

Asia Flying Guide

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Ancient temples, modern megacities, and diverse landscapes across the world’s largest continent.

Overview

Fact	Detail
Size	17.2 million sq mi (largest continent)
Population	4.7 billion (60% of world)
Countries	48
Diversity	Arctic to tropical
Major Hubs	Singapore, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Dubai

Major Hub Airports

East Asia

ICAO	IATA	Name	City	Country
RJTT	HND	Haneda	Tokyo	Japan
RJAA	NRT	Narita	Tokyo	Japan
VHHH	HKG	Hong Kong	Hong Kong	China
RCTP	TPE	Taoyuan	Taipei	Taiwan
RKSI	ICN	Incheon	Seoul	South Korea
ZBAA	PEK	Capital	Beijing	China
ZSPD	PVG	Pudong	Shanghai	China

Southeast Asia

ICAO	IATA	Name	City	Country
WSSS	SIN	Changi	Singapore	Singapore
VTBS	BKK	Suvarnabhumi	Bangkok	Thailand
WIII	CGK	Soekarno-Hatta	Jakarta	Indonesia
WMKK	KUL	KL International	Kuala Lumpur	Malaysia
RPLL	MNL	Ninoy Aquino	Manila	Philippines
VVNB	HAN	Noi Bai	Hanoi	Vietnam
VVTS	SGN	Tan Son Nhat	Ho Chi Minh City	Vietnam

South Asia

ICAO	IATA	Name	City	Country
VIDP	DEL	Indira Gandhi	New Delhi	India
VABB	BOM	Chhatrapati Shivaji	Mumbai	India
VNKT	KTM	Tribhuvan	Kathmandu	Nepal
VRMM	MLE	Velana	Malé	Maldives
VCBI	CMB	Bandaranaike	Colombo	Sri Lanka

Middle East

ICAO	IATA	Name	City	Country
OMDB	DXB	Dubai	Dubai	UAE
OERK	RUH	King Khalid	Riyadh	Saudi Arabia
OTHH	DOH	Hamad	Doha	Qatar
OEJN	JED	King Abdulaziz	Jeddah	Saudi Arabia
OBBI	BAH	Bahrain	Manama	Bahrain

Japan

Airports

ICAO	Name	Notes
RJTT	Haneda	Tokyo domestic/int'l
RJAA	Narita	Tokyo international
RJOO	Itami	Osaka downtown
RJBB	Kansai	Osaka (man-made island)
RJFF	Fukuoka	Kyushu

ICAO	Name	Notes
RJCC	New Chitose	Sapporo
ROAH	Naha	Okinawa

Scenic Routes

Mt. Fuji Circuit:

RJTT (Haneda) → Mt. Fuji → Five Lakes → RJTT

Distance: ~150 nm

Highlights: Iconic volcano, lakes

Note: Stay clear of airspace restrictions

Seto Inland Sea:

RJ00 (Osaka) → Shikoku bridges →

Hiroshima → RJOA (Hiroshima)

Distance: ~200 nm

Highlights: Islands, bridges, history

Japan Flying Notes

- Dense population = busy airspace
- Mountains throughout
- Excellent infrastructure
- English ATC

Southeast Asia

Thailand

ICAO	Name	Notes
VTBS	Suvarnabhumi	Bangkok main
VTBD	Don Mueang	Bangkok secondary
VTSP	Phuket	Beach resort
VTCC	Chiang Mai	Northern Thailand
VTSM	Koh Samui	Island, short

Thailand Routes

Temple & Beach:

VTBS (Bangkok) → Angkor (Cambodia) →

VTSP (Phuket) → VTSM (Samui) → VTBS

Distance: ~900 nm

Highlights: Temples, beaches, islands

Indonesia

ICAO	Name	Notes
WIII	Jakarta	Capital
WADD	Ngurah Rai	Bali
WIDD	Halim	Jakarta secondary
WIMM	Kuala Namu	Medan, Sumatra
WARR	Juanda	Surabaya

Bali & Beyond

Indonesian Islands:

WIII (Jakarta) → WADD (Bali) →

Komodo → Flores → Lombok → WADD

Distance: ~800 nm

Highlights: Temples, dragons, volcanoes

Singapore

- WSSS Changi - World's best airport
- Small airspace
- Crossing to Malaysia easy
- Stunning approach over city

Vietnam

Vietnam Coast:

VVNB (Hanoi) → Ha Long Bay →

Hue → Da Nang → VVTS (Ho Chi Minh)

Distance: ~700 nm

Highlights: Limestone karsts, beaches

South Asia

India

ICAO	Name	Notes
VIDP	Delhi	Capital
VABB	Mumbai	Financial hub
VOBL	Bangalore	Tech city
VOMM	Chennai	South
VECC	Kolkata	East
VAGO	Goa	Beach resort

India Routes

Golden Triangle:

VIDP (Delhi) → Agra (Taj Mahal) →

Jaipur → VIDP

Distance: ~400 nm

Highlights: Taj Mahal, forts, palaces

Nepal - Himalayan Flying

ICAO	Name	Notes
VNKT	Tribhuvan	Kathmandu
VNLK	Lukla	Everest gateway!
VNPK	Pokhara	Lakeside

Lukla (VNLK) - World's Most Dangerous: - 1,729 ft runway - 12% gradient (uphill landing) - 9,383 ft elevation - Cliff drop at end - Weather window critical - In MSFS: Ultimate challenge!

