

The Helicopter Trial Flight Guide

Congratulations!

This is your first step into the wonderful
World of Aviation.

Your personal invitation to experience the
pleasure of being airborne.

Ruth Downey

Nothing in this manual supersedes any legislation, rules, regulations or procedures contained in any operational document issued by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, the Civil Aviation Authority, the Joint Aviation Authorities, ICAO, the manufacturers of aircraft, engines and systems, or by the operators of aircraft throughout the world.

The Helicopter Trial Flight Guide - Ruth Downey

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The Helicopter School

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Ruth Downey - Helicopter Instructor

Introduction

The average helicopter pilot may be completely biased, but views helicopter flight as the most compelling and addictive form of aviation. Many pilots started their own career with a helicopter Trial Lesson and quickly found themselves completely absorbed, and unable to talk about anything else. If you have received a Trial Lesson as a gift, or you are interested in the possibility of taking up flying training, you are sure to remember the first time you boarded a helicopter and the thrill of taking the controls yourself.

Generally, if you have never experienced any form of aviation, the first steps towards taking a trial flight, (which is actually an early flying lesson) may be daunting. You will be boarding a small helicopter with unfamiliar instrumentation, after a briefing from an experienced flight instructor... this book hopefully will go some way to explaining what you should expect, both from the flight and from your chosen flight training organisation.

The Lesson itself will consist of a short lecture, sometimes called a 'briefing', typically using white board and associated props. This will explain what will happen in the air,

the effects of controls, and some general safety aspects, followed by a flight with your instructor. To enjoy your flight to the full, it is helpful to appreciate what is going on around you, both in the cockpit and outside. After a brief study of this book, you should be able to sit in the pilot's seat, recognise some of the instruments and understand what the controls do. It will not be necessary to learn every principle covered in this book; whatever questions you have can be covered thoroughly by your instructor on the day. Like most other industries, there are certain phrases that will trip off the instructor's tongue, that may sound alien. Remember, the only stupid question is the one you don't ask. Please also ensure to read the chapter entitled "The Day of the Flight" for some helpful tips before you arrive at the Training Centre.

Do not feel that you are already committing yourself to learn to fly, the main aim of the Trial Lesson should be to enjoy yourself. If however you do wish to take the experience further, you will find the recommendations on gaining your own Private Pilot's Licence and useful contact addresses at the end of this book. The course consists of a minimum of 45 hours flight training, and the good news is that your trial lesson may be logged as part of your flight training.