

ST MAARTEN, DUTCH ANTILLES & PUERTO RICO BY HISTORICAL FLIGHT FOUNDATION'S DC-7B

Sunday, 15th - Friday, 20th May



Here is a one-off opportunity to fly in one of THE greatest airliners ever! A classic, 'Queen of the Skies' – the Douglas DC-7B.

This is not just a short flight 'around the circuit', but a truly tremendous flight from the captivating Keys of Florida out over the clear deep-blue waters of the Caribbean Sea to St Maarten in the Dutch Antilles!

The DC-7B (N836D) serial number 45345/928, is owned and operated by the Historical Flight Foundation (HFF), and is the first aircraft in their collection.

Originally delivered to Eastern Airlines in January 1958, it was operated by the airline, then several flying clubs, for less than 10 years before being parked at St. Pauls Airport in Minnesota. Acquired by the HFF in 2004 it was made ready during May-August and then ferried to the well-known propliner haven of Opa Locka airfield near Miami to begin the long, painstaking restoration process. The result was breathtaking! The original interior and hat racks were removed, and placed into long-term storage. They will be available for re-installation come the day the airplane is put on permanent static display. Over 65% of the original aluminium skin, outer wing panels, engines, have been repaired or replaced. A full paint scheme and new interior was completed for the first official Open House in December, of 2008. In March 2010 the aircraft received the necessary FAA exemption to begin carrying fare paying passengers.

Thanks are due to the untiring efforts of Marc Wolff and Carlos Gomez for their critical roles in bringing this beautiful aircraft back to life. Without their inspired vision, determination, and dollars - and the incredible team of engineers - the HFF would not be here today.

We plan to fly along the famous Florida Keys to Key West and then make a gentle climbing turn to our cruising altitude, and pass over the islands of Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, to Puerto Rico. Here we plan to have a ramp tour whilst the aircraft is refuelled at San Juan, and then continue our flight over the British Virgin Islands to Paradise: St Maarten in the Dutch Antilles.

In addition to the ramp tour at San Juan Airport you also have a full day at St Maarten Airport – the airport with the beach, or is it the beach with an airport?! It's the one where aircraft, ranging from Boeing 747's to little 'spam-cans', pass over the beach a 'phew' feet above your head: see page 2. All the action can be seen from nearby bars at either end of the 200-yards wide beach, including the famous Sunset Beach Bar and Café (see picture on page 3)!

We return to Opa Locka via the same routing, with another stop on Puerto Rico, but this time at Aquadilla-Borinquen Airport and its resident propliners including a Super Constellation.

Total flying time in the DC-7B is estimated to be 12 hours!

The tour starts at the Miami International Airport Hotel, ideally situated with the airport terminal building, where we stay one night on a room-only basis. In St Maarten we stay 2 nights at the famous Sonesta Great Bay Beach Resort and Casino Hotel, on a room and continental breakfast basis. Our fourth night is back at the Miami International Airport Hotel, following our early evening arrival at MIA; and on the following day we have a tour of Opa Locka with its resident population of propliners. Contrary to earlier indications, no flight in the HFF's DC-6 is possible.

As we are required to be safely onboard the DC-7 in good time, everyone on the tour must stay the first night at the Miami International Airport Hotel and transfer to Opa Locka airfield by our specially chartered coach. These transfers, and those in St Maarten, are included in the tour price.

Flying such a distance in a big bird like a DC-7B does not come cheap, however, we believe we are offering a truly outstanding tour for an affordable price – which includes membership of the HFF (mandatory to fly in the aircraft).

We have quoted a "Land Only" price which excludes flights to/from Miami at the beginning and end of the tour (but obviously includes the DC-7B flights) for the benefit of those enthusiasts that reside in North America – or who prefer not to fly from London with the main group.

Please note that in order for this tour to proceed we require at least 40 bookings and deposits no later than the 28th February 2011 – we already nearly half-way to our target (as of 6th January).

PROVISIONAL ITINERARY (all timings local)

DAY 1: SUNDAY, 15th MAY

Between 08:00 and 09:00 please check-in with British Airways in Terminal 5 at London's Heathrow Airport. Then meet your Ian Allan Tour Manager and fellow enthusiasts who will be standing by Column G which is located in the Departures Hall nearby the self-service check-in kiosks. We recommend you check in no later than 09:05 hrs..

