

## The Briefing

Our New Home's official. Australian Air Safaris has found a new home at Bankstown, NSW (just outside Sydney). Several factors make this a great move. The most significant being the close proximity to Sydney, Australia's most famous city. Now our international guests arriving into Australia, and waiting for final license sign off, can relax and enjoy the beauty of the Sydney Opera House, take a dinner cruise while passing underneath the Sydney Harbour Bridge or tan on the beach at Manly. From a pilot's point of view, the opportunity to fly at low altitude over the Sydney Harbour Bridge is too hard to resist. Down Under Winery Tour

A winery tour has been added to the schedule this year. Unlike most of our tours where you fly, stay the day, get up the next morning and fly again; this tour is different. We fly, stay two nights at each location and fly again on the third day. Not only is this much more relaxing, but the pilots get an opportunity to "savor a drop" of local fare as well. Daily options on the tour are a micro-brewery, a cheese and chocolate factory, horse carriage rides for the romantically inclined, kangaroo and koala petting, a haute cuisine cooking class for those who don't mind cooking while on vacation, and of course, lots and lots of great Aussie wines. Covering the wine regions of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, this tour promises to be an instant favorite. Not a wine drinker? There are enough activities to keep you entertained as well.

**ASIC DELAY** If you have never been to Australia but want to apply for a permanent license for future trips, then this message is for you. An Australian Special License is the closest thing to a non-expiring license issued by CASA (the Aussie version of the FAA). This license requires an international security background check (ASIC) which is processed upon your entry into Australia. This adds a couple of days on the front end of your tour for printing, laminating and mailing. If you are pressed for time and the extra days aren't an option for you, then a Certificate of Validation, a 90 day license, is what you will need. Details are on the website, or call the office and we will walk you through the options. English Proficiency Australia has come inline with the inter-national community and is now requiring that all pilots who wish to fly Down Under show proof of English proficiency. If your existing license does not show the words "English Proficiency," you will need to request an updated certificate from your governing agency prior to filing paperwork for an Australian license. Keep in mind that "Australianese" is a unique language and some of the colloquial expressions will have you scratching your head.