


Ten Places Pilots Love

From Nantucket to Key West to the San Juan Islands, read about 10 spectacular U.S. destinations for small-aircraft pilots, plus find tips on how to get there and local attractions you won't want to miss.





Some recreational pilots learned to fly before they learned to drive a car. Others of us waited until later in life, after making our way through college or raising a family.

All of us share a love for the freedom of flight.

In days past, flying may have been less expensive and less complicated. But with careful planning, innovative tools and well-honed skills, the adventures are only beginning. Your pilot's license is your ticket to freeing experiences, like descending above breaching whales in the Pacific, camping under your wing on a Great Lakes island, accessing the slopes of the Rocky Mountains or sport fishing in crystal Caribbean waters.

We asked aviation experts about their must-see places to fly. Read about ten spectacular destinations that reconnect small aircraft pilots with the love of flying. And let us help you get there.

The heyday of flying is now.

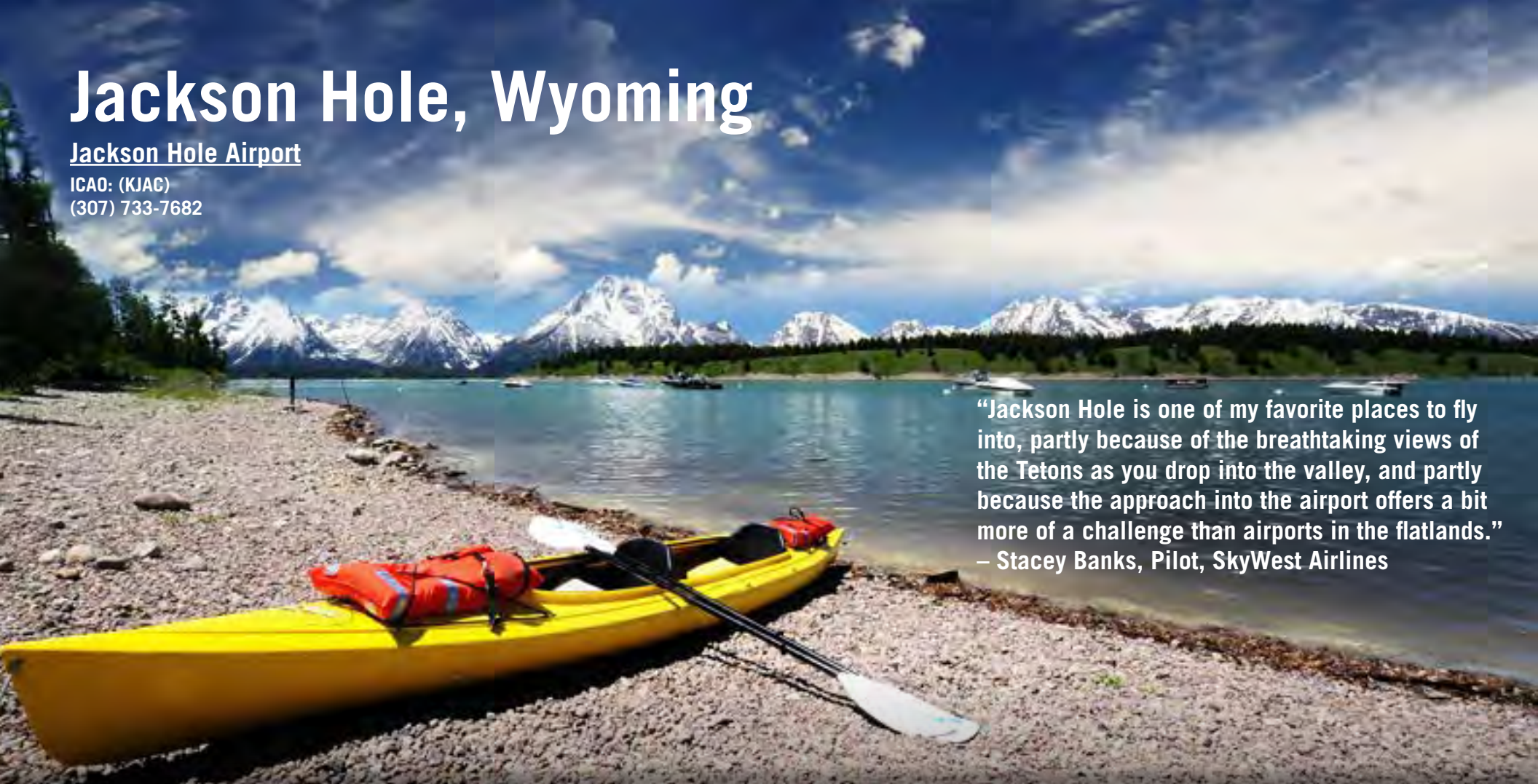
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Jackson Hole, Wyoming

