



SKYCLASS AVIATION

"Flying on silver wings"

The Douglas DC-3 Dakota



On 17 December 1935, at Santa Monica, California, an aircraft, designed by Arthur Raymond, took to the skies. That aircraft was model number three of the Douglas Commercial Transports. Time would show that a wonderful relationship was about to begin between man and the aircraft that had just got airborne.

The Douglas DC-3 was one of the first aeroplanes to be put into service with most of the major airlines after World War Two, including South African Airways. After the end of hostilities in the Far East a number of SAAF C-47 "Dakota" aircraft were transferred to SAA. They were soundproofed and fitted out with 21 seats for airline service. The Dakota served with SAA for nearly a quarter of a century, providing reliable service on all the internal and regional sectors. When retired from SAA service the "Daks" were sold to the SAAF.

The main task nowadays of our DC-3s is a leisurely one, taking passengers on low-level nostalgia trips, specifically safaris throughout Southern Africa to exotic places like the Victoria Falls. Scenic Sunday Sparkling Wine Flips are extremely popular giving passengers a low-level view of Johannesburg and its environs.

As a very warm and comfortable aeroplane, the DC-3 has always been at the forefront in the area of passenger comfort and this is evident when one steps on board.

Durable, reliable, responsive, dependable – these are the traits that make the DC-3 one of the most respected and loved aircraft the world has ever known.



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