FREE PRINTABLE

UK Spotting Guide

BOARDING COMPLETE

Ten of the best places to watch aircraft at UK airports.

01 LONDON HEATHROW

Myrtle Avenue

A grassy patch at the end of a residential street, right under the approach to the southern runway. Best when aircraft are landing on 27L. Walk from Hatton Cross station, as parking is very limited.

TW14 9QU

02 LONDON HEATHROW

Northern Perimeter Road

Heathrow's official viewing area, beside the Heathrow Academy. You will log most movements on the northern runway, though fences and trees make photography tricky.

03 MANCHESTER

Runway Visitor Park

A raised viewing area beside the runways, with a café, shop and preserved aircraft including Concorde. Free on foot; car parking is charged.

WA15 8XQ

04 MANCHESTER

South Side

A hill by the perimeter fence alongside runway 23L/05R, reached on foot via Altrincham Road. Aircraft pass very close and the sun is behind you.

05 BIRMINGHAM

Car Park 5 viewing area

An official viewing area with benches beside the runway 33 threshold. Follow the signs from the terminal. Parking charges apply.

06 BIRMINGHAM

Runway end footpath

A path crossing the approach at the northern end, good for arrivals. Walk from Marston Green station or park near Hazeldene Road.

B33 0QB

07 LONDON CITY

Royal Albert Dock

A waterside walkway across the dock from the runway, with every movement in view. Royal Albert DLR station is close by.

08 EAST MIDLANDS

Castle Donington crash gate

The accepted spot on the north side, with views of the terminal, the DHL cargo apron and every runway movement. Reached along Diseworth Road.

DE74 2PS

09 LONDON STANSTED

Belmer Road viewing area

An official area by the fence opposite the runway, reached on woodland paths near Burton End. Terminal views are distant, but you see every runway movement.

CM24 8UL

10 LONDON GATWICK

Gatwick Aviation Museum

A museum in Charlwood with a view of the runway, so you can pair historic aircraft with live departures. Check opening days first.

Spots, access and rules change, so check before you go. Use a flight tracking app to see which runway is in use, stay on the public side of the fence, and follow any instructions from airport police.