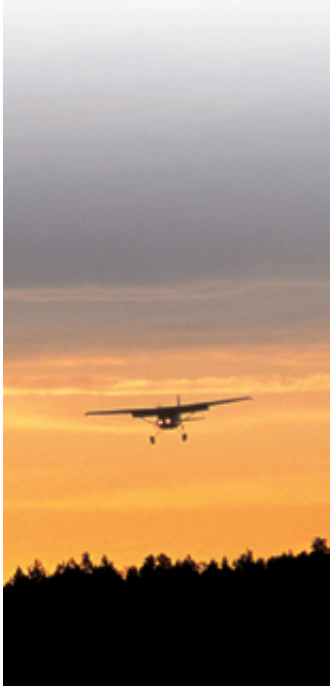
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# 1

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## *Why Fly?*

**W**hy learn to fly? The answers are simple—fun! adventure! freedom! Flying is humankind’s wildest dream fulfilled—soaring among the birds, playing tag with the clouds and gazing down upon the wonders of the earth. Pilots really do get to do those things, and it’s as good as it sounds. Adding to the richness is the way others look at pilots—with admiration and awe.

Can flying be practical? Of course. Flying often saves time over other forms of transportation and offers access to places not easily reached in other ways. Piloting can also make a wonderful career. But these practical benefits are not the main reasons most people initially become aviators. Rather, they are ways that pilots capitalize on the skills that bring them so much joy.

Flying light aircraft for pleasure and business may mean a trip to the Bahamas for snorkeling, or to Manitoba in wintertime to witness a total solar eclipse. Perhaps you’re thinking of a flight to the Outer Banks of North Carolina or to Mackinac Island at the confluence of the Great Lakes.

Imagine soaring over the Grand Canyon at dawn and through Monument Valley at sunset, winging north to the Canadian Rockies and south to the Baja



### **Flying a Super Cub over New Zealand's Southern Alps**

Peninsula. Or shaving hours off your holiday driving to visit relatives and friends while you overfly jammed freeways below. In fact, everything looks different from the air; it's freedom you can feel and a perspective like no other.

Flying is an activity for bringing families together; there are destinations where everyone wants to go, and you as a pilot hold the key to getting there. What's more, if your family features young people growing up, it's likely that some of them will catch the bug too, offering the opportunity to share adventures together even through the teenage years.

Business flying to a meeting or assignment can shorten the trip or, at the least, make it fun. For example, in a single-engine airplane, you could fly from Indianapolis to Washington, D.C., in three or four hours, or from Phoenix to San Diego in two hours. Such capability often allows you to attend meetings on short

notice, then return home the same day. And nobody, other than you, will have the opportunity to lose your luggage.

You'll witness unforgettable sights seen only from the air, like the glow of snow-covered fields at night, the glory of sunset over city lights, and circular rainbows atop layers of stark white clouds. Even after years of flying, pilots still get the same big thrill every time they take off.

Among the greatest rewards of becoming a pilot are the pleasures of introducing flight to friends and family over the years, and meeting fascinating people wherever you go, some who will become business contacts or lifetime friends. Most general aviation pilots are an independent and successful lot who willingly offer a handshake and helping hand to those who share the same passion and commitment to flying.

There are indeed people who fly for a few years and stop. Usually it's because they either don't experience the joy, or they don't perceive that they have enough travel destinations. But, if you talk to such folks, you'll find that even they rarely have any regrets about having done it.



**In case you think there's not much to do as a private pilot, here are just a few things aviators enjoy:**

- ✈️ Fly to one of thousands of airports just for fun
- ✈️ Build an airplane
- ✈️ Take aerial photographs
- ✈️ Fly in formation with other airplane owners
- ✈️ Volunteer for worthy causes like transporting sick patients
- ✈️ Introduce young people to flight by giving them rides
- ✈️ Do aerobatics
- ✈️ Restore and fly antique airplanes
- ✈️ Fly into backcountry airstrips for wilderness camping
- ✈️ Fly a floatplane
- ✈️ Soar in a glider



Camping at EAA's AirVenture, Oshkosh, Wisconsin