

ALPI AVIATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
BILL HARROP'S "ORIGINAL" BALLOON
SAFARIS



WHERE LEGENDS ARE LIFTED AND FUTURES TAKE FLIGHT

Issue No.001

Take to the skies
Become a Licensed
Hot Air Balloon Pilot

BILL HARROP'S "ORIGINAL" BALLOON SAFARIS – TRUSTED SINCE 1981



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From the Pilot in Command

Every flight begins long before the burners ignite. It starts with a calling — that quiet curiosity about how something so enormous and graceful can rise into the sky, guided only by wind and skill.

At Bill Harrop's "Original" Balloon Safaris, we've spent **more than four decades** sharing that magic with passengers from all over the world. Yet for me, the true privilege lies in teaching others to fly — to watch that spark of wonder turn into confidence, competence, and command.

Ballooning is both **art and discipline**. It requires **respect** for nature, an **understanding** of physics, and a **sense of adventure** that never fades. When a student pilot learns to read the wind, to trust their instruments, and to land with precision and grace, something remarkable happens: they don't just earn a licence — they become part of an ancient and noble tradition.

Our Balloon School was founded to uphold that **tradition** while preparing future pilots for the modern skies. We **train with purpose**, we **fly with integrity**, and we **carry forward the same values** that Bill Harrop instilled when he first launched from this very valley — professionalism, safety, and joy in flight.

So, whether you're chasing a lifelong dream or looking to build a career that takes you above the ordinary, you'll find your wings here. And when you do, you'll understand what I've always believed:

The best way to experience freedom is to create it yourself — one flight at a time.



Pilot in Command
Dale de Klerk

The Dream of Flight

IT STARTS WITH A SPARK — AND RISES WITH THE WIND.

For centuries, humankind has looked upward and wondered what it would feel like to drift with the wind. In ballooning, that dream becomes reality — quiet, graceful, and utterly free. At Bill Harrop's "Original" Balloon Safaris, we don't just fly balloons, we share the timeless magic of flight and inspire the next generation to take command of the skies.



"If you haven't flown with Bill Harrop's "Original" Balloon Safaris, you haven't ballooned."

Launch site: Skeerpoort

There's something timeless about the art of ballooning. The gentle rise, the rush of heat, the calm drift over the Magalies River Valley at sunrise. Now, that feeling can be more than a dream — it can be your profession.

For over four decades, Bill Harrop's "Original" Balloon Safaris has set the standard for safe, spectacular, and professional hot air ballooning in South Africa.

Our Balloon School continues that legacy, training the next generation of balloon pilots with precision, passion, and pride.

The School

LEARN FROM THE MASTERS OF THE SKY



Trained by the best to fly with the best - our pilots command commercial flights for Bill Harrop's "Original" Balloon Safaris, continuing a four-decade tradition of mastery in the air.

Our SACAA-approved Balloon School provides comprehensive pilot training for both Private Pilot Licence (PPL) and Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL) candidates.

Whether your dream is to **fly for pleasure** or to pursue a professional hot air balloon career, our training combines real-world flight experience with grounded theoretical knowledge.

Highlights:

- Over 40 years of operational excellence
- Training conducted in the scenic Magalies River Valley
- Instructors with decades of flight and instructional experience
- Safety-first culture built on precision and professionalism



Training Programmes



Learn the art, science, and spirit of balloon flight.

Becoming a hot air balloon pilot is more than just learning to fly — it's about mastering balance, weather, physics, and the poetry of motion. At Bill Harrop's "Original" Balloon Safaris Balloon School, our training is designed to take you from curiosity to competence, whether you're seeking your Private Pilot Licence (PPL) or advancing toward a Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL).

Our structured, SACAA-approved programmes combine hands-on experience with comprehensive ground instruction, ensuring every student develops both confidence and precision. Under the mentorship of some of South Africa's most experienced balloon pilots, you'll gain real-world understanding of navigation, meteorology, air law, and flight operations — all while flying over the breathtaking Magalies River Valley.