Jackson Hole Airport

ICAO: (KJAC)
(307) 733-7682



“Jackson Hole is one of my favorite places to fly into, partly because of the breathtaking views of the Tetons as you drop into the valley, and partly because the approach into the airport offers a bit more of a challenge than airports in the flatlands.”
– Stacey Banks, Pilot, SkyWest Airlines

Starting with the descent straight into the heart of Grand Teton National Park, a trip to Jackson Hole is pure adventure. In winter, ski Jackson Hole Mountain Resort. At 4,139 feet, the tram boasts the greatest continuous vertical drop of any ski area in the U.S. In summer, take the tram to the Top of the World hiking trail for amazing views of the Tetons. You can fish for the unique fine-spotted Snake River cutthroat trout, or for an extra adrenaline boost, raft the river. After a day of wilderness exertion, relax and catch some live country western music at the Million Dollar Cowboy, an iconic outpost of Wild West Americana.

Mobile FliteDeck VFR Tip

When flying in high-altitude conditions, your data-driven charts will allow you to view the area chart and the airport diagram in one view without needing an Internet connection. No need to toggle back and forth – it's all right there.

Telluride, Colorado

Telluride Regional Airport

ICAO: (KTEX)
(970) 728-8600

“This is a very high-altitude airport, and you simply must calculate its effect on your aircraft, especially given variable weather in extreme mountainous terrain.”
– Alton Marsh, Senior Editor, *AOPA Pilot*

Nestled in the San Juan Mountains of Southern Colorado, Telluride is known for a box canyon and short runway with steep drop-offs that make landing tricky. If you're up to the task, there's a wealth of year-round attractions to enjoy. Take in alpine views and aquamarine lakes and hike pristine trails like Bear Creek Falls, which takes you to a cascading waterfall with views of the surrounding 14,000-foot peaks. If you're traveling in June or September, get your groove on at the Telluride Bluegrass and Telluride Blues & Brews festivals. Venturing out in winter? A gondola whisks skiers to St. Sophia Station at 10,500+ feet for a 2,000-foot ride to town.

Mobile FliteDeck 2.1 Tip

For high workload times such as a demanding alpine landing, you can configure Mobile FliteDeck to automatically switch to the 10-9 chart, or airport diagram, so you don't have to do it manually.

Door County, Wisconsin

Washington Island Airport

FAA LID: (2P2)
(920) 847-2147

“Washington Island is a perfect place to visit by air. You can land on two grass runways at a pretty little airport that’s ‘north of the stress line,’ and camping is allowed on the airfield under the wing of the plane.”

– Adam Smith, Senior Vice President, Center to Advance the Pilot Community, AOPA

This oasis of thick pine forest and rocky outcroppings sits between Lake Michigan and Green Bay, a perfect place to relax and explore away from the hustle and bustle. Take the trolley from the airport to Schoolhouse Beach, a beautiful strip of smooth stones along a sheltered cove, and enjoy water sports and bicycling trails, golf courses and a classic drive-in movie theater. The area’s known for tart Door County cherries, so don’t leave without an old fashioned slice of pie from Sweetie Pies. You can also take a ferry to neighboring islands, but first try the steak and shrimp at Sailor’s Pub.

Mobile FliteDeck v2.1

It’s easy to plan your overwater flight across Lake Michigan and determine your distance from shore. Mobile FliteDeck has an at-a-glance distance calculator and, when own-ship is enabled, “off” position distance is calculated automatically.

Grand Canyon, Arizona

Grand Canyon West Airport

ICAO: (K1G4)
(928) 769-2627

“Flying over the 277-mile-long, 6,000-foot-deep Grand Canyon, the strata below reveal eons of geologic history dating to far before dinosaurs walked the Earth. The magnitude of the Grand Canyon can only truly be appreciated from the air.”

— John Kounis, Editor in Chief, *Pilot Getaways Magazine*

Could there be anything cooler than piloting your way into the Grand Canyon, one of the seven natural wonders of the world? After landing immediately adjacent to the rim you have a playground of diversions at your disposal. Walk the Rim Trail, do an overnight backpacking trip or if you'd rather raft than hike, reserve a spot with a whitewater outfitter. Try a 3- to 21-day trip, or opt for a half-day “smooth-water” trip. If you prefer a bed to a tent, stay at one of the historic lodges, such as the Thunderbird, and for a dose of culture, visit the Tusayan Museum and Ruins near Desert View.

