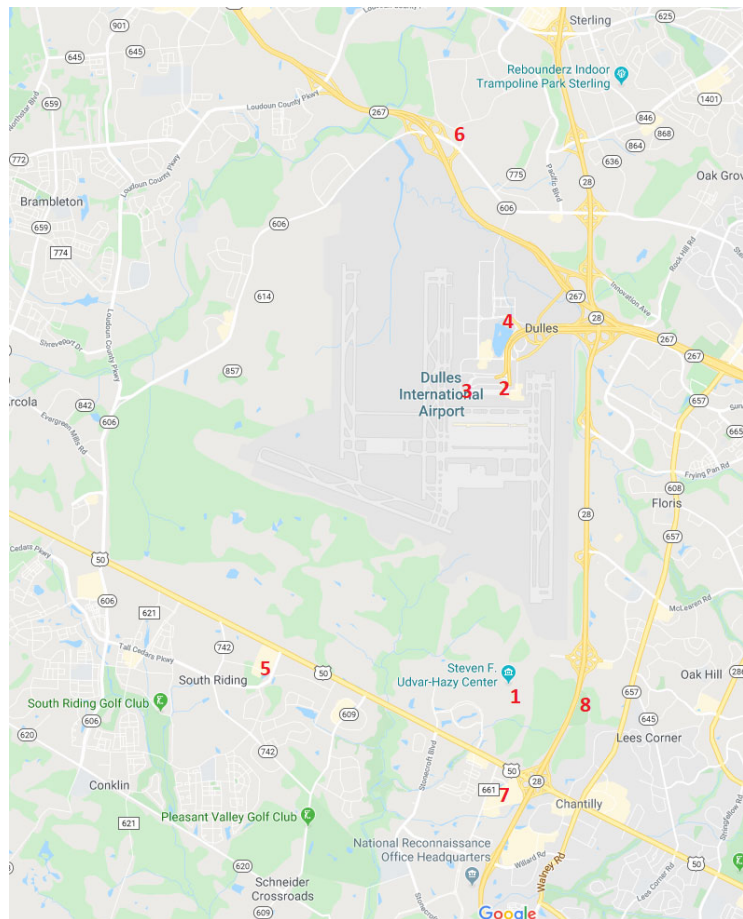


## Spotting Guide to Washington Dulles Intl. Airport - IAD



### IAD Frequencies:

ATIS:	134.85
Potomac Departure:	125.05 (1R/19L), 126.65 (1C/19C/30)
Potomac Final Approach:	120.45 (1R/19L) MANNE, 128.525 BARRIN, 126.10 (1C/19C/12/30) MULLER, 125.8, 134.2, 135.775
Tower:	120.1 (1R/19L), 120.25 (1C/19C) 134.425 (1L/19R 12/30)
Ground West:	132.45, 124.075 (high traffic times)
Ground East:	121.9

**All locations described below are designated spots for IAD airport. Do not go to any other place. There is no point of going anywhere else because all traffic can be seen or photographed from these fine spots. Please respect those simple rules so other spotters can enjoy IAD for years to come.**

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## Spotting Guide to Washington Dulles Intl. Airport - IAD

**Location No.1** – Smithsonian Udvar-Hazy Museum: This spot is located next to the approach to runway 1R. Most international arrivals will land on runway 1R, however, early (before 1 PM) European arrivals might occasionally use 1C.

**Camera:** Lens requirements for this runway vary from where you park. You can park close to the entrance gate and use 200mm lens, however, trees might be on your way. To avoid the trees, you can park at the end of southern side of the parking lot, generally with a plenty of free spaces. The aircraft are a bit higher so expect about 200mm-300mm. Finally, you can walk just outside the parking booths into the grassy area near the approach when using shorter lenses.

**Times:** This location is good from about noon until sunset.

**Parking:** If you are driving there then you will have to pay \$15 for parking (however, entry to the museum is free). After 4 PM entry is parking free. *DO NOT park anywhere along the access road to the museum.*

**Amenities:** Restrooms and food are available inside the museum.

**Directions:** *From Washington, D.C., and points south:* I-66 West to Route 28 North (Exit 53B): Travel on Route 28 North for 5.3 miles. Exit at Air and Space Museum Parkway and follow the signs to the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center.

*From points north:* I-495 West (Capital Beltway) to the Dulles Toll Road West (Route 267). Exit the toll road at Route 28 South (Exit 9A) and travel south 3.5 miles. Exit at Air and Space Museum Parkway and follow the signs to the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center. (Note: if you are coming to the airport using the Dulles Airport Access Rd (toll-free portion) you can be ticketed by MWAA Police for entering the airport and turning around to get on Sully Rd. Consider using the toll road for access to Sully Rd. unless you plan to spend time at the airport first).

