

Welcome to



TOWNSVILLE FLIGHT TRAINING







Welcome!

Townsville Flight Training (TFT) is a Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) authorised pilot training facility with a focus on producing world-class commercial pilots.

We are located at Townsville's international airport - just 10 minutes from the city centre - and operate out of a private hangar with newly renovated facilities and plenty of free parking. Utilising an open area within the airport with a private run-up bay, we can reduce ground time to maximise your flying.

We have a wealth of expertise behind us, between CFI Dean Tierney's extensive experience as a flight instructor, Chief Pilot Shannon Samarasekera's background as a multi-engine charter pilot out west, and owner Dick Arnold's 30+ years in the aviation industry.





Our fleet of aircraft are of outstanding quality - we only use modern aircraft - and our machines are kept in great condition for use in both training and commercial work. On-site aircraft engineers keep us flying safely, and ensure that we have high aircraft availability for our operations.

Students at TFT also have the rare opportunity to experience the workings of our commercial charter company ZephAir Australia providing invaluable industry experience from day one of your training.

We train students from all over Australia and beyond, and from all different backgrounds, age groups and experience.

Our small class numbers allow students to form great relationships with our team and each other and helps us achieve our goal of training students to a level superior to their peers.





Why train in Townsville?

You're ready to start flight training but where should you go? With training facilities across Australia, what advantages are there to training in Townsville?

The simple answer is that Townsville offers the perfect training ground for budding pilots.

Townsville boasts an average of 320 days of sunshine annually which means our students spend more time in the air and less time looking at the radar. And with less congestion than capital city airports, training in Townsville makes it easier to get the required flight hours under your belt as efficiently as possible.

Having our own designated training area adjacent to the airport also means students get the maximum amount of time in each lesson leaning about the lesson sequences to be covered and don't waste a minute in transit.

Townsville also gives you the chance to gain valuable experience operating in both controlled and non-controlled airspace and offers the full range of instrument procedures so maximum value for flight training is achieved.



Planning flights in and around controlled and restricted airspace at Townsville gives our students the critical skills to fly to into other large, controlled airports. Once students have demonstrated their ability to communicate, make decisions and maintain situational awareness, we regularly have students flying into Cairns, Mackay and Hamilton Island to challenge themselves.

During navigation training, students get to enjoy the spectacular landscape that surrounds our region, including coastal, outback and mountainous scenery that makes for a great learning environment.

Flying around Townsville involves managing traffic separation with a variety of aircraft types and safely conducting flights in some challenging weather conditions during our wet season. This experience is considered very favourable with charter employers.

We have a diverse range of students from around Australia who relocate to Townsville to enjoy the uniquely complex training environment, relaxed lifestyle and picture-perfect weather.



Program Features

Commercial Operations with ZephAir Australia

As a student at TFT, you will have the unique training experience of seeing how a commercial operation works on a day-to-day level through our charter company ZephAir Australia, giving you valuable experience before you enter the workforce.

On-site Aircraft Engineering

We are very privileged to have experienced licensed aviation maintenance engineers located on-site who are more than happy to provide valuable insight to our students during their studies. Studying Aircraft General Knowledge in a classroom is one thing, but having this first hand expertise available really takes it to another level!

Aviation Theory

We know that helping students gain a proper understanding of aviation theory is just as important as flight training, and run full time PPL and CPL theory courses on-site throughout the year as well as offering private tutoring sessions with our knowledgeable instructors.





Air Traffic Control Visits

Townsville Flight Training enjoy a great relationship with our local Air Force run Air Traffic Control. Each intake will visit the Tower to meet the team you otherwise only communicate with over the radio.

Guest Speakers & Industry Networking

Townsville Flight Training offer guidance on career pathways to all students, and utilise our industry connections to connect graduates with employers. We also regularly invite guest speakers from across the industry to speak to our students and provide inspiration.



Work Experience (ICUS)

Selected advanced students undertaking MEIR training are invited to gain real world charter experience during and after their studies with ZephAir Australia Aircraft Charters.



Social Activities

It's not all hard work! Townsville Flight Training regularly organise BBQs, 'fishing shirt Fridays', tickets to the footy, and student social events throughout the term.





Team Fly-Aways

Past and present students are periodically invited to participate in an action-packed fly-away weekend trip and take in some of North Queensland's most spectacular and hard-to-reach destinations.