Mobile FliteDeck VFR Tip

See best-in-class, optimized vector image rendering. Tap on special notes and dynamically zoom in or out to see detailed information regarding the airspace around the Grand Canyon.

San Juan Islands, Washington

Orcas Island Airport

ICAO: (KESD)
(360) 376-5285

“If you come and camp on the airfield, you have an ocean view. We have 21 spaces and a grass tie-down area and shower. At \$6 a night, it’s the cheapest place to stay on the island.”
– Bea vonTobel, Airport Manager, Orcas Island Airport



Have you ever sat amid the waves in a sea kayak and watched humpback whales breach before you? At Orcas Island, that’s the type of ocean wildlife adventure you can expect. Following the thrill of flying over the Pacific to land on a horseshoe-shaped island 80 nautical miles northwest of Seattle, walk 10 minutes to town or rent a moped or bicycle for easy exploring. Outfitters like Orcas Island Eclipse Charters will take you whale and bird watching, and Orcas Boat Rentals will set you up with a powerboat or sailboat if you prefer to be the master of your own excursion.

Mobile FliteDeck 2.1 Tip

Instead of using color inversion, which makes it hard to tell where terrain ends and water begins, Jeppesen’s Night Theme utilizes a specific color palette that’s similar to that used on avionics displays and provides for much clearer viewing.

Nantucket, Massachusetts

Nantucket Memorial Airport

ICAO: (KACK)
(508) 325-5300

“Nantucket was the setting for the 1990s series *Wings* and the movie *Jaws*, so it’s a pretty storied place.”

– Sean Collins, Eastern Regional Manager, AOPA

Famous for the fog that blankets the Atlantic and is known to cause pilots to lose the horizon, Nantucket keeps pilots on their toes. But once you’ve smoothly landed, enjoy a cornucopia of delicious seafood and ocean views, shipwrecks, serious sport fishing and beaches. For a quaint alternative to the local hotels, stay at Seven Sea Street Inn, a bed and breakfast near the harbor known for its freshly made breakfasts. Then walk along the beach from town to Brant Point Lighthouse, the second oldest light station in the country.

***Mobile FliteDeck 2.1* Tip**

Mobile FliteDeck lets you highlight anywhere on a terminal chart. Highlight taxi instructions or taxiways you need to take at an unfamiliar airport or other important information on your approach chart.

Owls Head, Maine

Knox County Regional Airport

ICAO: (KRRD)

(207) 594-4131

“Owls Head is a relatively small but active general aviation airport that’s home to the Owls Head Transportation Museum. They have a great collection of ‘flyable’ antique aircraft that a volunteer crew keeps in tip-top working order.”

– Sean Collins, Eastern Regional Manager, AOPA

Anyone who’s been to Maine knows its rugged shorelines and lush forests are unparalleled. Flying into Owls Head gives you access to camping and day hikes at Owls Head State Park, where a famous lighthouse constructed in 1825 has inspired local legends. (In one, the lightkeeper rescued two lovers from a wrecked schooner and the pair later married.) In this romantic coastal town, be sure to hit Home Kitchen Café for brunch – lobster tacos are a favorite – and for dinner try Primo, known for its creative entrees, like the rabbit shoulder and ricotta stuffed inside a chive crepe.

Mobile FliteDeck VFR Tip

Flying mode gives you an own-ship position icon that increases your situational awareness during your route.

An aerial photograph of Bay Bridge Airport, Maryland. In the foreground, a yellow and blue seaplane with the registration N164SC is on the water. The airport's runway and taxiway are visible, extending from a grassy area into the water. In the background, there are buildings, a marina with many sailboats, and a body of water.

Bay Bridge, Maryland

Bay Bridge Airport

ICAO: (KW29)
(410) 643-4364

“The approach from the west is great, as you’re flying over the water right next to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. It’s a shorter and narrower runway than most, so a pilot needs to be sharp on their skills to avoid an overrun into the bay.”
– Aaron Pifer, Aviation Technical Specialist, AOPA

First, make sure you understand the DC-area flight restrictions and prepare for congestion due to arrivals into Baltimore Washington International. Once you’re clear, fly into Bay Bridge early enough to spend the morning on a fishing charter to catch some rock fish (striper), and afterwards grab a crab cake sandwich at Hemingway’s at a table right on the water. Founded in 1850 as a steamboat terminal, the town of Stevensville also offers up treats for history and architecture buffs: some 100 quaint buildings that date back to the town’s early days.

