

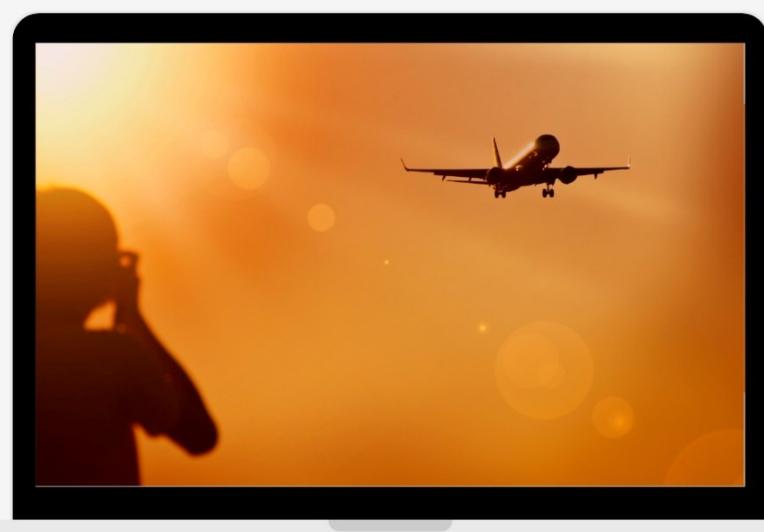


THE COMPLETE

# PLANE SPOTTING RESOURCE



GUIDE



AIRPORTSPOTTING.COM

# The Complete Plane Spotting Resource Guide

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## Introduction

This guide is intended to provide a go-to resource for plane spotters and aviation enthusiasts to make the most of your hobby and have the best information at hand.

The content is separated into sections each relating to different aspects of the hobby, from spotting to online resources, equipment, photography and news.

Available exclusively through Airport Spotting ([www.airportspotting.com](http://www.airportspotting.com)), our intention is to always bring you useful content to improve your life as an aviation enthusiast.

Do you have a resource or suggestion to share? I'd love to hear about it. Please send your feedback to [matt@airportspotting.com](mailto:matt@airportspotting.com)

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## Airline Photography Websites

You can learn so much about what's new in aviation, as well as get inspiration on plane spotting, aviation photography, and even what the views are like at different airports around the world, by browsing aircraft photography sites.

Many also have forums and news feeds where you can discuss aviation, photography and learn the latest news.

### **These are the best ones to use:**

Airliners.net - <https://www.airliners.net/>

Airplane Pictures - <https://www.airplane-pictures.net/>

Flickr - <https://www.flickr.com/>

Jetphotos - <https://www.jetphotos.com/>

Planespotters.net - <https://www.planespotters.net/>

## Aviation News Websites

There are many news and magazine websites which provide daily updates on the happenings within the aviation industry around the world.

These sites focus primarily on civil aviation, airline and airport news:

Aerotime Hub - <https://www.aerotime.aero/>

AIN Aviation International News - <https://www.ainonline.com/>

Aviation Week - <https://aviationweek.com/>

CH Aviation - <https://www.ch-aviation.com/news>

Flight Global - <https://www.flightglobal.com/news>

The Aviation Herald - <https://avherald.com/>

## Flight Tracking Websites & Apps

Flight tracking has revolutionised plane spotting. It's now possible to accurately track which aircraft are flying where, which are on the ground or due at different airports, and even enable you to log the aircraft you see flying high overhead.

There are various websites and apps you can use. These are the best:

Flightradar24 – <https://www.flightradar24.com/>

Plane Finder - <https://planefinder.net/>

ADSB Exchange - <https://www.adsbexchange.com/>

Plane Mapper - <https://www.planemapper.com/>

AirNav Radarbox - <https://www.radarbox.com/>

## Aviation Databases

If you're serious about logging the aircraft spotting you're doing, using an aviation database is essential. It can provide all of the information of the aircraft you've seen without laborious research and manual tracking (as much as many of us love an Excel spreadsheet).

Most databases have tens or hundreds of thousands of airframes listed, all with type and construction information, dates, current and previous registrations and operators, and details on residents of different airports and airfields. It's an easy and quick way to log your sightings.

These are some of the best aviation databases available.

ADU Software - <https://adusoftware.co.uk/>

Aerodata - <https://www.aerodata.org/>

Aviation Databases Global - <https://www.aviationdatabases.com/>

FreeBird - <https://freebirddb.com/>

Pacific Aviation Database - <https://gfiapac.org/>

Plane Logger - <https://www.planelogger.com/>

SpottingLog - <https://www.spottinglog.com/>

## Airport Webcams

If you can't leave the house but want to watch some live airport action, there are webcams situated at airports around the world for you to bring up in your browser or phone.

Some are quite distant, while others are up close to the action.

Here are some resources and lists you can use to find airports to watch live:

AirLive - <https://cam.airlive.net/>

Airport Webcams Net - <https://airportwebcams.net/>

Airport Webcams - <https://airport-webcam.com/>

World Cams - <https://worldcams.tv/airports/>

## Plane Spotting Video Channels

There are many video channels available on YouTube and privately which offer both live and recorded plane spotting sessions at airports around the world.