Everest Scenic

VNKT (Kathmandu) → VNLK (Lukla) →

Everest Base Camp view → VNKT

Distance: ~150 nm

Highlights: Himalayas, highest peaks

Aircraft: High-performance required

Altitude: Up to 20,000+ ft

Maldives

ICAO	Name	Notes
VRMM	Velana	Malé main
VRMO	Maamigili	South atoll
VREI	Hanimadhoo	North

Maldives Island Hopping:

VRMM → Resort islands → Atolls → VRMM

Distance: ~200 nm

Highlights: Turquoise water, overwater villas

Note: Low altitude over atolls

Middle East

UAE

ICAO	Name	Notes
OMDB	Dubai	Massive hub
OMAA	Abu Dhabi	Capital
OMSJ	Sharjah	Cargo hub

Dubai Flying

Dubai Scenic:

OMDB → Palm Jumeirah → Burj Khalifa →
World Islands → OMDB

Distance: ~50 nm

Highlights: Man-made islands, skyscrapers

Note: Complex airspace

Saudi Arabia

ICAO	Name	Notes
OERK	Riyadh	Capital
OEJN	Jeddah	Red Sea
OEDF	Dammam	Eastern

Middle East Challenges

- Extreme heat (50°C+)
- Sand/dust storms
- Religious restrictions
- Military airspace
- Fly early morning

Challenging Asian Airports

Airport	Challenge	Tips
VNLK (Lukla)	Cliff, gradient, altitude	Ultimate test!
VHHH (Hong Kong)	Terrain, traffic	Checkerboard approach historic
RCSS (Taipei Songshan)	City center	Approach over buildings
VTSM (Koh Samui)	Short (2,100m), island	Weight restricted
VIDP (Delhi)	Smog, traffic	Winter visibility poor

Weather Patterns

Monsoons

Region	Wet Season	Dry Season
South Asia	Jun-Sep	Oct-May
Southeast Asia	May-Oct	Nov-Apr
East Asia	Jun-Aug (rainy season)	Variable

Typhoon Season

- Western Pacific: May-November
- Peak: August-September
- Affects: Japan, Taiwan, Philippines, Hong Kong, Vietnam
- Check forecasts carefully!

Visibility Issues

Issue	Where	When
Monsoon rain	South/SE Asia	Wet season
Haze	Malaysia/Indonesia	Aug-Oct
Smog	China, India	Winter
Sand storms	Middle East	Spring
Typhoons	Pacific coast	Summer

Airspace Notes

China

- Complex restrictions
- VFR limited
- ATC in Mandarin (some)
- Special permits often required

Japan

- Professional, efficient
- English ATC
- Dense traffic
- Mountain areas

India

- Improving infrastructure
- Traffic congestion
- VFR challenging in some areas

Middle East

- Modern facilities
 - Military restrictions
 - Heat operations
 - Night flying popular
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Iconic Destinations

Must-See Aerial Views

Location	Country	What to See
Mt. Fuji	Japan	Perfect cone volcano
Ha Long Bay	Vietnam	Limestone karsts
Angkor Wat	Cambodia	Ancient temples
Taj Mahal	India	White marble
Everest	Nepal	Highest peak
Palm Jumeirah	UAE	Man-made island
Bali rice terraces	Indonesia	Green steppes
Hong Kong harbor	China	Skyline

Quick Reference

ICAO Prefixes

Prefix	Country
RJ	Japan (mainland)
RO	Japan (Okinawa)
RK	South Korea
RC	Taiwan
VH	Hong Kong
Z	China (mainland)
W	Indonesia
WM	Malaysia

Prefix	Country
WS	Singapore
VT	Thailand
VV	Vietnam
RP	Philippines
V (various)	South Asia
O	Middle East

Units (Most of Asia)

Measurement	Unit
Altimeter	hPa (some areas inHg)
Visibility	meters
Wind	knots
Runway	meters
Temperature	Celsius

Key Frequencies

Service	Frequency
Emergency	121.500
Tokyo Control	132.100
Singapore Control	124.650
Hong Kong Approach	119.100

Time Zones

- Japan: UTC+9
- China (all): UTC+8
- Singapore: UTC+8
- India: UTC+5:30
- UAE: UTC+4

Checklist for Asia Flying

- ☐ Visa/permit requirements checked
- ☐ Weather (monsoon/typhoon) assessed
- ☐ Heat performance calculated
- ☐ Airspace restrictions reviewed
- ☐ Language considerations noted
- ☐ Fuel availability confirmed