Wings Airways Tour Patterns

Established Flight Routes

Wings is a signatory in a formal Letter of Agreement (LOA) between all flightseeing and other aviation operators in the Juneau area. The LOA conveys all radio frequencies, frequency change points, information on all tour operators’ prescribed routes, and mandatory position reporting points. Information on this important and comprehensive set of guidelines can be found here. Wings Airways’ established tour patterns are illustrated in the current LOA, page 11, describing Gastineau Channel and Taku Inlet procedures. These tour patterns have been in effect for approximately 30 years.

Wings participates in seasonal safety briefing meetings with the FAA and other Juneau area operators where all parties review the LOA, tour routes, position reporting points, and other operational factors.

A map showing Wings’ full tour from Juneau to the Taku Inlet is attached. On certain but infrequent occasions, Wings’ aircraft may operate over the Juneau Icefield and transition from the Mendenhall Glacier back to the downtown area.

Common Factors Influencing Route Choice

Weather and winds may affect Wings routes to a small degree, however for safety and logistical reasons, Wings operates on the established tour routes the majority of the time. The company is more likely to cancel flying due to inclement weather than deviate from the established flight routes.

Identifying Wings Airways Aircraft

Wings is generally the only float plane operator flying from the downtown Juneau harbor. It has a small fleet of 5 identical DeHavilland Otter aircraft, each equipped with a modern, quiet turboprop engine. Each aircraft is white with a different color stripe. The Otter aircraft with the retrofitted turbine engine has allowed Wings to substantially reduce the noise level of float plane operations near downtown.
Norris Glacier
downtown Juneau
taku Glacier
hole-in-the-wall glacier
west twin glacier
norris glacier
taku glacier
taku lodge
Juneau Icefield
flight route

1,094 air miles to the top of Alaska. (Barrow, AK)

909 air miles to the Lower 48. (Seattle, WA)
The Juneau Icefield stretches over 1,500 square miles and is home to over 40 large glaciers and 100 small ones. A glacier is a large persistent body of ice that forms where the accumulation of snow exceeds its ablation (melting and sublimation) over many years, often centuries. Glaciers slowly deform and flow due to stresses induced by their weight, creating crevasses and other distinguishing features. Of the glaciers seen today on your flight, the Taku Glacier is the most unique. It is recognized as the deepest and thickest glacier known in the world, and the largest glacier in the Icefield. Spanning from Juneau to Skagway, and into Canada, the massive Juneau Icefield is truly a symbol of nature’s magnificence!

Our fleet of 5 DeHavilland Otters has a unique history that is highly regarded by the pilots that fly them, the mechanics that care for them and the guests that admire them. These aircraft were manufactured between 1951-1967. Between 2004 and 2008 our fleet underwent conversions from the original Pratt & Whitney R-1340 piston engine to the Garrett TPE331-10 turboprop engine. With the new 900 horsepower engine the aircraft’s performance and versatility substantially increased. Canadian built to operate in a rugged bush environment, 350 of 466 produced served in military organizations around the world, with the US army being the largest operator with a fleet total of 190. Today, Otters are in high demand worldwide with the vast majority based in Canada and Alaska.

Share Your Adventure!

#IflewWINGS

Share your incredible adventure in Alaska with family and friends by posting photos of your trip on Facebook or Instagram and using the hashtag #IflewWINGS.

Every April and October we’ll hold a contest for which photo with #IflewWINGS has the most likes. The winner will receive a $300 Visa Gift Card!

On behalf of the entire Wings Airways & Taku Lodge Family we wish you a fantastic flight!

www.wingsairways.com
TBMP 35. Routes and Aircraft Identifiers

Coastal Helicopters flies tour routes established in the Juneau Area Operators Airspace Letter of Agreement (LOA).

Coastal Helicopters bases it route choice on weather, turbulence and traffic. On most days Coastal Helicopters uses the “Auke Bay” departure and arrival routes listed in the LOA.

Coastal Helicopters aircraft are solid yellow. Coastal Helicopters has 2 aircraft that are not solid yellow, both are rarely used for tour flights, one is a white and black 206BIII and the other is an orange and black H125.
TBMP 35. Routes and Aircraft Identifiers.

- All established tour routes for NorthStar Helicopters can be found on the Juneau Area Commercial Operators LOA. Current revision number 26 can be found with the following link [https://sites.google.com/site/juneauloa/](https://sites.google.com/site/juneauloa/).
- NorthStar’s route choices are based on weather (cloud ceiling, visibility, turbulence, precipitation, etc.), traffic, destination, and any other environmental factors that may affect the safety of the flight. From our base on the airport NorthStar’s preferred routes are the Auke Bay route and the Blackerby route. When weather does not allow for either of these routes, we will utilize the Mendenhall route. From our Douglas island base, we utilize the downtown route as well as the Salmon creek route.
- NorthStar has a fleet of 10 aircraft. 5 primarily being flown from each of the two bases. All aircraft typically flying from the airport are Dark Blue with Light Blue and Yellow trim. Currently three aircraft flying from the Douglas base are the same Blue with light blue and yellow trim and the remaining two aircraft are Red, Black and White.
TBMP 35. Routes & Aircraft Identifiers

- Established flight routes (arrivals and departures) are found in the Juneau Area Operators Airspace LOA. They are the only routes Temsco will fly for tour flights.
- Routes choice is based on weather, turbulence, traffic or any other environmental aspects that may affect an aircraft. Temsco’s primary route choice on good weather days is the “Steep Creek” arrival / departure. When this route is unavailable due to factors listed above, we may elect to use one of the other arrival/ departure routes listed in the LOA.
- Temsco helicopters have a silver canopy on red fuselage.