



HG Schmids Personal

Hints and Tips

The Experience of 164 World Records at Your Disposal

"Victory awaits him who has everything in order - people call that luck. Defeat is certain for him who has neglected to take the necessary precautions in time - this is called bad luck."

*Roald E. Amundsen
1872-1928*

AEI's General Hints and Tips

INTRODUCTION

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General considerations

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Below you will find a number of notes and thoughts that might be worthwhile considering before you leave. So please take a moment and have a look at them.

If you find something that, in your opinion, is not clear enough or perhaps incorrect, or if you have an addition, please write to Aero Explorer International at info@aeroexplorer.biz. This is in the interest of your fellow pilot and your contribution would be greatly appreciated.

Always remember: there are old pilots and there are old pilots - but there are no old, bold pilots!

GENERAL

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AEI's daily planning sheet

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It certainly needs some getting used to. Study the legends to understand where you will find the various information. Once you get used to it, you will miss it if you are without it.

Fold it to the size of a credit card, put it in your breast pocket before you leave the hotel and you will have (almost) all the information that you need during that particular day at your fingertips. Use the reverse side for notes.

You will hopefully never need to use much of this information as it is there mainly in case of an emergency. There are a number of the countries in which Aero Club or AOPA will come in handy in case of operational problems. You will need the number of your embassy should you have the bad luck to have the authorities, for whatever reason, being uncooperative.

There are innumerable bits and pieces of information. Learn where to find it and find out, how practical an ordinary sheet of paper can be even in times of computer and Internet.

AEI is grateful for any information regarding mistakes, omissions or possible improvements (info@aeroexplorer.biz). Thank you in advance!

Africa

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Africa is often less complicated and less expensive than generally anticipated. With the appropriate planning, travel in Africa by plane is relatively easy. Caution is advised if you plan to cross politically unstable countries and regions. In the weeks before your departure, pay particular attention to the international news. If you have a chance to do so regularly, watch CNN or BBC WORLD so as to obtain a clearer picture of the current situation.

Not so easy is the African weather, especially during the rainy season. Be careful planning flights over hilly or mountainous terrain, as it might be covered in cloud. The easiest way to cross the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) is to fly north - south and v.v. along the coastline.

ATC: Often (specailly in West Africa and/or flying IFR) you will be asked about endurance, number of persons on board and estimates for numerous waypoints along your route as well as for your destination. You will normally not be ready for all this information at this time. Therefore there is only one answer: "stand by"! Wait until you are settled and prepared even if it takes 20 minutes. Flying and navigating comes before the wishes of a controller who certainly is in a position to wait for this nonessential information.

Aircraft

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If you plan a long flight to distant places, have enough personal experience with your aircraft. If your plane is newly acquired (out of the factory or second hand) be sure to have it flown for a minimum amount of hours before you leave. Excellent condition and good maintenance is necessary. Regardless what the seller of your plane told you: be sure everything really works. Be certain all snags are taken care of before you leave.

Arrival

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In the tropics, plan an arrival not later than two hours before sunset if you have the chance to do so. Thus, you will have sufficient reserves in case of bad weather (thunderstorms!) and with possible delays after arrival. You will also have ample daylight in which to complete as much as possible.

Remember: Fuelling might be very slow, friendly spectators might want to know about your trip or you might have to wait for the customs or immigration officer who wishes to see you at the aircraft. Especially on small airfields or in Third World countries often the lighting of tarmacs is bad to non-existent and in the tropics night after 6 pm approaches fast. The good thing: if everything works well after arrival, you will be early in your hotel to still manage to do some sightseeing before sunset.