

LBSF - Sofia Airport

Pilot Briefing



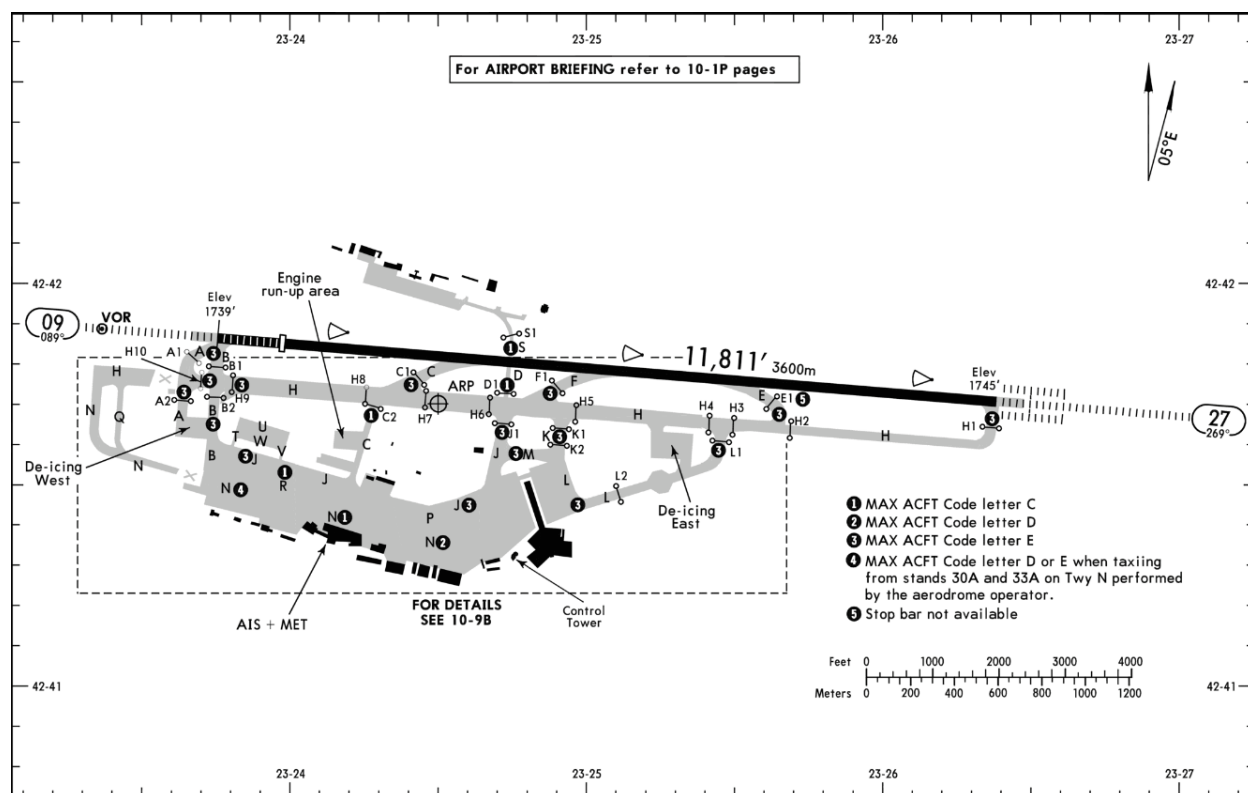
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1. Welcome

Welcome to Sofia! A beautiful airport situated in the north-east part of Sofia with some awesome views and mountains. The airport offers flights to more than 80 destinations and is the biggest airport in Bulgaria.

1.1. About the airport



As seen in the diagram, Sofia has only 1 runway (09/27), for which the length is 3600m. Sofia is classified as an international airport with an elevation of 1742m. The airport has 2 terminals and offers 43 stands for both domestic and international flights. Sofia has 3 GA aprons for which a total of 15 stands. There are 2 De-Icing pads (East and West) each having 3 positions.

2. Pre-Flight Check

2.1. Scenery

The default scenery for Sofia isn't the best. Often aircraft aren't being placed correctly on the stands, in most cases far off the stands. Here are some Payware and Freeware sceneries:

Payware

- P3D v4/5 - [AFLOSIM LBSF SOFIA AIRPORT](#)
- MSFS - [SOFIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT MSFS](#)

Freeware

- X-Plane 11 - [LBSF Sofia Airport](#)
- MSFS - [Sofia Airport \(LBSF\)](#)

2.2. Charts

BGvACC has AIP charts for the airport, published on the website, click here to access them. Navigraph also has up-to-date charts for Sofia.

