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## Beginner Course: EP Fact Sheet 2021

**Course Title: Elementary Pilot Course (EPC)**

**Course Instructors:** Toby Colombé and Mike Agnew

**Previous Experience Required:** None.

**Syllabus:** You will follow the BHPA EPC Syllabus, but most of our students find they have progressed beyond the syllabus by the end of the course. The syllabus is mainly practical, but also includes lectures on Air Law, Flight Theory and Meteorology.

**Exam:** Once you have completed your course you will need to sit a simple multiple-choice exam. Our comprehensive lectures mean that most pilots pass this with ease.

**Course Schedule:** Most of our EP Courses run Sunday to Sunday (where Sunday is a travel and airport transfer day). The following is an approximate schedule of training for your week. We usually start each day at 8am (slightly later in the spring and autumn) and usually take a 3 hour lunch break so you get to enjoy the swimming pool in the heat of the day. We start again about 4pm and usually fly through until sunset. Dates and times are subject to change in accordance with the time of year and the weather conditions each day. We will confirm your Monday meet up time on your arrival day.

**Sunday:** Travel and airport transfer day (details of airport transfers below)

**Monday:** We start in the classroom with introductions and other classroom essentials, then from mid-morning onwards it's outside and practical:

- ✓ **Site assessments:** Understanding Airflows, hazards and basic weather assessments
- ✓ **Introduction to Equipment:** Understanding how a wing works and equipment checks and safety issues.
- ✓ **Ground skills:** You will practise controlling the glider on the ground, inflations, stopping the glider and directional control.
- ✓ **First flights:** You will fly short skimming flights (typically less than 5m above the ground)

**Tuesday:** A practical day

- ✓ **Maintaining Course:** You will fly slightly higher than yesterday and practise maintaining direction
- ✓ **First Turns:** You will learn how to turn the glider in the air, making gentle turns on short low flights.

**Wednesday and Thursday:** Practical Training and Exam

- ✓ **Lots of flying** from higher launches with more ground clearance, you will learn more about turning the glider, launching and landing safely.
- ✓ **Theory lectures and exam:** Not much classroom work, as we tend to study the theory as we go. At the end of the course, you will sit a simple multiple choice exam to attain your Elementary Pilot Award.

**Friday and Saturday:** These are reserve days in case we can't fly on any of the previous days due to weather. Whilst most pilots will have easily passed their EP Course after 4 days (or sometimes less) we'll continue training for those students who wish to continue and make progress towards their Club Pilot Rating.

**Price of the Course: 730Euros**

Included in the price of the course:

- Permanent support from our instructors
- FREE rental of brand-new paragliding equipment (wing, harness, helmet, radio, radio holder, reserve parachute (where required))

### Not included:

- BHPA Membership (Cost is £129 per year and includes subscription to a monthly magazine and 3<sup>rd</sup> party liability insurance. We will send you information on how to join the BHPA when you sign up for your course)
- Travel to Ager (See section below for details)
- Accommodation (See section below for details)
- Accident Insurance

### **Fair Training Policy**

With our dedication, brand-new equipment and super reliable flying venue; most students find that they make quick progress through the syllabus. Indeed, it is not uncommon for students to complete all the necessary tasks with just 3 days. On this course we still commit to 4 full days training (a full training day is taken to be 8 hours). That means even if you complete your EP Course in less than 4 days we will still continue to train you for a full 4 days! If due to weather, 4 days training is not possible, then as long as you return within 12 months, when you come back the “missing” days are free. (Normally, any extra training days are charged at 190 Euros per day.)

### **What to bring**

- Sturdy boots with good grip and ankle support
- Gloves to protect your hands
- Warm clothing (it can get a bit fresh up on the mountain in the evenings)
- Shorts and T-shirts (Most of the time in Ager, it's super warm so whilst summer clothing (and swimwear!) is recommended, remember that for flying you will need to cover your arms and legs (to avoid scratches if you fall over)
- Sun cream (and maybe a hat)

## Airport Transfers

There are three main ways to get to Ager:

1. **Private Taxi** - from the airport to Ager is a two hour drive. Taxis charge about 300Euros one way!
2. **Passion Shuttle** - This picks up from **Barcelona Airport** at **14:30** and drops off at Barcelona airport at **12:00** on Sundays. Cost is just 60Euros per person one way. Please check that this service is available before you book your flights
3. **Car hire** – There are numerous car hire options at Barcelona Airport (also Reus and Girona) and there are some great deals particularly off season. Note that in Spain a credit card (not debit card!) is often required when you pick up a car. This method is usually the most popular and cost effective.

Please let us know if you require an airport transfer and once you've booked your flights please email us your flight details (times, terminal (there are 2 at Barcelona) and flight number) so we can be sure to meet you. Our shuttle times: **Pickup at 14:30 and drop off at 12:00**

## Accommodation

There are several accommodation options in Ager to suit most tastes and budgets.

We recommend the bungalows at Camping Vall d'Ager. They are ideally located right next to the landing and our school classroom. We have secured a significant discount exclusive to our students. Bungalows are 4 person bungalows, but we put just two students in each one – that way you get your own room. A place in the bungalows costs from 200Euros per person for the whole week. This is based on 2 students per bungalow. This is the total price and includes towels, bed linen and all taxes. To secure one of these limited places please request a bungalow place at time of booking with Passion Paragliding

Visit the [Camping Vall d'Ager website](#) to see full details of these bungalows. If you'd prefer a luxury bungalow, we have great deals on those too. Please get in touch and let us know what you require.

## Bookings

To book your course visit our [Calendar and Bookings page](#) and complete the booking form. We will email you back usually within 24hours with payment instructions. You will need to pay a non-refundable deposit of 300Euros to secure your place. If you need airport transfers and accommodation be sure to let us know.

Cancellations made less than 56 days before the Course start date are subject to cancellation charges. Our refund policy is pretty standard and full details can be found in our terms and conditions.