Fly Virtual Airmail Tour

Westbound & Eastbound

This tour comes in two parts each having 14 legs and is set to commemorate the first transcontinental airmail service flying both day and night. Part 1 is the Westbound and part 2 is Eastbound. This service began on 1 July 1924 reducing the trip from over 70 hours to less than 35.

The DH-4B was the aircraft of choice in what was the golden age of aviation. Below a DH-4B ready to go and a first day cover for the trip. On this day the only Nav aid was a compass. Pilots relied on dead reckoning (flying course headings corrected for winds) and pilotage (looking for land marks).

The trip began at Hazelhurst Field (now a shopping mall) in New York and ended at Marina Field (now a park) San Francisco. The intermediate stops are airports open today. We'll be using KFRG and KOAK for our start/end points

In keeping with the spirit of the seat-of-the-pants flying those pilots did we'll be imposing aircraft limits for this tour.

Aircraft will be limited to single piston engine propeller driven. The engine cannot be turbo/supercharged.

That still leaves a wide variety of aircraft that one can use that would have modern avionics and autopilot. For those that want to get to the grass roots there are a number of payware biplanes available.   If you have questions on an aircraft email the staff. There is a great freeware Tiger Moth for FSX and it can be downloaded from our site <Click Here>. Photos of two aircraft that are good choices for the tour below.

Ants Tiger Moth (Freeware)   A2A C182 (Paywear)

You can check out the route on Sky Vector by clicking here

We did not do an exhaustive search for freeware airports. We know the Orbx airports work/look good. Some of those available at Fly Away are only AFCADs.

If you find scenery we missed please send a link to the Staff

Airport/Scenery options are listed in the table below:

Airport	Scenery Links
KFRG	AVSIM -- Fly Away Simulations
N96	Fly Away Simulations
KBKL	Fly Away Simulations
KDFI	Default
KMDW	Fly Tampa (payware) -- Fly Away Simulations
KIOW	Default
KOMA	Fly Away Simulations
KLBF	Orbx Freeware North America airport pack
KCYS	Default
KRWL	Orbx Freeware North America airport pack
KRKS	Default
KSLC	Default
KEKO	Orbx Freeware North America airport pack
KRNO	Fly Away Simulations
KOAK	Fly Away Simulations

Note: Since the starting and ending airports no long exist, we'll be using the closest current…KFRG and KOAK.

On the Westbound part if your sim scenery depicts the Marina Green park as a grass field you may land there. Please make a note that you landed there in your PIREP. You must depart from KOAK for the Eastbound part

Good luck!

Remember: Single Engine Propeller aircraft without a turbo charger.

Thanks to Bob White (AAL290) for suggesting this tour and providing historical info and photos. He challenges us to get through this!