



Frequently Asked Questions

How much is it?

Hang gliding lessons range from \$99 to \$249 each and single flights at Dockweiler can be purchased for \$25.

What is your most popular lesson?

Full Beach Lesson (7 flights). With gentle slopes, smooth winds, and soft sands it's not surprising to learn that most students choose this lesson over any other.

Will I get motion sickness?

If you get motion sickness when someone else is driving you along a winding road you may get motion sickness during a Mountain Tandem Lesson. The main occurrence of motion sickness is when students are looking down while the instructor is flying. There are some medications that may help with this. Ask your doctor what he recommends to help with motion sickness while you are flying. Your other option is to sign up for our most popular Full Beach Lesson.

What discounts do you offer?

For groups of five or more Full Beach Lessons we offer a substantial, per person discount. Keep in mind the regular rate still applies if less than five attend and complete the lesson.

For a serious student purchasing a package of five Full Beach Lessons to use for him/herself, we offer a \$100 discount. This also increases the minimum of 10 flights per lesson instead of 7 and Mountain Tandem Lessons are offered at \$99 off the regular \$249.

If you decide you are committed to hang gliding training and purchase your hang gliding equipment from Windsports, then you will qualify for our "Equipment Purchase Plan." This plan requires that the student make a one time \$2000 deposit on equipment and pay the balance once all equipment is received. As soon as the deposit is received, the student is offered the Full Beach Lessons at \$50 off the regular \$160 per person and includes a minimum of 10 flights per lesson instead of 7 and Mountain Tandem Lessons are offered at \$64 off the regular \$249.

How much does equipment cost?

Hang gliding equipment consists of a minimum of 6 items: Hang Glider, Harness, Helmet, Reserve Parachute, Airspeed Indicator, and Wheels. The price range for properly maintained, used to new equipment is between \$2800-\$6000. If you would like a breakdown of costs please send an email inquiry to windsports@earthlink.net and we will happily send it to you.

How much does it cost to complete the training course?

The average cost is between \$2400 and \$3800 depending on whether you pay for one lesson at a time or purchase a [New Pilot Package](#) or [Equipment Purchase Plan](#). If you would like a breakdown of costs please send an email inquiry to windsports@earthlink.net and we will happily send it to you.

How safe is hang gliding?

"Statistically, in the United States, hang gliding has a fatality rate of about one fatality per thousand participants per year. This rate is computed for regularly participating pilots beyond the student level, and is based on all fatal accidents reported divided by the number of pilots who participate on a regular basis. This is about five times greater a statistical rate than traveling in an automobile, and it is comparable to other sports which are considered to be high risk. If all hang gliding participants are included in the denominator, the statistical rate is much lower, as fatalities are fairly rare among student pilots, and there are a significant number of student pilots who do not continue as regular participants beyond the student phase. Hang gliding shares with all other forms of aviation the inherent danger of being high above the ground. Anytime a pilot loses control of an aircraft, there is the potential to hit the ground at a high rate of speed, which is dangerous. There is no inherent reason for hang gliding to be any more dangerous than other forms of aviation, and there is one inherent reason why it can be safer. That reason is that in hang gliding, the pilot need depend only on his or her own decision making to control his or her level of safety. In other forms of aviation, you must always depend, to some degree, on other people. From a statistical standpoint, hang gliding is more dangerous than, for example, traveling by commercial airline. The reason for this is that the operation of commercial airlines is very tightly regulated by the government in order to ensure the safety of the public. Hang gliding is largely unregulated, so safety is up to each individual."

-Wills Wing Inc.

Do you have a weight requirement?

Yes. Students must weigh no more than 240 pounds to participate in our Beach Lessons and no more than 220 pounds to participate in our Mountain Tandem Lessons. In order to have effective control of the hang glider students must be at least 90 pounds.

Do you have a height requirement?

Yes. Students must be at least 4'11" tall to be able to lift a hang glider off the ground.

Is there a maximum age limit to learn to hang glide?

No. However, we have a height and weight limit as mentioned in the frequently asked questions above.

Do I need to be physically fit to hang glide?

No, but you may not have any physical or medical condition that would make it unsafe. As long as you meet our height and weight requirements and have average physical conditioning almost anyone can learn to hang glide. You can find our height and weight limits mentioned in the frequently asked questions above. The most difficult part is carrying the glider back up the hill during your beach lessons. It is also important to note that you will be required to fill out a medical release form before flying.

Can kids learn to hang glide?

Teens under 18 must be in the presence of a parent or legal guardian while engaged in a flight lesson.

Children must be at least 14 years of age (Special considerations may be made for kids at least 5 feet tall and 90 pounds or more).

Customers or parents will be asked to sign certain forms before flying, including a liability release and medical declaration.