Here are some of the best:

Aerowanderer - <https://www.youtube.com/@aerowanderer>

Aviation Videography - <https://www.youtube.com/@AviationVideography>

Big Jet TV - <https://www.youtube.com/@BigJetTV>

Flight Focus 365 - <https://www.youtube.com/@FlightFocus365>

HD Melbourne Aviation - <https://www.youtube.com/@HDMelbourneAviation>

L. A. Flights - <https://www.youtube.com/@L.A.FLIGHTS>

PlaneSpottingBerlin ✈ Aviation Videos - <https://www.youtube.com/@PlaneSpottingBerlin>

Think Planes - <https://www.youtube.com/@ThinkPlanes>

## Plane Spotting Guides

For the latest guides on where to spot at airports around the world try these:

Airport Spotting - <https://www.airportspotting.com/>

Aircraft Spotting - <https://aircraftspotting.co.uk/>

NYC Aviation - <https://www.nycaviation.com/>

Plane Spotting Hotels - <http://www.plane-spotting-hotels.com/>

Scramble Airfield Guide - <https://www.scramble.nl/planning/airfield-guide>

Spotterguide - <https://www.spotterguide.net/>

## Aircraft Research Websites

When doing research into aircraft, whether it be for tracking down aircraft you've spotted (or hope to spot), or just for private research and fun, there are some sites that can prove very useful.

Airfleets - <https://www.airfleets.net/home/>

Airliner List - <https://www.planelist.net/index.html>

Fresh Aviation Data - <https://data.freshaviation.co.uk/production-lists/>

Flightradar24 Aircraft Data - <https://www.flightradar24.com/data/aircraft>

Oldprops Census - <http://www.oldprops.ukhome.net/contents.htm>

Jethros Fleet Listings - <https://jethroseu.co.uk/fleets/fleets.htm>

Planespotters.net - <https://www.planespotters.net/>

## Mobile/Tablet Apps

Most of us use smartphones and tablets these days, and there are many apps (applications) available that are specifically targeted towards aviation enthusiasts, or can be used to help in some way.

Some of the suggestions below also operate as websites, and may be listed above; some also may only be available on Apple iOS or Android and not the others.

**Flightradar24** – Flight tracking.

**Flightaware** - Like Flightradar24, Flightaware is a way of tracking flights.

**Facebook** – With many pages and groups dedicated to plane spotting and aviation news.

**Google Maps** – An invaluable resource for planning travel and getting around airports.

**LiveATC** – Listen in to air traffic control at airports all over the world.

**Phone Camera** – Not strictly an app, but your smartphone's camera is great for taking pictures and videos of aircraft.

**StationWX** – A detailed weather app detailing current and forecast weather at airports and airfields around the world.

**X** – Formerly Twitter. Again, many channels to subscribe to for the latest aviation happenings.

## Plane Spotting Equipment

To be a plane spotter you don't need any special equipment. A notebook and pen are perhaps the simplest equipment you need, or perhaps just the notepad app on your smartphone.

To take it to the next level, there's a range of equipment you might consider acquiring to help you. These include:

**Binoculars or Telescope 'pole'.** This helps you to see aircraft at a distance and confirm details, like their registration (tail number), serial or special markings.

**Cameras.** A good SLR camera with a variety of lenses (aim for a zoom lens of at least 200mm for general photography around airports, plus a standard short lens for close-up shots, museums etc).

**Video camcorder.** If you want to take videos of aircraft too, then it's good to have a camcorder with zoom functionality.

**Smartphone or Tablet** to use apps for flight tracking, browsing the web on the go, or even noting down registrations electronically. Most also have a handy camera for good quality close-up shots and videos.

**Notebook and Pen.** The old school way to note down registrations that you've seen if you're not using a phone.

**Airband radio.** Many spotters like to listen in to airport radio frequencies to hear aircraft talking to air traffic control. It can be useful for working out when aircraft are on approach, or due to taxi for take-off.

## Plane Spotting & Aviation Book Publishers

Various specialist and independent publishers around the world produce books and magazines on aviation, aircraft and plane spotting. These can help you to learn aircraft recognition, where to spot, the history of aviation and much more.

Here are some publishers to check out:

Air-Britain - <https://air-britain.com/web/>

Astral Horizon Press - <https://astralhorizon.co.uk/>

Crecy Publishing - <https://www.crecy.co.uk/>

Destinworld Publishing - <https://destinworld.com/>

Key Publishing - <https://keypublishing.com/>

Pen & Sword Books - <https://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/>

Schiffer Publishing - <https://schifferbooks.com/>

The History Press - <https://thehistorypress.co.uk/>

## Aviation Enthusiasts Stockists and Shops

When the sun goes down and you've stopped spotting for the day, it's great to relax with a great aviation book or to enjoy models and other ephemera. Here are some of the best stockists around the world.

Aeroshop - <https://aeroshop.eu/en/>

Aviation Retail Direct - <https://www.aviationretaildirect.com/>

Aviation Megastore - <https://www.aviationmegastore.com/en/>

Aircraft Model Store - <https://www.aircraftmodelstore.co.uk/>

Airspotters - <https://www.airspotters.com/>

Flight Store - <https://www.flightstore.co.uk/>

Pilot Shop - <https://www.pilotshop.com/>

Sportys - <https://www.sportys.com/>

The Aviation Bookshop - <https://www.aviation-bookshop.com/>

The Aviation Shop - <https://www.tasmanchester.com/welcometothetasshop>

The Flying Mule - <https://www.flyingmule.com/>

Join **Airport Spotting Premium** today and enjoy a range of benefits, including:

- Monthly magazine full of articles and guides.
- Exclusive resources such as:
  - Last Chance to Fly - Where to fly rare and historic airliners
  - Spotting Vault - A vast resource detailing the world's spotting locations.
  - Aircraft research - Guides to stored and preserved airliners, airline fleets and details, aircraft types.
- Weekly airliner deliveries email.
- Monthly aviation prize draw.
- Discounts on books and videos.



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