*From the airport:* Taxi from the terminal costs \$12. VA Transit operates scheduled bus service from the main Terminal to the museum.

*From Downtown Air & Space Museum:* There is a direct bus link to/from the downtown Air & Space Museum

### Location No.2 – Daily Parking Garage 1, Level 5:

**Camera:** If Runways 19L/C/R are in use for arrivals, this spot is good for arrivals with lens at least 400 mm since arriving traffic will be mostly domestic airliners. Runways 19C/L are used for almost all international arrivals. For departures from 1R you will need at least 400mm zoom (film camera) or 300 mm (digital) for wide body aircraft.

**Times:** This place is good for afternoon arrivals on runway 19L, or for afternoon departures from runway 1R. Most of the time runway 1R will be used for intl. departures (if winds are from the North). Departures from 1R start around 4:30pm, so if you are there and there are departures from Runway 30 don't be alarmed. ATC will switch to 1R with the first international departure (usually it's Air France 777). Virgin and British Airways usually take off from Runway 30.

**Parking:** Each half hour costs \$4; maximum for a day is \$17.

**Amenities:** None; however, the terminal can be accessed by the underground walkway.

**Directions:** Follow the signs to Daily Parking Garage 1.

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**Location No.3** – Daily Parking Garage 2, Level 5: This location is the best spot for viewing action on runway 1C/19C.

**Camera:** For photos from this location, you will need at least 300mm zoom. With 300mm lens you will get full frame of a 767 on the runway. Other aircraft, including bizjets and commuter airlines will likely taxi in front of you and will require less zoom.

**Times:** This location is good from early in the morning until about noon. After 12 pm sun will be facing you. This place is also good in cloudy weather, in which case, you can stay there all day long for photos of all international arrivals on runway 19C or domestic traffic on runway 1C (it depends on wind direction). If the winds are from the South/South East then departures will be on 19L and arrivals on 19C and 12.

**Parking:** \$4 for every 30 minutes; maximum for a day is \$17. Find an empty parking spot in front of parked UPS/DHL/ABX airplanes.

**Amenities:** None; however, the terminal is within walking distance (walkway is on Level 3).

**Directions:** Follow the signs to Daily Parking Garage 2.

**Location No.4** – Economy Parking (Purple Lot): This spot is located in Long Term Parking lot (purple). The location is less preferred than parking garage No.1, however, it can be useful for morning arrivals on 19L.

**Camera:** Almost any focal length above 150mm can be used because you are free to move around the lot.

**Times:** All day.

**Parking:** First hour costs \$5, and the maximum charge for a day is \$10.

**Amenities:** none.

**Directions:** Follow the signs for economy parking.

**Location No.5** – Near Harris Teeter: This spot is located in the vicinity of the Harris Teeter grocery store, Walgreens Pharmacy, Capital One and Wells Fargo. This spot is good for arrivals on Runway 1L (from noon until sunset). Keep in mind that this runway is used only during heavy traffic hours.

**Camera:** You will need lens ranging between 70mm and 300mm.

**Times:** From noon until sunset

**Parking:** Available (see above)

**Amenities:** Restrooms and food facilities are located across the street in the shopping center (25330 Eastern Marketplace Plaza, Chantilly, VA 20152).

**Directions:** from Route 50 turn left (if driving Rte 50 West) or turn right (if driving Rte 50 East) on Tall Cedars Parkway. You will see a shopping center on your right. At the first traffic light turn left on Eastgate View Drive. Proceed for about 200 yards and you will see gravel lot on your left, next to construction site. Park there and monitor arrivals.

**Location No.6** – Dulles North Transit Center Park & Ride: This is where generally commuters park to continue on Bus rides to Washington, DC. This spot is good for arrivals on Runway 19C before solar noon. Keep in mind that it is a parking facility and as such most if not all spots might be occupied.

**Camera:** You will need lens ranging between 70mm and 300mm.

**Times:** Morning through noon

**Parking:** Available (see above)

**Amenities:** None.

**Directions:** From Dulles Access Rad or from Rte 28, take the exit to Old Ox Road. Turn into Moran Road. Turn left at the Stop sign to enter the commuter parking area.

**Location No.7** – Target/Costco at the shopping center at Lee Rd & Route 50. This spot is located next to the approach to runway 1R. Most international arrivals will land on runway 1R, however, early (before 1 PM) European arrivals might occasionally use 1C. Note that there will be some heat haze during the summer months.