Each course is built on the same foundation that defines our company: safety, professionalism, and passion for flight. From your first inflation to your final check ride, you'll be guided, challenged, and inspired to become a true pilot in command.

Pilot Training Pathways



Private Pilot Licence (PPL)

Your introduction to the skies.

- Minimum age: 17 years
- Minimum 16 hours flight time (as per SACAA regulations)
- Theory modules: Air Law, Meteorology, Navigation, and Balloon Systems
- Supervised solo flights under instructor oversight



Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL)

Turn your passion into a career.

- Valid PPL and Class 1 medical required
- Minimum 50 hours total flight time
- Advanced navigation, meteorology, and operations training
- Prepares you for commercial balloon operations and tourism flight management



Conversion & Refresher Courses

Ideal for licensed pilots upgrading or renewing their credentials.

- Type conversions
- Flight reviews and revalidations
- Instructor upgrade programmes

NEW!

- Balloon Crew Training
- Specialised Dangerous Goods Training (certified)

What's Included



Everything you need to rise with confidence.

At Bill Harrop's "Original" Balloon Safaris Balloon School, your journey to the skies is guided every step of the way. We've designed a comprehensive training experience that blends hands-on flight instruction with in-depth theory, mentorship, and real operational exposure.

From the first pre-flight briefing to your final flight test, you'll receive all the tools, guidance, and support needed to become a confident and capable pilot. Our programme doesn't just teach you to fly — it prepares you to understand the weather, master the equipment, make sound decisions, and most importantly, respect the sky.

Every element of training reflects our 40-year legacy of excellence: a commitment to safety, professionalism, and authentic adventure. Here's what's included in your training experience.



Comprehensive Training and Support:

- Dual and solo flight instruction
- Ground school and theoretical modules
- Pre-flight briefings and safety drills
- Balloon rigging, inflation, and retrieval
- Examination and test preparation
- Certificate of Completion

Optional Add-Ons (at additional costs):

- Accommodation and transport arrangements
- Medical assessment guidance
- Licence renewal assistance

Entry Requirements

Not everyone is meant to command a balloon, and that's exactly what makes the journey so rewarding. At Bill Harrop's "Original" Balloon Safaris Balloon School, we take pride in maintaining the highest training standards, ensuring that every candidate who joins our programme has both the aptitude and the attitude to succeed.

All applicants undergo a careful screening process before acceptance into the training programme. This ensures that each student meets the physical, academic, and personal requirements necessary to uphold the safety and professionalism our skies demand.

Meeting the entry criteria is the first step toward consideration, but **selection is not automatic**; we value commitment, maturity, and the ability to operate responsibly under pressure. Those who are accepted embark on a structured, hands-on journey designed to develop both technical skill and sound judgement.

If you have the determination to rise above the ordinary, and the **discipline to master the art of flight**, you may just find your place among the skies.

Minimum Eligibility:

- Grade 12 (Matric) or equivalent (SAQA evaluation if international)
- Valid Aviation Medical Certificate (Class 2 for PPL, Class 1 for CPL)
- Minimum age: 17 years to train, 18 years to be licensed
- English proficiency: ICAO Level 4 or higher

Documents to Submit:

- Completed Application Form
- Pilot Licence Eligibility Checklist
- Copy of ID/Passport
- Medical Certificate (if available)

Successful completion of the course is not guaranteed; students must demonstrate the required competency, skill, and judgement to earn their licence.





Join the Legacy

Your classroom is the sky.

From sunrise launches to smooth landings, your training will challenge and inspire you in equal measure.

At Bill Harrop's "Original" Balloon Safaris, you don't just learn to fly; you become part of an aviation family built on heritage, excellence, and adventure.

How to Apply:

Complete the Enrollment Form and Checklist

Attach supporting documents

Email your application to nadia@balloon.co.za

Our team will contact you to schedule your first briefing