



Approaching Rwy16 on a winter day. Taken west of Spot 8

Zurich Airport is located 10km north of the city of Zurich and is Switzerland's biggest and busiest airport. It is a favourite of many photographers, as it offers good traffic and some attractive and easily accessible photo spots.

It can conveniently be reached by train (10-15min from the city), has a lot of (expensive) parking available and is a major bus hub for the region.

Zurich Airport is the base of national carrier SWISS and local charter airlines Edelweiss, Belair & Helvetic. In addition, it receives a good variety of medium-sized planes from all over Europe and a nice blend of intercontinental traffic. On summer weekends, a lot of charters can be seen. **In 2006, ZRH handled 19,2 mio passengers and 364'000 flights.**

Best traffic times

Many arrivals from 6-7, main outbound wave between 9-10 and 12-14 (lots of heavies). Very slow in the afternoon (14-17), then picking up a bit with European evening arrivals (17-20) and departures (18-21).

These heavies operate everyday

~6x LX A340, ~10x LX A330,
2xAA 767, 1xUS 767, 1x UA 767,
1xDL 767, 1xCO 767, 1x AC 767,
1xTG 346, 1xSQ 773, 2xEK 343/5
In addition: (1=Monday)
MH 772: (3/5/7), MK 343: (5/6)
KE 332: (2/4/6), QR 332: (3/4/5/7)

Standard Rwy usage concept

Monday-Friday:
06-07: LDG34, TO32
07-21: LDG14, TO28/(16 for heavies)
21-00: LDG28, TO32/34
Weekends:
same Rws but 06-09 / 09-20 / 20-00

ATC Frequencies

using a scanner is no problem in Switzerland and tolerated by the police, also on the observation decks.

ATIS: 128.525
DEP: 125.95
ARR: 118.0 (west) 120.75 (north)
119.7 (east) 125.325 (final)
TWR: 118.1
GND: 121.75 (S of Rwy28), 121.85
DEL: 121.8

Spotting Positions

Please look at the map on Page 2 for visualisation. Positions 1-5 are at or close to the airport. For Positions 6-9, take Bus Nr.510 from the airport. No ladders needed at any of the spots!

1: T2 Observation Deck (Entry: CHF 2)

Open: 08-21 summer, 09-18 winter
The observation deck is an all-time favourite. Here you are close to the action. Since Terminal 2 has closed, its value has dropped, but it is still great for heavies departing on Rwy16, rotating exactly in front of you (see shot 1). Best during first half of the day in terms of light and traffic.

2: Midfield Observation Deck (CHF 4)

Open: 13.15-16.45 (Wednesday)
11.45-16.45 (Sat/Sun)
There is an observation deck on the western end of Midfield Terminal. It can only be reached by bus from the other observation deck, where you can buy the tickets. Views are okay, you see Acft taxiing to Rwy16, rotating on Rwy28 (you're looking south though) and can see them from behind when taking off Rwy16 (shot 2)

3: Parking 3

This is a 10-storey car-park at the southern end of the terminal complex. It can be reached by using the lifts at the Food-Court or Train Station. It is the best spot to get the (heavy) early morning arrivals onto Rwy34. For a shot like Nr.3 below, you need about 150-200mm.

4: Parking 6

Another 10-storey car-park, this is at the eastern end. It can be reached by exiting T1 to the east and walking another 100-200m. It offers good views of the threshold of Rwy28, so it is suitable for line-ups, but also for arrivals onto Rwy28.

5: Approach Rwy 28

Spot directly behind Rwy28. It is best reached on foot from the Airport (about 15min) - exit T1 to the east, walk along cargo to the GAC, then on the bikepath. You are close behind the threshold of Rwy28 and approaching aircraft are really low here! A great experience, but you can also go to either side of the approach path to have a better side-on view. Not suitable for lineup-shots, the view is obstructed.

6: Heligrill

This is another popular spot just south-west of the intersection of Rws16 and 28. There is a high fence, but the airport authority created about 10 holes to put your lens through. If you're going on a weekend, they might be taken already - ladders are okay as well. Here you can take impressive rotation shots of heavies taking off Rwy16 (see shot 6). It is also good to shoot aircraft taking off Rwy28, or taxiing to Rwy10 if that one is in use (rarely). Best for the noon outbound wave and all afternoon, although traffic is slow then.

7: Firefighter Hill / Lineup 16

This spot is a bit hard to find. Leave the village of Oberglatt to the south on a street called "Im Hof". You pass some farm buildings, and shortly after going over a small stream (NOT Glatt river) you'll see a grass hill on the left. Go up there and you'll have a great view of the lineup for Rwy16. Light is best in the afternoon, although there aren't many heavies left by then.

8: Arrival Rwy14

There is a large parking on the main road from Oberglatt to Bülach, directly under the approach path to Rwy14. From here you can get your standard blue-sky approach shots. But you also have access to a popular hiking area, allowing you to position yourself so that you can see the runway, or that you have some houses in the background of your photo (shot 8). Light is good all-day, but the spot is most popular during evening hours.

