

Spotter Guide to Alicante Airport (ALC/LEAL)



Photo: Hans Olav Nyborg

Frequencies

Approach

120.400 APP/L
118.800 APP/I
119.075 Backup

TWR

118.150
121.500 Emergency
257800 MIL
243.000 Emergency
121.700 GMC
119.075 Backup

ATIS

113.800

Spotter Sites

Alicante Airport is a medium-sized airport with one runway and one main taxiway parallel to the runway. The airlines using Alicante are the both two large domestic carriers, a number of charter airlines from the northern part of Europe and more frequent these days a number of low cost carriers. In order to get around and really get something out of your Alicante spotting, you need a car. Under you'll find short descriptions of the spots to use.

A South of the runway abeam the terminal

This spot is probably the best spot at Alicante. Since the airport only got one runway - spot A is the ideal place to cover arrivals and departures at both ends. To reach the spot from the terminal the easiest way to use CV852 (the local road, don't try the N-roads). At the first roundabout continue straight ahead in direction Elche. At the next roundabout take to the left on to CV849. Now on CV849, follow this road until the first exit to the left and follow this gravel road along the perimeter fence until you are abeam the terminal. You can start to

search for a parking space on the right side of the road. Further away from the road you will find an embankment that gives you a clear view over the fence.

Police and the airport security are patrolling the perimeter road fence at least once an hour. They usually don't create any problem for spotters - but they definitely follow your moves.

Spot A is also a popular place for the local population to camp, have lunch and follow the arrival of aircraft. But be aware of not all have the most honest intentions, therefore lock your car and hold on to your camera/bins - not all visitors are spotters.

Photo advice

For departure and landing shots you only need maximum focal length of 300 mm. If you want to get shots of aircraft on the taxiway between Charlie 3 and 6, a lens with focal length between 300 and 500 mm focal is needed.

Spot A can be used from ten in the morning and until sunset - and during these times you will have the sun from your behind.

And at the end, the road in front of you is a gravel road, and passing cars tends to stir up a lot of dust, dirt and small stones - so protect your equipment and keep a cleaning kit handy.

B The southwest spot

This spot is brilliant for shooting aircraft landing from the west (runway 10). There aren't any good parking areas close to the spot, so you are best off parking your car along the gravel road leading to Spot A. The local police is definitely not pleased if try to

park along CV849! At the spot there is a rather large mound of stone and sand, and from the top of this you have a clear view over the fence.

Photo advice

The normal lens focal length needed at spot B is between 170 and 250 mm.

The light conditions are the same as for spot A.

C West of the terminal

This spot is very close to the terminal - i.e. in walking distance to the west of the terminal in direction of the tower. If you walk along the fence you will find parked cargo aircraft and GA aircraft close to the fence and passenger airliners at the remote parking between the taxiways Alpha and Bravo.

The airport security patrolling the area can at times tell you to move away from this spot - and you are best advised to follow this request. Airport security don't like to have people sneaking around close to GA area of obvious reasons.

If you come by car, the short time parking at the parking complex in front of the terminal is the best to use.

Photo advice

Since this spot is of the type "through the fence photography" it can be a bit tricky to get good photos.

Lens focal length: 85 to 300 mm

The light conditions are best in the early morning hours, and after 11:30 is it impossible to use this spot for photography.

Many thanks to Hans Olav Nyborg for the help he gave me creating this spotter guide. If you want to visit his web site, look for: www.hangar.no

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