

Urgent Press-Release

July 23, 2003



From Berlin to Gibraltar

An original DC-3 'Dakota', built in 1944, which formerly belonged to the Royal Air Force and flew the Berlin blockade in 1947, takes off in Berlin on Sept. 8 and brings in travellers as well as important press from Germany to Gibraltar for a one week long trip, flying all over Europe.

The trip will commence in Berlin on Sept. 8, via Augsburg, Perpignan, Valencia, Almeria, Tangier to Gibraltar, and back home via Tangier, Almeria, Palma, Marseille, Zurich, Augsburg and Berlin.

On September 10 and 11, Gibraltarians, friends of classic airplanes as well as tourists also have the chance to fly for about twenty minutes in the plane around the Rock and along the coast.

Marc Hertling and his wife Petra, who organized this classic adventure and air safari, with their company Hertling & Partner, and in association with Classic & Adventure Tours (Gibraltar) Ltd, have been long time visitors in Gibraltar. Says

Petra Hertling: "We have seen the positive changes over all the years, and we thought: Why shouldn't it be possible, with all the Germans holidaying at the Costa del Sol, to organize adventure trips to Gibraltar?" First they thought about weekend trips from Germany to Gibraltar, but that is something they are focusing on now for next year.

But when they met Captain Frank Hellberg, who with his Air Service Berlin owns the only DC-3 'Dakota' in Germany, the idea became crystal clear: "With all its history we make a classic historical trip - a safari - in the DC-3 'Dakota' to Gibraltar." Not an inexpensive trip, but something that was never done before in Germany. "We wanted to be the first to make Gibraltar a regular tourist destination for Germans," says Marc Hertling.

"What we noticed over the years," continues Petra Hertling, "is that German tourists usually come into Gibraltar with tourist buses in the

morning. Then, while being in Gibraltar, they buy their duty free goods, do the Rock tour, and go back to their respective homes or Hotels at the Costa del Sol. But they never experience the richness of Gibraltar, which is unparalleled. It's history is still a mystery to most of them. We want to show that Gibraltar is not just apes on the Rock, liquor and St. Michael's Cave."

So only three months ago the idea became reality. They started work on the trip, planned out the route with Frank Hellberg and probably the best pilot in Germany, Heinz-Dieter Kallbach (he was the guy who landed a four engine Ilyushin on a 700 meter long cornfield 14 years ago!), and decided 'Let's go for it'. Partnered in Germany with Porsche Berlin, who promote the trip as well, and the suitcase company Rimowa, who produce specially made classic aluminium suitcases for the trip, the first German press-releases went out in early June, 2003. And the response from magazines and newspapers alike was great, says Marc Hertling. "For first-timers in the tourist-business we were overwhelmed with the response to trip, also from the press."

The DC-3 will leave Berlin in the morning of September 8, arriving in the afternoon of Sept. 9 in Gibraltar. In Gibraltar special arrangement was made with the people from the Caleta Hotel. Departure from Gibraltar is September 12, via Palma, Marseille and Zurich back to Berlin.

While grounded in Gibraltar, on September 10 and 11, short trips with the DC-3 are offert. The plane will take off from the Rock and fly along

the Spanish and African coast (bear in mind that the DC-3 will not fly over Spanish territory to avoid complaints from the Spanish government).

The flights will be about twenty minutes long. Tourists as well as Gibraltarians are invited to experience the classic way of flying themselves. Tickets for the half hour trip cost 69.00 pounds or 99.00 Euros. They are being sold at the Gibraltar Airport as well as in certain shops in Gibraltar, and on the Internet at

www.classic-adventure-tours.com

On both days the plane will take off at 11.00 a.m., 12.30 p.m., 2.00 p.m., 3.30 p.m. and 5.00 p.m.

Says Marc Hertling: "We also would like to thank John Gonçalves of the Gibraltar Terminal Management as well as Wing Commander Clive Blunt from the Royal Air Force who have been very helpful and supportive to our idea. And not to forget our German friend Claus with his restaurant "Claus on the Rock" and Roy Ballestero from Calypso Tours, who had a helping hand in many aspects."

Petra and Marc Hertling promise Gibraltar one thing: "We will come back next year with the DC-3."

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Pictures from the plane and the team can be downloaded at the homepage www.classic-adventure-tours.com or sent by request via email or CD-Rom.