

## **Pilot Courses of Instruction Niagara Falls Flight Restrictions Area**

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Flight restrictions exist in the area around Niagara Falls. There are two areas: one that amount to a non-flying zone (below 3,500 feet) and one that has specific flight operations procedures. These areas are not exactly defined as a Special Flight Rules Area (SFRA) but are essentially the same, and -- with few exceptions -- all flights below 3,500 feet in the Flight Restrictions prohibited except for those made under an MOU with the Transport Canada.

The restricted airspace is defined as within a line from

- a. The Whirlpool Rapids Bridge (the first bridge to the north of the Rainbow Bridge); then to
- b. The Niagara River Inlet (the significant indent on the north shore of the river immediately east of the trumpet interchange on the Robert Moses Parkway, just east of Goat Island); then to
- c. The International Control Dam (where it intersects with the international border); then
- d. The United States/Canadian Border west and north to the Whirlpool Rapids Bridge.

Generally, no flight is permitted below 3,500 feet MSL:

1. No flight is authorized below 3,500 feet MSL except for
  - a. aircraft operations conducted directly to or from an airport/heliport within the area,
  - b. aircraft operating on an ATC-approved IFR flight plan,
  - c. aircraft operating the "Scenic Falls" route pursuant to approval of Transport Canada.
2. The operations referenced in 1(c) above are commercial air tour operations approved by Transport Canada, which will be conducting a north/south orbit of the Niagara Falls area below 3,500 feet MSL over the Niagara River.

The minimum altitude for VFR flight over the Scenic Falls area is 3,500 feet MSL. The following procedures are mandatory for flights over the area:

1. Fly a clockwise pattern;
2. Do not proceed north of the Rainbow Bridge;
3. Prior to joining the pattern, announce intentions on 122.05 Mhz, giving altitude and position, and monitor the frequency while in the pattern;
4. Use the Niagara Falls airport altimeter setting.
5. Do not exceed 130 knots.

Also, be aware of the following:

1. Anticipate heavy congestion of VFR traffic at or above 3,500 feet MSL; and
2. Use caution to avoid high-speed civil and military aircraft transiting the area to or from Niagara Falls Airport.

Reference: 14 CFR 93, Subpart E, "Flight Restrictions in the Vicinity of Niagara Falls, New York," Parts 93.71

### **Canadian Airspace Restrictions**

Transport Canada has instituted similar restrictions in Canadian airspace with a restricted area, CYR518, which similarly exists below 3,500 feet.

The only operations permitted below 3,500 feet in either the U.S. Part 93 Restricted Area or in Canadian Restricted Airspace CYR518 are sightseeing aircraft operating on the Canadian side of the river under an MOU with Transport Canada.