

First of all, What's a Gooney Bird?

The Gooney Bird is a large, friendly seabird found on certain islands in the North Pacific Ocean. It's clumsy and awkward on the ground, but graceful and elegant in flight. The Douglas C-47 transport aircraft, (the military version of the classic DC-3 airliner) shares these characteristics, and became known as "The Gooney Bird", during World War II. Our DC-3 spent most of its career in military service with the RAAF, saw action in two war zones, and since our purchase and refurbishment of it in 1989, has become known as "Melbourne's Gooney Bird".

Is It Safe?

The DC-3 has been described as the most reliable aircraft ever built. It's an Airliner, and is required to meet much higher levels of construction, certification, maintenance and pilot training than those required for smaller machines. When we received this aircraft from the RAAF, we found it had only flown the equivalent of three years of airline use, and was in mint condition. We completely refitted it, using modern technology for sound-proofing, radios etc, then installed Airbus seats, a flight lounge, full vanity and toilet facilities, and an airline galley. It seats 28 passengers. The two pilots and two flight attendants must meet the same standards as those required by our domestic and international Airlines. Yes, it is safe.

Where Will We Fly?

Our flights depart from Essendon Airport, and track to Westgate Bridge, then Point Cook. The Silver Clipper proceeds from Point Cook to Corio Bay, then across the Bellarine Peninsula to Queenscliff and Portsea, before flying up the bay to Ricketts Point, then the City. You're most welcome to move around during the flight, to the sky lounge or to the flight deck at the invitation of the Captain. (The flight route may vary with prevailing weather or Air Traffic Control requirements.) Flight time is approximately 70 minutes.

Tell Me About Your Different Flights...

The Silver Clipper Flight...

Is our tribute to a bygone, elegant age of air travel, when style counted, and how you travelled was as important as the destination. The Silver Clipper normally flies at weekends, and commences check in procedures at 7:00pm, when you arrive at the Silver Clipper V.I.P. Lounge. You're greeted by our flight and ground staff, and served nibbles and champagne before boarding commences at 7:30. The Silver Clipper departs at 7:45pm. During the flight an elegant hamper style meal is served with red and white wines, ales or soft drinks. On return to the lounge at 9.00, we serve chocolates, coffee and port. The evening concludes around 9.30pm. Passengers are encouraged to dress in the spirit of this gracious occasion.

The minimum standard of dress with which we believe you will be comfortable, is smart casual or cocktail wear. (Jeans, jumpers, runners etc. would be out of place.)

Special Flights for Corporate and Group Occasions...

The Gooney Bird is ideal for these purposes, and we'll happily work with you to plan an occasion that's exactly right. Some possibilities include day or weekend trips to local attractions such as King or Flinders Island, Brown Brothers at Milawa, and other similarly attractive destinations. We can operate a breakfast, lunch or dinner flight if appropriate, or just a plain old fashioned joyride around the city and environs. Prices can be as low as \$115 per person on a group basis, up to whatever you may desire. Our customers include many companies who use our flights for specific sales or customer relations purposes, and they've found them very effective.

Our delightful and historic "Silver Clipper VIP Lounge" dates back to the thirties, is very comfortable for cocktail-type occasions, and has full A/V facilities, etc.

What Kind of Food is Served?

Light and elegant, selected from the menu of the award winning locally based "artistic catering" company. The Silver Clipper Flight features nibbles and champagne prior to departure, a hamper style meal in flight and chocolate, port and coffee in the lounge post flight. For special group corporate or private occasions, we can provide and serve everything from light breakfasts to first class dinners, as required.

Our normal beverage list includes light and full strength ales, selected red and white wines, champagne, port, fruit juices, mineral waters, tea and coffee.

Important Notes for Passengers

Alcohol and Aviation. In any more than moderate amounts, they don't mix. We operate under stringent Government Regulations (just like the airlines) that prohibit carriage of passengers under the influence. We want you to enjoy our food and wines, but not to excess, for your own and other passengers' comfort and safety. Please bear this in mind when planning your evening. Smoking is not permitted in the Aircraft or the Lounge, however you may smoke on the viewing deck adjacent to the tarmac.

How Do I Book?

By Phone, Fax or Mail, using the form on the reverse side of this brochure.

NOTE

Please read the Booking & Cancellation Policies on the reverse side of this brochure... carefully.

We look forward to your company...