3. Frequency List

Positions	Frequency	Callsign
LBSF_TWR	118.100	Sofia Tower
LBSF_APP	123.700	Sofia Radar
LBSR_CTR	131.225	Sofia Control

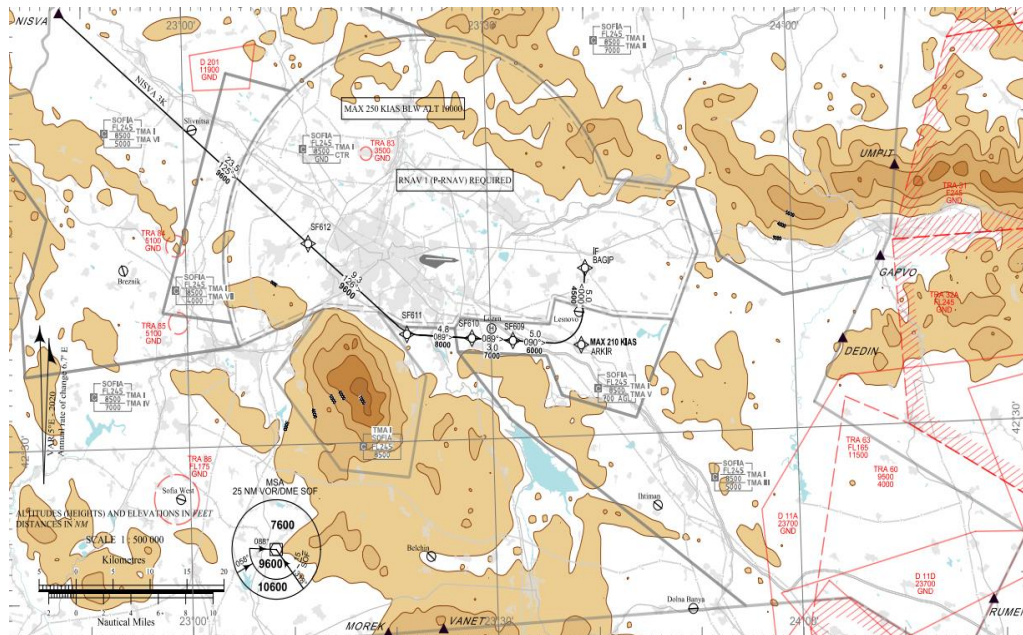
5. Arrivals to Sofia

5.1. Arrival Procedures

Sofia offers a variety of different approaches (ILS, RNP and VOR for both runways). In most cases the controller will give you the ILSz approach for the runway. If your aircraft is non-RNAV capable you can request ILSy approach. Here you can see the approach types, courses, and frequencies for the different approaches.

Approach	Runway	Frequency	Course
ILS _z	09	110.7	089
ILS _y	09	110.7	089
VOR	09	112.6	089
ILS _z	27	109.5	269
ILS _y	27	109.5	269
VOR	27	112.6	269

5.3.1. RWY 27 NISVA3K Arrival



NISVA has 2 STARs for RWY 27, one is NISVA4H which is in point 5.3 and NISVA3K which is a shorter version of 4H.

6. Ground Procedures

6.1. Obtaining Clearance

Before requesting IFR/VFR Clearance the pilots MUST check the current ATIS information and upon requesting ATC clearance the pilots MUST state that they have obtained the latest ATIS Information and their current stand number.

6.2. Pushback and Engine Start(De-Icing)

The pilot requires clearance for Push and Start before doing so. Only the gates(stands) on Terminal 2 (1-11) require Pushback, the rest of the stands require only Engine Start up clearance(except Stand 14 for Code E aircraft) .

In case De-Icing is required the pilot should advise the ATC upon requesting Startup/Pushback, due to the limited De-Icing stands.

In case all De-Icing stands are occupied, instead of receiving a Startup/Pushback clearance, the pilot will be given a sequence number for Startup/Pushback.

7. Departure Procedures

7.1. Take-off procedures

When approaching the holding point, the pilot will be asked by the ATC, whether they are ready for departure. If the pilot advises that they are ready, they shall be expected to depart with no delay when given the take-off clearance. In case the pilot isn't ready for departure, they shall advise the controller when they are ready for departure.

With the take-off clearance, the pilot will be given the departure frequency, if that is the case they shall be required to contact Sofia Radar (123.700) as soon as possible after departure. If the pilot is not given the departure frequency with the take-off clearance, they shall remain on tower frequency until advised.

7.2. SIDs

Initial climbs at LBSF are decided according to the direction of flight. If the SID is eastbound the initial climb will be FL230, if the SID is westbound then initial climb will be FL240.

LBSF offers both RNAV and non-RNAV SIDs. The RNAV SIDs are designated as follows:

RWY 27 – “**T**”

RWY 09 – “**S**”

All other SIDs are non-RNAV.

8. VFR

Sofia CTR has specially designed VFR routes, which are used for arrival, departure, and transiting traffic. Pilots **MUST** report over each passing waypoint unless advised by ATC. Below you can see the VFR Route map (Visual Approach Chart) for the Sofia CTR.