Teen Program: If your teen seems serious about learning to hang glide after attending one lesson please call and ask about our teen program. In this program teens can learn for 1/2 the price off our daily rate for beach hang gliding lessons. This program is eligible for teens under 18 years of age.

What do you recommend to people that are afraid of heights?

One of our instructors used to be afraid of heights and he recommends starting at the beach first. The reason for this is you can stay low at first and then go higher as skills and confidence allows.

How long does it take to learn?

It takes an average of 25 lessons to complete our training course. Windsports recommends to plan on taking at least 1-2 lessons per week. At this rate, assuming weather is flyable each day you schedule, and you get done in the average number of lessons, it will take 3-4 months.

When can I train?

In Los Angeles, the weather is usually good for flying year round. WindSports' offers beginner slope lessons Wednesdays through Sundays and mountain instruction 7 days per week, year round.

How do I sign up?

The most convenient way is to book on our website. However, if you would rather book over the phone, you may do so with one of our qualified instructors during normal scheduling hours Tuesdays through Fridays from 10am to 6pm at (818)367-2430

Where are you located?

Windsports has two training locations:

- 1.) Dockweiler Beach Hang Gliding Park: 12500 Vista Del Mar, Los Angeles, CA 90293
- 2.) Sylmar Flight Park: 12584 Gridley Street, Sylmar, CA 91342

How long do lessons last?

Expect up to 4 hours for a full class of Full Beach Lessons.

Expect 2-3 hours for a Mountain Tandem Lesson (Includes drive time, glider setup, ground school, and flight)

How long is a Mountain Tandem Lesson Flight?

The flight varies between 10 and 30 minutes. Hang gliders don't have engines so we are unable to guarantee longer than 10 minutes. However, average tandem flights are about 20 minutes.

How many Mountain Tandem Lessons do you offer in a day?

In the Winter when the days are shorter we are able to handle two Mountain Tandem Lessons per day and in the Summer we are able to handle three to four per day.

How much does a hang glider weigh?

Our modern light-weight training gliders weigh about 50 pounds and with just a little bit of wind, they weigh nothing at all.

Do I need my own equipment?

No. Our standard lesson prices include the use of all equipment for Beach Lessons and Mountain Tandem Lessons, however an additional equipment rental will be required for the solo mountain portion of your training unless you use your own. We provide substantial discounts on lessons to students purchasing their equipment from Windsports Soaring Center.

When should I buy my own equipment?

Not until you are confident you are going to become a hang glider pilot. This usually takes a few lessons to discover. There are plenty of advantages to owning and training on your own equipment, including reduced lesson cost and quicker progress through the lessons.

What kind of equipment should I buy?

There are many factors to consider including size, weight, aptitude, your flying schedule, and your budget. It's important to involve your flight instructor in such an important decision.

Where can I buy equipment?

Windsports offers a wide selection of hang gliding equipment and accessories and many modern new and used gliders. To setup an appointment to discuss and look at equipment please send an email inquiry to windsports@earthlink.net and we will be happy to assist you.

What happens if the weather is bad?

Don't worry, if your instructor cancels your lesson due to bad weather full credit will be issued and your lesson will be rescheduled for another day.

Are your instructors certified?

Yes. Our flight instructors are certified by the United States Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association.

How long have you been training people to hang glide?

More than 40 years in Los Angeles.

Do I need a license to hang glide?

The USHPA (United States Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association) Pilot Proficiency Rating is required at most popular flying sites throughout the nation.

Once I become a pilot, where do I go to fly?

There are thousands of flying sites throughout the United States. In Los Angeles, we are fortunate to have more than a dozen popular flying locations within 90 miles: Sylmar, Palmdale, Tujunga, Pasadena, San Diego, Garlock, Santa Barbara, San Bernardino, Lake Elsinore, Hemet, Bakersfield, Ojai, and more...

Who will I fly with?

There's no shortage of friends to meet in hang gliding. Local hang gliding clubs provide access to flying sites, sponsor events, flying trips and contests, publish newsletters, and even get involved in local community service.

How long can a hang glider stay up in the air?

"It depends on your skill and on the weather conditions on that day.

On a good day, a reasonably skilled pilot can stay up for several hours at a time.

On some days, even the best pilots will only manage a flight of a few minutes duration."-Wills Wing Inc.

What do famous people have to say about hang gliding?

"It's probably one of the most beautiful things a man can do. You're just soaring in the sky like an eagle... It's less dangerous now. They say it's not as bad as racing cars and it's probably no more dangerous than riding a bicycle..."-Nicholas Cage (Actor)

"That was the greatest sensation I've ever experienced, even greater than winning the Super Bowl."
- Bob Chandler (Super Bowl Champion)

"Hang Gliding is one of the most exciting things I've ever done!"
- Richard Alarcon (California State Senator)