9: Landing Rwy14

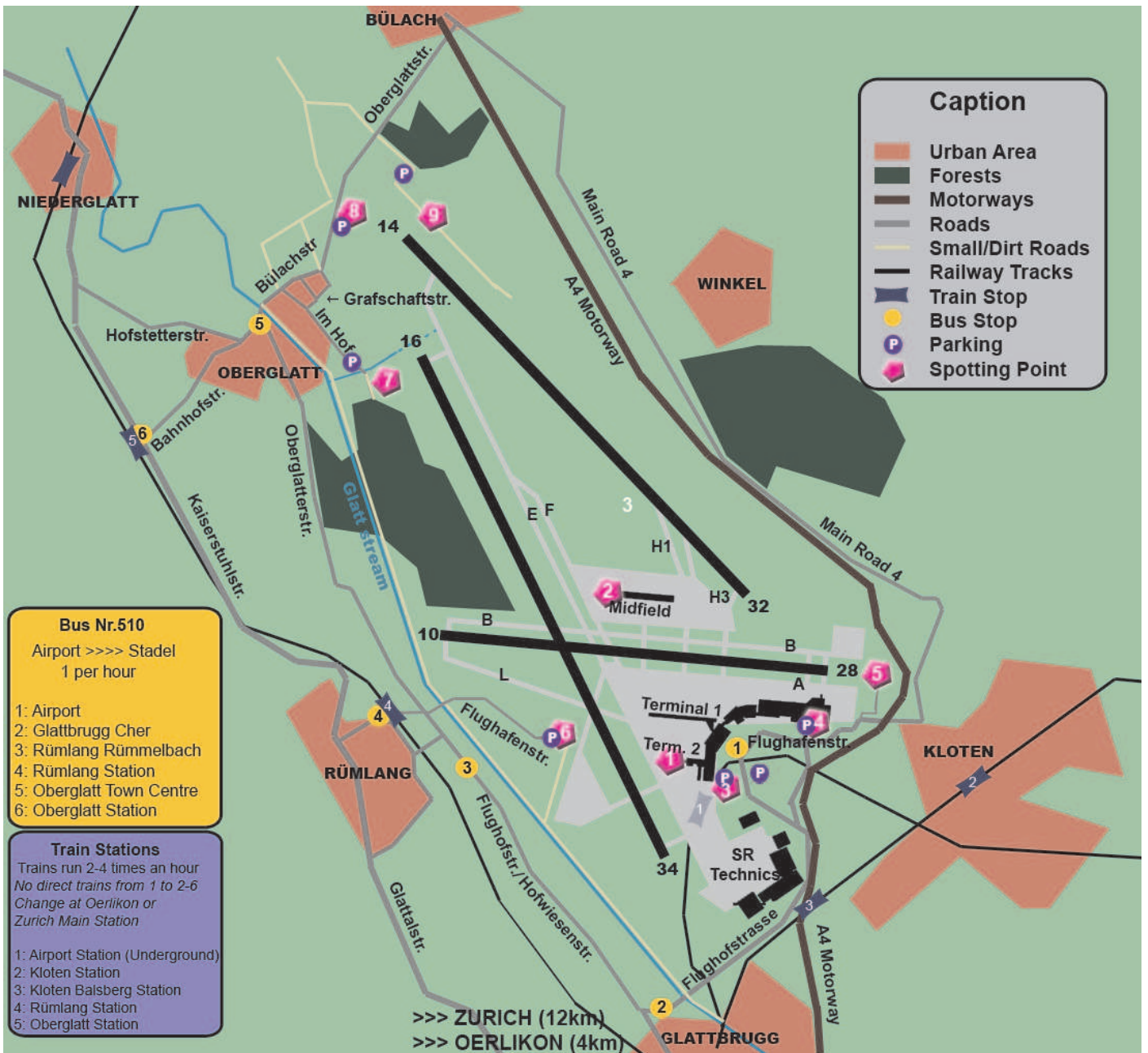
A bit east of Spot 8 (5min walk) is another parking, which can be reached by a paved road, breaking off the main one. You can either stay at the parking or walk further along the fence east of Rwy14 to get to a small hill (10min), where you can see approaches and touchdowns. Suitable in the morning. (Shot 9 taken from there)

Landing Rwy14 from behind Spot 8



Zurich Spotting Guide

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<< Spot 1
 TO Rwy 16



Spot 4 >>
 Lineup
 Rwy 28

Spot 7 >>
 Lineup
 Rwy 16



<< Spot 2
 TO Rwy 16



Spot 5 >>
 LDG Rwy 28

Spot 8 >>
 LDG Rwy 14



<< Spot 3
 LDG Rwy 34



Spot 6 >>
 TO Rwy 16

Spot 9 >>
 LDG Rwy 14