In 2021 Townsville Flight Training students and staff went on an epic 3-day trip taking in Pentland, Winton, Hughenden, Porcupine Gorge and Undara Lava Tubes.

Where will the next fly-away take you!

Aviatrix Australia

Aviatrix was started right here at Hangar 85, and in partnership with Townsville Flight Training, Townsville Helicopters & ZephAir Australia are choosing to challenge the status quo by advocating for the advancement of women in aviation.

Women's participation in the aviation sector is low, with currently just over 7% of certified civilian pilots being females. Aviatrix Australia hopes to inspire, encourage and support more women to join the industry.





The Fleet

We pride ourselves on the quality of our training fleet, with well-maintained, industry-ready aircraft. We have carefully selected aircraft for our fleet that are beneficial both to our students, and us as a general charter company. Training in our aircraft greatly increases your chances of finding work with a company with the same aircraft - giving you the edge over other candidates.



Single Engine

Cessna C172S

Our late-model Cessna 172S Skyhawks are an American-built four seat, 180 hp, high wing single engine aircraft with a fixed tricycle undercarriage. This is one of the most successful aircraft models ever built and is popular for private use and pilot training.

This aircraft is used for the majority of our flight training - from RPL to CPL. Our aircraft have low hours, and are very forgiving (an excellent feature for student pilots). Capable of night flights, the C172S is fuel-injected and has a cruising speed of 110 knots.

Cessna C172S G1000

The same aircraft features as above, except this model is equipped GPS and with Garmin G1000 'glass cockpit' avionics and GFC 700 Automatic Flight Control system (AFCS) - the same technology and logic as used in commercial airliners. Training in this aircraft helps develop essential skills and knowledge for our students' future careers.

Cessna C182

The Cessna 182 is an American-built four seat aircraft with constant speed propeller and state-of-the-art Garmin avionics. Training in a complex aircraft is essential for completing Commercial pilot training and our 182 offers this. This aircraft is also suitable for Instrument Flying and features airbags, 2 axis autopilot, a 230HP 6 cylinder engine and has a cruising speed of 130 knots.



Multi-Engine

Beechcraft BE58 Baron

The Beechcraft BE58 Baron is a high performance, 6 seat twin engine aircraft capable of cruising at 350 km/h, equipped with 2 IO-520, 6 Cylinder Continental engines capable of producing 285 HP each. The Baron offers a high payload and reduced flight times, making it a very popular aircraft for charter operators in Australia. Equipped with a reliable and modern Garmin avionics suite, the aircraft is adequately equipped for operations in nearly all weather conditions. Due to its popularity in the Australian charter industry, the Baron makes for an ideal training aircraft ensuring students are industry ready on completion of their course.

Piper PA31 Navajo

The Piper Navajo is an advanced twin-engine aircraft purposefully built for passenger and/or freight charter. The PA31 Navajo is one of the most popular charter aircraft in Australia - with proven performance and reliability. Our Navajo is equipped with modern avionics which are perfect for training and remarkably efficient for charter operations. Equipped with aircon and heating along with spacious seating, the Navajo keeps the cabin at a comfortable temperature to provide a sound learning environment for the students.

FRASCA RTD Simulator

The FRASCA Reconfigurable Training Device (RTD) is a feature rich Advanced Aviation Training Device (AATD) that combines FRASCA quality with real-world affordability. The RTD can be reconfigured to convert to different aircraft models including the Piper PA44 Seminole and the Cessna 172. The durable design and easy maintenance makes the RTD a reliable training tool.





What's the next step?

Ready to go? Contact Townsville Flight Training on 07 4772 4997 and we'll help you get started.

We understand that choosing your flight training provider is a big decision so if you have any questions please get in touch - we're happy to help! If you're in town you can also arrange to pop out to our hangar to have a tour of the facilities and meet the team.

Would you like to experience flying before joining a course? Townsville Flight Training conducts Trial Introductory Flights (TIF) where you get to undertake your first lesson called 'effects of controls' and actually fly an aeroplane.





TOWNSVILLE **FLIGHT TRAINING**

The whole team at Townsville Flight Training looks forward to assisting you in becoming a Commercial Pilot. Please get in touch if you have any questions or would like to get started!

07 4772 4997

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