

Hang Gliding F.A.Q.s

Q: What is the best time to fly?

A: We fly tandem from 1130am until 6pm with morning and evening flying times designated for lessons/beginners. Most hang glider pilots will tell you that anytime is a good time. However, some times are better than others depending on what you like. If you are nervous or afraid of heights then we recommend flying sometime in the morning or late afternoon. The air is smoother and more stable. If you're on the heavier end of the scale or wish a little more height, the middle of the day normally provides stronger winds, more thermal activity and a slightly bumpier ride. Other nice times to fly are in fall with the changing colour of the leaves and sunset flights can be quite amazing.

Q: What if the weather is bad?

A: Don't check the weather channel, call the Pickering Hang Gliding Office (See Map and Directions document) on the day of your scheduled flight to confirm that weather conditions are safe for flying. Most of the time, the weather channel will say the weather is bad, but that's not a local forecast, when weather is bad in Toronto, Pickering can have good weather. So be sure to call on the day of your flight to confirm if it's a go or not.

Q. Can I fly on the same hang glider with my friend?

A. No. Although it is a tandem flight, one spot is reserved for the pilot and one is reserved for you. We also cannot have 3 people flying on one glider as this would exceed the weight restriction and would create an unsafe flight.

Q. How do I make a reservation?

A: Call 416-898-3573 or fill out the online registration form with a telephone number where we can reach you best, plus your heights and weights and someone will call you back.

Q. Do I need to make a full payment when making a reservation?

A. When booking your flight only a \$25 non refundable per person deposit is charged to your credit card. This is part of your flight cost not in addition to and as long as you take your flight you won't lose your deposit.

Q: What if I enjoy my flight and want to take lessons?

A: Any of our pilots started out this way. If you thoroughly enjoy your flight and you wish to take lessons then have a chat to your pilot or a staff member before you leave. We can sign you up for a beginner course and arrange to get you started as soon as you like.

Q: How long is the flight?

A: We try to take you up between 1,000 and 2,000 feet above ground. It is possible to take a deluxe flight which means we spend longer on tow and do what we can to get even higher. The entire lesson lasts about half an hour. The time in the air can be anywhere from 15-25 minutes.

Q: Are there any restrictions on who can fly?

A: To take a Discovery Tandem Flight you have to weigh between **60 and 250 pounds**. You need to have reasonable use of your arms & legs, and be able to understand spoken English. If

you have limited or no use of your legs, the Ontario Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association (OHPA) have a purpose built paraplegic harness which we can use, but it is kept off site so has to be arranged in advance.

Q: How far in advance should I make a reservation?

A: For weekends we suggest 1-2 weeks notice, for weekdays we suggest 2-3 days notice. Sometimes we can get you into a trip a day or two before especially for horseback riding and sometimes for Hang Gliding. Hot Air ballooning flights book up fast, so make your reservations early to avoid disappointment.

Q: How do we take off? Do we jump off a hill?

A: Yes, Ontario is pretty flat. We use a hydraulic winch and a tow line to pull us into the air. It is a reliable system which allows us to launch out of a perfectly flat field which eliminates the need to look over the edge of anything. There's nothing intimidating about flying out of a perfectly good tow field. The tow system we use allows us to gain altitudes in the thousands of feet before releasing the line. The hang glider is controlled by weight shift. By moving the position at where your body hangs allows us to alter the balance of the glider, which allows it to go where we want. You will be surprised at how much control this gives us. If you like you are welcome to try flying the glider yourself after the tow line is released.

The glider goes through a vigorous certification process and is tested to 6 G's positive and 4 G's negative. Tandem Instructors are professionals in their field requiring the highest standard of flying ability in order to be able to take the responsibility for the safety of another person.

Q: Are the pilots certified?

A: The pilots which whom you will be flying with, hold the highest ratings available in Canada and the United States. Not only are they masters of their field, our primary two tandems instructors were part of the 2002 Safety Hang Gliding Tour through the south-west states of USA. Hang gliding has inherent risks like any other sport. Although we do our best to minimize these risks, we cannot guarantee safety and you will be asked to sign a standard liability release waiver before you can fly.