

# GETTIN' THERE

## aviation information for local destinations

### Destination:

Qualicum Beach (CAT4)

### Why Go?

Qualicum Beach is a nice, simple flight to do. Not too far, not too challenging and just different enough from the airports you fly into during training to make it interesting. Depending on conditions, routing, etc. figure on about a 40 minute flight each way. You don't need to have taken the Mountain Flying Course to go there and because it is on the shoreline of southern Vancouver Island it is usually accessible even in the dead of winter.

The airport is a good twenty minute walk from town but you can call a taxi from the airport terminal building if you wish. Situated within a short walk from the airport you can find two 18 hole golf courses.

Located in the airport terminal building is The Final Approach Restaurant, a small restaurant with great food. The soup is to die for and, while they don't have the variety of pies that Chilliwack does, their pie is every bit as good if not better. Currently their hours are Mon – Fri 11am - 9pm and 9am –

9pm on Sat & Sun however it's always a good idea to give them a call and confirm.

Qualicum Beach Airport has the distinction of having the first IFR GPS approach in Canada.

### Getting There

We'll leave the flight planning up to you however whether you travel in Victoria Terminal's airspace (my preferred routing) or in uncontrolled airspace, by the time you approach Nanoose Bay it's time to make things happen.

• If you're in Victoria Terminal's airspace Terminal will terminate radar service somewhere just before Nanoose Bay. They may suggest contacting Comox Terminal, but it's not necessary – you'll be descending shortly.

• You'll want to start monitoring Qualicum's ATF (122.8 at time of writing).

• This is a good place to announce your presence and your intentions.

• Nanoose Bay is also a good place to start your descent.



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I'd suggest a routing along the shoreline to French Creek Marina (easy to see) before turning inland to cross mid-field. South and east-bound traffic tends to stay inland so being on the shoreline will help with separation. At French Creek Marina, turn inland to cross mid-field.

The circuit at Qualicum is on the inland side of the airport so you'll be joining downwind either way – it's just a question of which runway.

After landing, taxi to the terminal building area to park. There is limited parking near the gas pumps so you may end up on the grass. DO NOT park in KD Air's spots in the middle of the tarmac.

## Local Knowledge

As I stated at the outset, Qualicum Beach Airport is a nice simple flight. That said, there are a few things to be aware of that you may not find in the CFS:

- There's a ravine just before the threshold of Rwy 29 that, combined with the upslope of Rwy 29, can create an illusion of being too high when landing.
- "Little Mountain" is a small hill about 4nm south-east of the airport. You'll often hear local traffic, especially KD Air, refer to it.
- There are noise abatement procedures for both runways. They're really simple and they're explained in both the CFS and on signs at the airport.

- Qualicum Beach NOTAMS are listed under Nanaimo.

## Weather

There's no METAR / TAF for Qualicum so you have to rely on the GFA and reports from other airports for weather information. Nanaimo is the closest airport with a METAR / TAF so it's a good start. Other local weather factors to be aware of include:

- Crosswinds. There are often crosswinds at Qualicum.

## Important Links & Contacts

Town of Qualicum Beach Airport: <http://www.qualicumbeach.com/cms.asp?wpID=437>

Qualicum Beach Airport weather cams: <http://www.qualicumbeach.com/cms.asp?wpID=633>

KD Air: 250.752.5884

Final Approach Restaurant: 250 752-8966