Frankfurt Main (FRA/EDDF)
STORY

Frankfurt Airport saw its opening in July 1936 on the explicit needs given the continuous growth in passenger traffic due to the emergence in Germany ten years before the Deutsche Luft Hansa, which later became the flag carrier of Germany.

Soon, the airport became the second largest airport in Germany, second only to the old Berlin Tempelhof, but he saw an abrupt stop to its growth due at the beginning of World War II and the limitations that German travelers at the end of it gushed.

Only in 1951, when these restrictions were abolished, the traffic began to grow again without stopping and allowing Fraport, the management company of the airport, in 1965 to build what is now known as Terminal 1, a third runway in the '80s and a new Terminal 2 in 1994.

In 2005, the USAF, which up to that time in Frankfurt had a huge logistics base in the south of the airport, decided to transfer all its activities on the nearby base at Ramstein, leaving all that part of the grounds which now includes cargo area and yards long break.

Now Frankfurt is the third largest airport in Europe by number of passengers after LHR London and Paris CDG, and handles nearly 60 million passengers a year and the second in terms of cargo handling with more than 2 million tons per year.

RUNWAY

07R/25L
13,123 x 197 ft (4,000 x 60 m) - paved - lighted

07C/25C
13,123 x 197 ft (4,000 x 60 m) - paved – lighted

18/36
13,123 x 197 ft (4,000 x 60 m) - paved - lighted

07L/25R
9,240 x 197 ft (2,800 x 60 m) - paved - lighted
**SPOTTING POINTS**

- **Spotting Point 1:**

  Activity: Landing to 25L, Taxiing to 18 by taxiway, Take-off from 07C  
  GPS Coordinates: 50.039626,8.597058  
  Ladder: NO

  It is a official Spotting Point attended the weekend by both spotter that families with children. It is located in the town of Offenbach along a bike path in the vicinity of the head 25L. Is commonly named Zeppelinheim, referred to the name of the museum of the famous German airship that is nearby. Easily accessible by car you can park in these GPS coordinates 50.037428,8.603066, you reach a road penetrating within a forest until you come to a pedestrian bridge on the A5 at the end of which are available to fans of the benches and other structures. From this position you have a great view over the airport grounds and you can take some good pictures of aircraft landing on 25L (about 80 mm for an A340-600) and 25C (about 200 mm for a B747). In case of reverse procedure instead there is the possibility of photographing takeoffs by heavy 07C. Some medium-sized aircraft going to take off from runway 18, or the wide body in tow to and from remote parking, use the ring road which passes right in front of the Spotting Point.
How to reach Spotting Point 1.

View of the Spotting Point 1.

Landing to 25L.
View of the taxiway.

A320 Gulf Air on taxiway to runway 18.
• **Spotting Point 2:**

Activity: Landing to 07R, take-off from 25C and 18  
GPS Coordinates: 50.02161,8.523066  
Ladder: at choice

Another official spotting point is located on the other side of the airport and is used when the procedure involves landing from the west, or for take-off from runway 18. Easily accessible along the perimeter, you can park your car just before the tunnel that passes under the runway 18, and where during the hot summer days, you can find relief with a good ice cream.

The spotting point has recently been renovated and now offers a kind of steps from the top of which you can take pictures even without the fence visible in the frame. Unfortunately the place is only for 4/5 persons, for which we should adopt anyway ladder to not have to jostle with the dozens of people present at the weekend.

Regarding the position of the sun from 18 takeoffs are feasible between 12/14, depending on the season, until sunset, while the 07R for landings and take-offs from 25C are in favor of light for most of the day.

The optics vary from 55 mm to a digital A380 on 18, to more than 300 mm for a 321 taking off from 25C, so better to have any kind of objective.

*How to reach Spotting Point 2.*
Spotting point view.

Take-off from runway 18.

Take-off from runway 25C.

Take-off from runway 18.
**Spotting Point 3:**

Activity: Alignments 18, Take-off 25C  
GPS Coordinates: 50.034733,8.520348  
Ladder: NO

For those who prefer more static picture of the aircraft line up for takeoff from runway 18, or to photograph takeoffs from 25C, in the longest days of the year when the late afternoon Spotting Point 2 is now against the sun, can be a viable alternative in this location. From the previous position (spotting point 2), take the car in the direction of the terminal for a couple of miles and leave on the left just before entering a tunnel that passes under a taxiway.

The fence is unfortunately inaccessible due to the height of more than 3 meters, but the net is wide enough to not cause problem considering the medium focal length needed. In any case a much easier solution is to set out to fifty yards of the embankment at the roadside until you reach the fence that borders the adjacent taxiway leading to the runway 07L/25R. From here the view is free of obstacles for both alignments from 18 to 25C for takeoffs by heavy, very striking them with the warm light of the evening.

The focus is definitely recommended over 200 mm to make any kind of subject.
How to reach Spotting Point 3.

Take-off from 25C.
Alignment sulla 18.

Alignment sulla 18.
• **Spotting Point 4:**

Activity: Landing to 07L and 25R  
GPS Coordinates: 50.034733, 8.520348  
Ladder: NO

Little more than a year the airport has a fourth runway, which is used exclusively for landings. Obviously could not miss a spotting point and to reach it you have to leave your car near the barracks of the fire and walk along a dirt path for pedestrians and bicycles until you get close to the airport perimeter fence. Here is a small hill that allows you to have an unobstructed view to the runway.

The track is unfortunately not much used except by aircraft from North America and most of the flights of Lufthansa Cargo (AeroLogic and Lufthansa Cargo) which have a dedicated area just off of the track.

The optics Recommended ranging from 18 mm to a wide body on the taxiway, to more than 200 mm for a narrow body on track.

*How to reach Spotting Point 4.*
Touch on 25R.

Taxi to terminal.
• **Spotting Point 5:**

Activity: Ground movement  
GPS coordinates: 50° 3'4.56"N, 8°35'15.01"E  
Ladder: NO

The last Spotting Point, but not in order of importance, is the famous visitors terrace located in Terminal 2. Not ideal for photos with the sun for most of the day, it may be a good choice in case of bad weather, and in any case offers a beautiful view over most of the grounds and on the movements to 25R and L. The terrace is open to the public from December to March from 10 to 17 and only on Saturdays and Sundays, from April to November while the opening is every day from 10 to 18.

To report that Fraport, the management company of the airport, organizes guided tours on the grounds during 90 minutes at the modest sum of EUR 15 that you have to book early through the airport’s website, for more information please see this link:

FREQUENCY

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<td>Frankfurt Tower</td>
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WHERE TO STAY

As you can imagine, around an airport it is easy to find a bed for any need and any budget. For our personal experience we can recommend the two hotel below with attractive prices and service both with Free Wifi service.

- Albatros Airport Hotel ([www.albatroshotel.de](http://www.albatroshotel.de))

NOTE

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