Mobile FliteDeck 2.1 Tip

Mobile FliteDeck allows you to see the Washington, D.C. SFRA, helping you avoid this highly restricted area – and stay out of serious trouble. Also, the distance measurement tool provides range rings that help calculate approximate distance between two points on the enroute map, so you can spend more time flying and less time looking down to interact with the app.

California's Sonoma Valley Wine Country

Charles M. Schulz – Sonoma County Airport

ICAO: (KSTS)

(707) 565-7240



“The runways share the single end of a V-shape, so pilots need to make sure they’re operating on the correct runway before takeoff or landing.”

– Christopher L. Freeze, Aviation Technical Writer, AOPA

Flying into Santa Rosa allows for off-the-beaten-path experiences, starting with greetings from the likes of Charlie Brown and Snoopy. (The terminal is dedicated to the creator of *Peanuts*.) Check out the Pacific Coast Air Museum in Santa Rosa or head to Sonoma wine country for tastings at top vintners like Chateau St. Jean, if you’re not flying later that day, of course. Or go golfing at the spectacular Mayacama Club, known for more than 200 courses on sun-kissed hills dotted with oaks, steep ravines and overgrown creeks – all carefully planned to encourage an aerial game surrounded by natural beauty.

Mobile FliteDeck VFR Tip

If you need to stop for fuel or land due to bad weather, the “Nearest Airport” button will automatically display the necessary information.

Key West, Florida

Key West International Airport

ICAO: (KEYW)
(305) 809-5200

“It’s a beautiful flight down if you do it during the day. Low-level flying following the highway down should be a definite on every aviator’s résumé of flights.”
– Aaron Pifer, Aviation Technical Specialist, AOPA

For a small island, Key West offers a diverse array of attractions. Think bright white beaches, crystalline turquoise water and deep-sea fishing, plus the historic home of Ernest Hemingway, which is now a museum that memorializes the writer’s most prolific decade. If you’re there at the right time you can even attend the annual Hemingway Days festival, where participants dress like the author. Just 90 miles from Cuba, the island is infused with a rich cultural heritage reflected in its cuisine and cocktails. Grab coffee at the Cuban Coffee Queen and hit Santiago’s Bodega for tapas. Take note: fuel can be pricey here, so be sure to bring enough with you.

Mobile FliteDeck VFR Tip

Enhanced situational awareness makes it easy to avoid controlled areas like R-2916, which protects an unmarked customs surveillance balloon northeast of Key West. (Resting at 14,000 feet, the balloon’s cable once sliced the wing off a Cessna 182.) Follow your flight route with a spotter or own-ship position view and moving map for enroute charts using the built-in GPS.

We understand that recreational pilots are driven to unplug, to smooth out the edges of daily life by seeing the big picture from far above. That's why Jeppesen consults pilots like you to meticulously develop our digital solutions. Intuitive, precise and easy to use, these tools are meant to augment your well-honed skills in the cockpit – not dictate how you fly or serve as a distraction. Let us make flying simpler and more enjoyable.

Jeppesen Digital Solutions

Reconnect with the Joy of Flying

We create our own charts from scratch, take nothing for granted and error-check every chart we make with up to 16 data-verifying calculations – all designed to ensure that you can worry less and fly more. We apply the same exacting, rigorous quality control measures to the development and testing of our digital solutions products, providing pilots with the high-quality solutions they've come to expect from Jeppesen.

Both Mobile FliteDeck VFR and Mobile FliteDeck 2.1 bring together an intuitive application with integrated, data-driven JeppView®* charts, the highest quality data in the industry.

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About Mobile FliteDeck VFR

Precise, fast and fun, Mobile FliteDeck VFR is affordable at just \$49 per year. Get a seamless, data-driven vector depiction of the best navigational information available, eliminate the need to switch from enroute to taxi on more than 400 towered GA airports and more.

About Mobile FliteDeck 2.1

Mobile FliteDeck 2.1 continues to offer the features you love – like previewing charts, adding them to a clip and accessing them easily. Version 2.1 also offers the ability to see own-ship position on terminal procedures with a Jeppesen-mandated accuracy requirement, and has the ability to auto-switch to the airport diagram automatically upon landing and more.

Visit the Digital Solutions page to view a list of Mobile FliteDeck VFR and 2.1 capabilities and learn how to purchase.

About Jeppesen

We're constantly building on our nearly 80-year history helping professionals reach their destinations safely and efficiently. We offer an ever-expanding portfolio of innovative products, services and software – not only to our air transportation partners, but to our sea and land transportation partners. Headquartered in Englewood, Colorado, we have offices at nearly 50 locations around the world, and we're backed by the expertise and resources of our parent, the Boeing Company.

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