

GETTIN' THERE

aviation information for local destinations

Destination:

Abbotsford (CYXX)

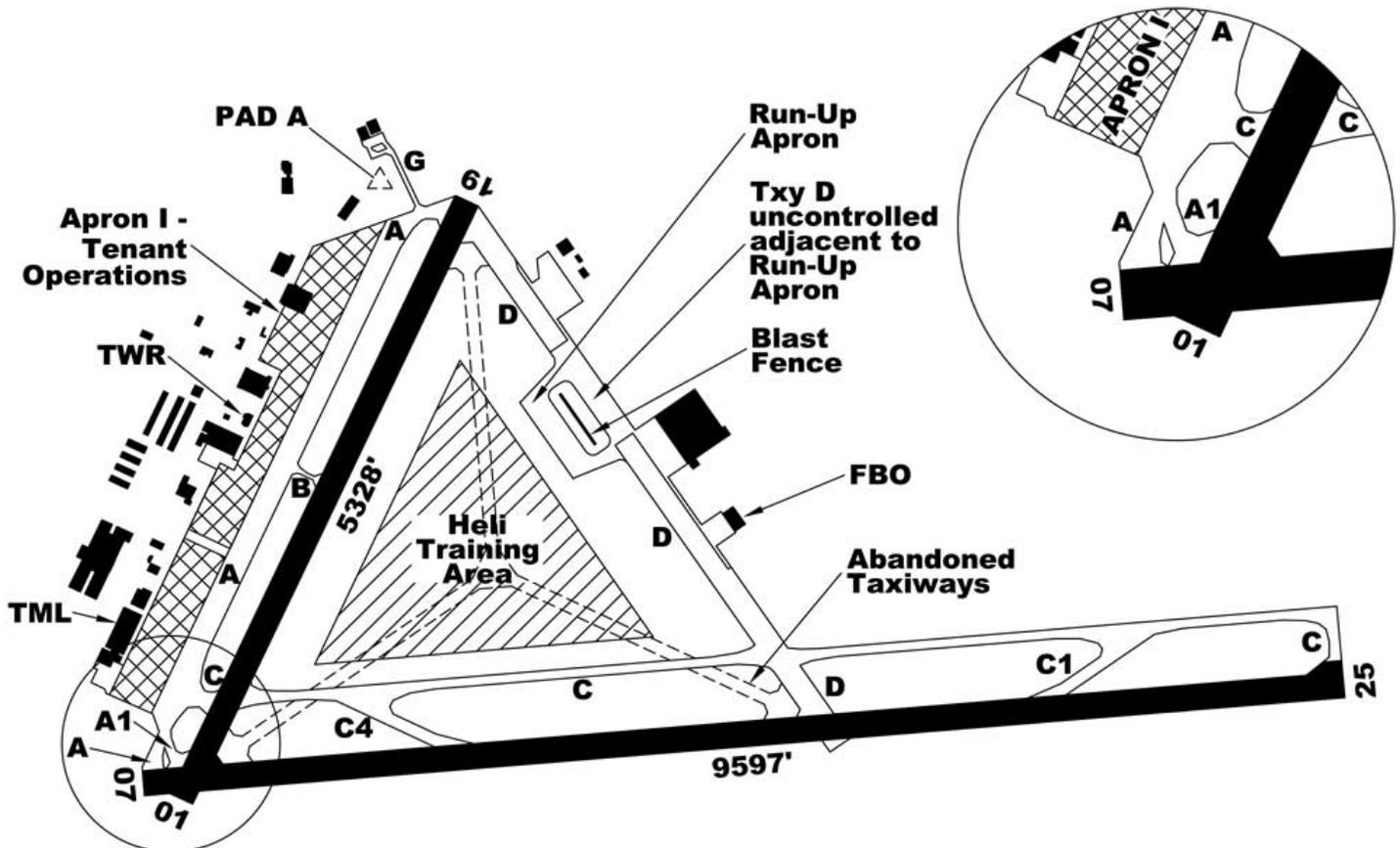
Why Go?

Abbotsford is a popular airport for training and chances are you've been there with an instructor. As a student pilot you'll probably do a touch-and-go there on your way to Chilliwack. It's usually one of the stops on a night cross country flight and if you ever do IFR training you'll

come to know the airspace around Abbotsford better than your own backyard. However, despite all these "stops", we don't often stay very long and that's too bad.

Flying to Abbotsford is a great experience and one of my favourite flights. It's a short flight (usually 0.6 or 0.7 Hobbs time), and while you have a couple of more steps to work through it is not a complicated flight. Once you're there you can look at the

collection of interesting aircraft that Conair (the forest fire fighting company) has on the field, you can pop over to the TradEx to see the latest exhibition or hit The Baron for something to eat. The airport is a ways out of town so if you want to get into Abbotsford proper you're going to have to make transportation arrangements.



Getting There

We'll leave you to work out the details of the flight plan however as you work on your flight plan here are a couple of points you may find useful:

- After flying to your initial departure fix out of Victoria (usually Stuart Island or Beaver Point) you'll likely be routed via East Point and Cherry Point. Both of these waypoints are easy to identify on the map and in the air.
- This is an over water flight so you'll need to ensure you have appropriate altitude.
- Because of the altitude you'll be flying at you'll be in Victoria Terminal's airspace. During your flight Victoria Terminal will switch you from the initial contact frequency (127.8 at time of writing) to a second Terminal frequency (132.7 at time of writing). It's a good idea to have that second frequency queued on your radio.

After departing Victoria, Tower will switch you over to Terminal so you can get clearance to continue your climb. After contacting Terminal, finishing your climb and getting settled at your final altitude I'd recommend tuning in Abbotsford ATIS (119.8 at time of writing). In addition to the usual ATIS information, listen to see if Abbotsford has their Outer Tower open. It's not always open, but if it is this is how you'll find out about it.

As mentioned above Terminal will have you change frequencies, usually just after East Point. When you contact Terminal after the frequency change let them know you have the Abbotsford ATIS. Terminal will keep you at altitude until somewhere around the mainland shoreline. Shortly after crossing the shoreline Terminal will switch you over to Abbotsford Tower. Give them a call and let them know where you are and what you want to do...the rest is easy.

Have a taxiway diagram handy and know where you want to go. If you're going to The Baron you can park in front of the restaurant. If you're just there for a couple of hours you'll likely end up parking near the tower but check with Ground to be sure.

Departing Abbotsford is fairly straightforward and pretty much a reversal of the route you took to get there. If you're going off Rwy 19 they'll usually give you a right turn (assuming you're returning to Victoria) which saves some time.

Local Knowledge

Here are a few things to be aware of that you may not find in the CFS or see written down anywhere:

- When parking in front of the Baron or beside the Tower you'll see white lines painted on the tarmac that resemble a "roadway". This IS a roadway used

by airport vehicles so DO NOT park across it.

- There are no run-up bays for Rwy 01/19 (the most commonly used runway) so you can either do your run-up where you parked (watch your prop blast!) or at the edge of the taxiway just near the entrance to the runway.
- There is a penitentiary located 1 mile east of the threshold of Rwy 25. You can't be lower than 300 feet if overflying it.

Weather

Abbotsford has both a METAR and TAF available. Other weather factors to be aware of include:

- Turbulence. On a warm / sunny day as you descend in the vicinity of the airport you may find it turbulent.

Important Links & Contacts

Abbotsford International Airport:

www.abbotsfordairport.ca

The Baron Bar & Grill:

www.thebaronbarandgrill.com