✈ Heathrow Airport, Terminal 5
✈ Miami International Airport

Flight: BA 207

Departs: 11:05
Arrives: 15:15

After the usual arrival formalities we check-in at the Miami International Airport Hotel ideally located in the airport's terminal building. We stay one night on a bed and breakfast basis.

Those enthusiasts opting for our Land Only package, i.e., not flying from the UK with the main group, can arrive and check-in at the hotel independently. Rooms should be ready for occupation from 14:00 hrs.

DAY 2: MONDAY, 16th MAY

At 07:30 hrs. our specially chartered coach transfers us to Opa Locka airfield about a 30-minutes drive away. Here we hope we meet Carlo Gomez in addition to Roger Jarman and our flight crew, before boarding the HFF's fabulous "Eastern Airlines" DC-7B. Departure time is set for 09:00 hrs.. Snack-type food, and non-alcoholic drinks, whilst on-board the aircraft, are included in the tour price.

Depending on weather and air traffic control, our possible flight routing to St Maarten in the Dutch Antilles will be at a relatively low level from Opa Locka along the famous Florida Keys to Key West; then a gradual climb to our cruising altitude to overfly Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic to land on Puerto Rico (see next paragraph), before continuing and overflying the British Virgin Islands to the Dutch Antilles!

During our stop at San Juan International Airport, whilst the aircraft is being refuelled, we plan to have an air-side tour of the airport to photograph the civil airliners.

Estimated flight time Miami-St Maarten is around 6 hours, plus stopover, so we expect to land over the beach at the end of St Maarten's runway around 18:00 hrs..

After the usual arrival formalities our privately chartered coach transfers us to the luxurious Sonesta Great Bay Resort Hotel and Casino (pictured above), a mile away at the sea-ward end of the runway, overlooking the famous beach! We stay 2 nights on a bed and breakfast basis.





DAY 3: TUESDAY, 17th MAY

A free day to enjoy as you wish: photograph landing aircraft as they pass just feet above the beach, walk the airport perimeter, take a swim in the warm, blue waters of the Caribbean or explore the island.

Or relax at the famous Sunset Bar which also serves meals and is open from dawn to very early the following morning!

Pictured left, note the surf board which is updated daily with the day's flight arrivals!

DAY 4: WEDNESDAY, 18th MAY

At 08:30 hrs. we return to the airport and take our seats on the DC-7. Retracing our outbound flight routing back to Opa Locka, we again make a stop on the island of Puerto Rico: this time at Aquadilla-Borinquen Airport to see long-time residents: a Lockheed Super Constellation and DC-6.

We arrive back at Opa Locka around 18:00 hrs. and our charter coach is waiting to transfer us back to the Miami International Airport Hotel for our overnight stay on a bed and breakfast basis.

DAY 5: THURSDAY 19th MAY

At 09:00 hrs. our coach takes us back to Opa Locka where we plan on having a tour around the airfield, visiting the various ramps to photograph the aircraft.

Mid afternoon we arrive back at Miami International Airport, and later that evening the main group checks-in for their British Airways' flight back to London. Latest check-in time is 17:45 hrs..

✈ Miami

Flight: BA 208

Departs: 20:40

DAY 6: FRIDAY, 20th MAY

✈ Heathrow Airport, Terminal 5

Arrives: 10:00

Whilst waiting for our luggage in Baggage Reclaim we take the opportunity to bid each other farewell – until we meet again.

COST PER PERSON	TOUR: 227128
From £ 1,995.00	Based on sharing a twin bedded room on a bed and breakfast basis
From £ 218.00	Single room supplement
From £ 1,425.00	Land only: does NOT include flights to/from Miami by scheduled airline. It DOES INCLUDE the flights in the DC-7B (please speak with one of our consultants before booking)

TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- Flights on the scheduled services of British Airways from London's Heathrow Airport
- UK and US Airport Taxes & UK Passenger Service Charge; currently £230.30 (subject to change)
- Charter of Historical Flight Foundation's Douglas DC-7B, including crew's costs, as stated
- 1 Years membership (\$250.00/approximately £166.00) of the Historical Flight Foundation
- All transfers by air-conditioned charter coach, as stated
- 4-night's hotel accommodation in rooms with private facilities
- Breakfast each morning in St Maarten (room only in Miami)
- Snack size food and non-alcoholic drinks onboard the DC-7B
- Services of an Ian Allan Tour Manager
- Coach drivers gratuity

