

Other tips

- Ditching: into wind parallel to swell, or into wind on top of swell or on lee side
 - Ask your first ATC contact to activate your flight plan
 - Southend Radar, Farnborough Radar, London Information
 - Tell them your airborne time
 - All times are UTC not local time, or BST
 - Beware Restricted / Prohibited zones and RA(T)'s
 - Beware hazy / poor horizon over water
 - Maintain heading & altitude
 - Notice periods vary
 - GAR to / from EU: 2 hr before departure; Ireland, Channel Islands 12 hr
 - EU Customs – varies - 2, 4, 12, 24 hr (check AIP via SkyDemon)
- Note key telephone numbers here
 - Destination airport
 - Local number for flight plans (BRIA) +31
 - Emergency GAR +44 300 123 2012
 - Border Force Stansted North side (GA) +44 1279 668976

A guide to cross channel flying

A lot of fun for a bit of extra preparation and a bit of extra knowledge



Cross-channel checklist

Planning

- SkyDemon set-up (aircraft profile & glide range)
- Order charts & airfield plates
- Long-range weather check
- Route & altitude planning
- NOTAM's, RA(T)'s, Danger zones
- Alternates
- GAR forms
- Flight plans
- Customs PN
- PPR / GenDec
- Bike hire, taxi, train, tram
- Fuel plan
- M&B
- Weather check on the day
-
-

Equipment

- Lifejackets / raft
- PLB / ELT
- Passports
- Licence / medical
- Aircraft documents
- Interception procedures
- PLOGs & Frequency list
- Charts & airfield plates
- Batteries / chargers
- Passenger briefing

Arrival checks

- Close flight plan
- Re-fuelling
- Fuel drawback
- Unload the shopping
- Expect Border Force to call

How does it differ from a flight within the UK?

- Planning
 - Getting foreign airfield plates (national AIP's)
 - Foreign 1:500,000 charts
- Paperwork & notifications
 - GAR form for UK Border Force
 - GENDEC for some countries
 - PPR, Customs PN
 - Which airfields to use
 - Flight plan
- Flight over-water
 - Life-jackets / raft
 - Glide range over water
 - Ditching procedures
 - Lack of horizon
- Airspace & Rules of the Air
 - European class D & E VMC minima
 - Possible use of Special VFR
- It's all a bit foreign
 - Chart presentations vary
 - Language in the circuit

SkyDemon has made this part much easier

Some extra knowledge required

Useful RT frequencies



Or

- London Information 124.6
 - From Kent to mid-Channel
- Le Touquet ATIS 123.130
- Le Touquet Tower 118.450
 - Before entering the CTR
- Le Touquet Ground 121.755
 - As instructed after landing
 - For start-up & taxi



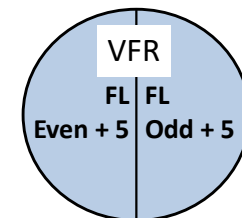
- Brussels Information 126.9
- Koksijde Approach 121.055
 - To cross CTR
- Oostende ATIS 126.130
- Oostende Approach 120.6
- Oostende Tower 118.180
- Dutch Mil Info (FIS) 132.350
- Midden Zeeland Radio 119.255
- Amsterdam Information 124.3
 - FIS in north and west
- Rotterdam Approach 122.990
- Rotterdam Tower 118.205
- De Kooy Twr 120.130
 - for CTR, if open
- Dutch Mil Info
 - For FIS in south and east
- Texel Radio 119.305

Or

- Lille Information 120.275
 - From mid-Channel
- Calais Information 128.925

Rules of the Air differences

- Semi-circular rule applies for VFR above the transition altitude
- ATC services
 - Flight Information Service (= our Basic Service)
 - Radar Information Service (= our Traffic Service)
- Obstacle / terrain clearance: "500 feet above"
 - Not "500 ft from" as in UK
- VMC minima in class C, D, E
 - 5 km visibility, 1500m vertically / 1000 ft from cloud
 - Not CCISS as in the UK
- Controlled air-space CTR's / CTA's / TMA's may be class C, D or E
 - Some CAS is HX. i.e. limited specified hours, or by NOTAM
 - Class E is CAS but clearance not required if VMC
- Special VFR rules are typically (but check).....
 - Visibility 2000 m, cloud base 800 ft, limited number of aircraft permitted
- Circuit joins
 - Uncontrolled airfields - typically mid downwind; beware on-site parachuting & gliding
 - UK standard overhead join is not used
 - Larger airfields - downwind, base or final as directed
- Enter / leave the EU via Customs airports
- Every flight plan must be closed on arrival



Foreign language RT

English	French	German
Circuit	le tour de piste, le circuit	Platzrunde
Cross wind	le vent traversier	
Downwind	vente arriere	Gegen - anflug
Base leg	l'étape de base	Quer - anflug
Turning final	en dernier virage	
(Long / short) Final	(Longue / courte) finale	End - anflug
Touch & go	le posé-décollé	Aufsetzen und Durchstarten
Going around	l'approche interrompue / remise de gaz	
Back-track	remonter	
Taxiway	la voie de circulation	Rollbahn
Runway vacated	piste degage	
Taxi to holding point runway....	roulez pour le point d'arrêt piste...	Rollen Sie zum Rollhalt Piste
Ready for departure	Pret au decollage	abflugbereit
Line up runway....	aligne piste	rollen Sie zum Abflugpunkt Piste ...
Take off at your discretion....		Start in eigenem Ermessen
Runway (take-off / landing)	la piste (d'envol / d'atterrissage)	Piste (abflug / anflug)
Report overhead	Rappelle verticale	
Right turn / left turn	Virage a droite / a gauche	Rechtskurve / linkskurve
Leaving the area / circuit	Sortie de zone / circuit	Verlassen die Zone

References / web-links

- SkyDemon account www.Skydemon.aero
- GAR rules https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/111811/GOV.UK_GAR_instructions_-_December_2021.pdf
- OnlineGar app <https://www.onlinegar.com/login.olg>
- Airports
 - Le Touquet <https://www.aeroport-letouquet.com/infos-aeronautiques/?lang=en>
 - Calais <http://www.aeroport.capcalais.fr/>
 - Midden Zeeland <https://www.vliegveldzeeland.nl/en/#>
 - Oostende <https://www.ostendbruges-airport.com/> (look for GA, Gen Dec & Technical Information)
- France VAC Atlas https://www.sia.aviation-civile.gouv.fr/dvd/eAIP_13_JUL_2023/Atlas-VAC/FR/VACProduitPartieframeset.htm
- BRIA (French flight plans) contact number list https://www.sia.aviation-civile.gouv.fr/pub/media/news/file/a/s/assistance_bria_-_fr.pdf
- EU AIP s <http://www.eurocontrol.int/articles/ais-online>
- UK Met Office <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/premium/generalaviation/#!/aerodromes>
- Safety Sense leaflet – Ditching https://publicapps.caa.co.uk/docs/33/SafetySense_21-Ditching.pdf
- French RT <http://lahso.megginson.com/2007/09/30/some-french-aviation-terms/>
<http://www.francoflyers.org/french-radio-calls.html>
- German RT <http://www.tf.uni-kiel.de/~fp/fliegerei/ausbildung/sprechfunk/sprechfunk5.html>