NOT INCLUDED

- Any additional costs should the DC-7B not be able to complete the charter as stated once started
- Meals, except as stated above
- Any charge for ramp tours on the airports on Puerto Rico (non known at this time)
- Travel insurance (for UK resident only) – see General Information
- Visas: not required by UK Passport holders when entering the USA under the visa waiver scheme – see General Information for details
- Personal expenditure, e.g. telephone calls, laundry, drinks, etc.
- Additional tips and gratuities

Payment for Ian Allan Aviation Tours

A deposit of £250.00 per person should accompany your Booking Form, with the balance due 10 weeks prior to the tour's departure. Please see your Booking Confirmation/Invoice for the exact date. Please note that a reminder of the payment date will not be sent.

Tours Affected by World Events or Unforeseen/Unplanned Circumstances

In an ever-changing world, events may occur immediately before or during a tour that result in cancellations or changes to the tour itinerary. For example, an increase in security may result in an approved visit being cancelled by the host, etc..

The Historical Flight Foundation will be accompanied by engineers and spares back-up, but should the aircraft go unserviceable causing delay or curtailment of the flight, each individual will be responsible for any resulting costs of additional hotel and/or flight arrangements which occur as a result.

Ian Allan Travel Ltd cannot be held responsible for the aircraft becoming in-operable or delayed; nor the tour being cancelled, or affected, due to world events or circumstances beyond our control.

Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) Consular Advice

The FCO's consular service is a major operation. Every hour of every day consular staff around the world are advising and helping British nationals. We suggest you visit www.fco.gov.uk/knowbeforeyougo for up-to-date passport, visa and security information on the destination you intend visiting.

In addition, the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) provide an Information Line, telephone: 0901 201 505 (calls currently charged at 50p per minute).

Passports and Visas

Citizens of the UK are required to be in possession of a Full UK Passport which must be valid for at least 6 months from the date of your return to the UK. As was introduced in October 2004, all travellers to the USA under the Visa Waiver Scheme must be in possession of a machine-readable passport.

Non-UK citizens should contact the relevant Embassy in their country of residence for specific information and instructions.

IMPORTANT – MANDATORY REGULATIONS FOR ENTRY TO THE USA - Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA)

Anyone seeking entry to the USA must have an "Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA)", which was introduced by the US government in January 2010 for all persons flying into the United States under the Visa Waiver Scheme. This includes all UK passport holders.

This means that all travellers are required to apply for authorisation to travel under the scheme before arriving at their departure airport. The changes affect all passport holders from 34 countries currently participating in the Visa Waiver Scheme (includes the UK).

You must apply prior to departing on this tour. You can only apply online at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov> From September 2010 a charge of \$14.00 was introduced for all new ESTA applications. If you apply on the above website there are NO OTHER CHARGE WHATSOEVER for this service - but be warned, there are several unofficial websites that offer you this service but will charge a higher amount.

The application process will take approximately 15 minutes and authorisation is normally granted immediately but may take up to 72 hours. We recommend that you apply for authorisation at the time of booking your place on our tour - or at very latest 72 hours before the tour departs, to ensure you are able to travel.

If your application for an ESTA is unsuccessful you must apply for a US visa from the US Embassy in London.

Once granted, your ESTA is valid for two years, during which time you need not re-apply however you are required to up-date your ESTA each time you visit the USA. After 2 years you will have to apply for another ESTA.

We have heard of instances where an ESTA has been cancelled by the US authorities without prior warning or notification to the holder! Therefore, we recommend you check your ESTA when planning your travel to the USA.

We also strongly recommend that you keep a photocopy of the ESTA with your passport.

For more information, please go to <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>, or www.visitusa.org.uk

The responsibility for acquiring an ESTA lies with each individual (and not Ian Allan Travel). If you arrive at check-in without an ESTA (or a US Visa if you were refused an ESTA), you will not be allowed to travel to the USA. No refund of the tour price whatsoever will be possible from Ian Allan Travel. It is also extremely unlikely that any travel insurance company would agree any subsequent claim therefore it is important that you act upon this information NOW.

Examination of Flight Bookings by US Authorities – APIS Information

All airlines flying to the United States are obliged to provide information about US-bound passengers, under an agreement reached between the United States and the European Commission on the 18th February 2003.

Under the agreement, as of 5th March 2003, US customs officials have discretionary power to examine passenger booking information held on computer reservation systems relating to flights beginning, ending, or stopping over in the United States. The European Commission has received guarantees from the United States that this information will be used appropriately.

This requirement, based on the US Air Safety and Transportation law of November 2001, is intended to increase air safety and is in addition to the information supplied when applying for your ESTA (see above paragraph).

In addition, since November 2010, the USA has introduced 'Secure Flight Passenger Data', a programme operated by The Transportation Security Administration's (TSA). This is a behind-the-scenes watch list matching program and fulfils a key recommendation of the 9/11 Commission by assuming responsibility of watch list matching from individual airlines. By establishing a consistent watch list matching system, Secure Flight enhances aviation security and more effectively facilitates air travel for passengers. The data captured is the same as APIS but MUST be provided to the airline no later than 72-hours prior to departure or for bookings made within this time period, at the time of booking. We will provide the airlines with this information, but it is imperative that the information you provide to us by way of the Booking Form is correct.

The information we provide the authorities will also include the full postal address of where each passenger will stay on their first night.

Inspection of Luggage by US Transport Security Administration

Items of luggage going into the hold of the aircraft may be opened by US Transport Security Administration (TSA) officials without you being present. In some instances locked suitcases have been forced open, their contents checked, and then re-sealed with tape and a note left inside by the TSA. Most airlines and insurance companies insist that your unaccompanied luggage be locked at all times; the TSA prefer they are left unlocked! The only advice we (and ABTA) can give at this time is that it is your choice whether you leave your suitcases locked or unlocked. You may wish to consult your travel insurance company before making a decision. Or you may purchase a "TSA Approved Lock", available at various local retail shops (and airports); these locks can be opened by the TSA, thereby, avoiding damage to your luggage.

Baggage Regulations – British Airways - Departing London's Heathrow Airport

Checked Baggage: British Airways will transport 1 piece of 'checked' baggage per person free of charge, the total dimensions of which must not exceed 190cm x 75cm x 65cm (75in x 29½in x 25½in), including the handle, pockets and wheels. Maximum weight is 23kg (50lb).

Cabin Baggage: for travel out of London's Heathrow Airport you may take 1 carry-on bag (and 1 personal item). Your main piece of hand baggage can be up to the dimensions of 56cm x 45cm x 25cm (22in x 18in x 10in), including handles and wheels. You must be able to lift the bag into the overhead locker unaided. Carry-on baggage must be stowed in carry-on compartments of the aircraft, under a seat, or in an overhead locker. Your bag must also fit into the bag gauge, available at the check-in area. All larger-sized items must go in the aircraft's hold.

Limited quantities of liquids are allowed as hand baggage but must be carried separately through security in a clear plastic, zip-top or re-sealable bag that does not exceed 20cm x 20cm (8 inches x 8 inches), or quart size. Individual containers must not exceed 90ml or 3 American ounces, and items must fit in the bag comfortably and the bag must be completely closed. The bag can only contain: Shampoo, suntan lotions, creams, toothpaste, hair gel and hair spray, perfumes, cosmetics such as mascara and lip gloss, water and other drinks, soups and syrups and other items of a similar consistency.

Hand baggage can include: Electronic equipment including mobile phones, digital cameras and MP3 players (such as i-Pods). Laptops must be removed from the bag for x-ray. Prescription medicines in liquid form, e.g. diabetic kit.

At security all remaining items should be placed in the tray provided for screening, e.g. car keys and fobs, cash, solid food, books, newspapers, cigarettes and tobacco, belts and shoes. Pushchairs and walking aids are permitted but must be x-ray screened. All wheelchairs will be subject to search. Please note, you may be subject to a hand search by the security team and required to remove footwear to be x-ray screened.

Once in the departure lounge passengers may purchase certain items in any shop and take it onto the aircraft as normal. Passengers may be subject to a secondary search at the departure gate before boarding. Any items not on the approved list will be removed.

As baggage regulations can change with little warning, due to security requirements, you are strongly advised to contact the airline for the latest information nearer to the time of your departure.

Meals

Meals are not normally included in the price of our tours unless they are included within the room rate as we realise that not everyone wants three meals a day, especially in the USA where dinner tends to be quite large. Also, hotel meals can be expensive and we have found it is better to allow each person to decide for themselves. This tour includes breakfast.

In-flight meals when included within the cost of the air ticket form part of the tour price, however some airlines (primarily European carriers) now only serve refreshments for which they charge accordingly.

Health Requirements

There are currently no known mandatory or recommended precautions required for travel to the USA, Puerto Rico or St Maarten in the Dutch Antilles. However, we strongly recommend that you consult your local doctor or health centre for the latest information.

Climate and Dress

The weather should be warm and sunny during our visit with temperatures in the mid-high 70°F.

Travel Insurance

For citizens of the United Kingdom only, Ian Allan Travel Ltd can provide competitive and comprehensive insurance cover for the duration of your tour. However, if you do not wish to take out our insurance, you must ensure that comparable or greater cover is taken. The number of your Insurance Policy should be written, if known, on your Booking Form at the time of making the reservation, but no later than the date when final payment is due. A copy of the policy must be forwarded to Ian Allan Travel Ltd.

Individual insurance policies are arranged through CoverMore Insurance Services Limited; the premiums for which will vary according to your circumstances. Full details are available on request.

The Policies for the USA also include cover for non-scheduled flights, i.e. pleasure flights, where the aircraft is licensed and insured to undertake such flights, and where a payment is made.

Wheelchair Assistance at Airports

Anyone requiring wheelchair assistance at airports must have this service requested and confirmed in advance. Airlines and/or airports can no longer provide this service without prior confirmation, therefore, please annotate your booking form accordingly.

The Douglas DC-7B will not be connected to a jet-way at any of the airports on the itinerary, embarkation and disembarkation will be by the old type stand-alone passenger stairs (not ladders). Those enthusiasts in wheelchairs, who cannot use these stairs, will have to be assisted by a ground vehicle for which there could be a charge. Please advise us if you will require assistance.

Flexible Itinerary

We are very happy for enthusiasts to take time away from the printed itinerary to pursue their own interests during multi-day stays in the same place, so long as they inform the Tour Manager. It will be the individual's responsibility to ensure that they re-join the group in the hotel at the stated time on the day of departure.

Land Only Price

For enthusiasts who would prefer to join the tour in the USA (instead of flying from the UK with the main group), we have included a 'Land Only' price. This price *does not* include any flights to/from Miami whatsoever and you are strongly advised to contact us before making your own flight arrangements in the event that there has been a change to the published itinerary. This is particularly relevant where travel on specific domestic flights forms part of the tour itinerary. The flights in the DC-7B are included in the 'Land Only' price.

Flight Timings & Connecting Travel Arrangements to Departure Airport

All flight departure and arrival times are correct at the time of preparing each itinerary, however, airlines change times with little or no prior warning. In practice such changes are only a few minutes either way and the final itinerary will show the actual times. Clients making their own arrangements to get to the departure airport by air, rail, coach etc., should bare the above in mind if purchasing non-refundable or non-changeable tickets. Ian Allan Travel cannot be held responsible for any changes to flight times, and any privately arranged travel tickets to the airport becoming invalid.

Pre-departure

For connecting flights from UK regional airports please call Ian Allan Travel on 01932 255627 for the latest special offers.

Airport Hotel and/or Car Parking - we can offer special rates for the above at most UK airports, please ask for details.

Meet & Greet Car Parking: from your home or overnight hotel, simply drive directly to Terminal 5 to the special 'valet parking' area located in the short term car park connected to the terminal. Here you will be met by a chauffeur and your car will then be taken to an off-airport, secure, car park while you walk a few yards into the terminal! On your return the chauffeur and your car will be waiting for you at the same place you dropped it off. Simple and very convenient. Recommended by our Tour Managers – please call for details.

Pleasure Flights – Disclaimer

Should you decide to undertake any pleasure/sightseeing flights which have not been offered or sanctioned by us, Ian Allan Travel Ltd will not be held liable for any injuries or death resulting thereon.

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