**Camera:** 100mm-300mm.

**Times:** This location is good from about noon until sunset.

**Parking:** Available parking at the shopping centers.

**Amenities:** Restaurants and Restrooms located in most of the shops.

**Directions:** From Washington, D.C., and points south: I-66 West to Route 28 North (Exit 53B): Travel on Route 28 North for 5.3 miles. Exit towards Route 50 West. Turn left at the 1st traffic signal  
 From points north: I-495 West (Capital Beltway) to the Dulles Toll Road West (Route 267). Exit the toll road at Route 28 South (Exit 9A) and travel south 4 miles. Exit towards Route 50 West, at fork bear left keeping the lanes to turn towards Lee Rd.

**Location No.8** – Sully Plantation Park: This spot is located next to the approach to runway 1R.

**Camera:** Anything from regular 70-300mm to 500mm

**Times:** This location is good from sunrise until noon. Park gates open at sunrise and close at sunset.

**Parking:** Free at the dedicated parking spots

**Amenities:** Restrooms are available next to parking lot at the visitor center. Vending machine with soda also available by visitor center.

**Directions:** *From Washington, D.C., and points south:* I-66 West to Route 28 North (Exit 53B): Travel on Route 28 North for 5.3 miles. Exit at Air and Space Museum Parkway and follow the signs to the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center.

Take exit for Wawa gas station. Continue on the road until you enter the park.

*From points north:* I-495 West (Capital Beltway) to the Dulles Toll Road West (Route 267). Exit the toll road at Route 28 South (Exit 9A) and travel south 3.5 miles. Exit at Air and Space Museum Parkway and follow the signs to Wawa gas station.

*From the airport:* Taxi from the terminal costs around \$15.

**SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS**

During north operations when runways 1R/C/L are in use, the best spot for photos is at the museum parking lot. Almost all European arrivals will use runway 1R. All airlines coming from the North, East and South (Europe, Canada, North-Eastern, South-Eastern US) will land on runway 1R. Airlines coming from the west and south-west will land on runway 1C. In heavy traffic hours, Runway 1L will be used as well. Runway 30 is used only for departures never for arrivals (with the only exception being when there are very strong NW winds).

If there are southern operations, airlines from Europe, and the north-east in general (including Eastern Canada) will generally land on runway 19C. Traffic coming from the south will land on runway 19L, and airlines coming from the west and south-west will land on runway 19C. Also keep in mind that some airlines will not follow those rules because they have gates on other sides of the airport. Korean, Ethiopian and ANA have tendency of requesting the most convenient runway but most of the time they use runway 19C/1C.

Frequent visitors to IAD are Luftwaffe Airbus A310, A400 and occasionally CL-601 (Bundeswehr's US Command Office is located at Dulles). These will always land on runway 19C or 1C (depends on the wind direction). VIP aircraft like Amiri Flight 747-400, 737-BBJ, Qatar 747SP, or Cargo operators Volga Dnepr AN-124, etc. will usually park at the R ramp (by the new control tower) which is not visible from outside the airport or on the new ramp between 1C and 1L which is visible from the Daily Parking Garage 2. Landmark FBO gets pretty good VIP traffic too. Most charters will park at the Cargo 6 for which Daily Parking Garage 2 provides the best chance for spotting/photos. When heads of the states are visiting and are not using JB Andrews, they will very likely use IAD. Most of those airplanes park at R Ramp but they might use the new mid-field Ramp (between 1C and 1L)

IAD is one of the busiest biz jets gateways in United States. On many days it surpasses Teterboro in biz jet aircraft movements. The biz jet traffic levels will depend whether Congress is in session or whether there are special events planned or in progress. In these scenarios, expect to see 50-100 biz jets a day during week-days while for the week-ends 25-50. If there are special events, expect a minimum of 100 biz jets operating from Dulles during those days. If you are biz jet lover then IAD is your place.

VIP aircraft during summits or large gatherings/meetings meetings will land on 1L/19R.

**Passenger Airlines at IAD:**

AIRLINE	RWY	EQUIPMENT	ARRIVAL TIME
Aer Lingus	1R/C, 19C	332, 333, 32Neo	Daily around 3 pm
Aeroflot	1R/C, 19C	333, 332	Mo/Th/Sa summer, Mo winter
Air Canada express (jazz)	1R/C, 19L	CRJ, E75	6x Daily
Air China	1R/C, 19C/L	77W	Daily
Air France	1C/R, 19C	77W, 772, 332	2x Daily
Air India	1C/R, 19C	77W	3x weekly (357). Arr 6:30 am
Alaska Airlines	1C, 19R/C	73H, 73J, 320, 32B	5 daily arrivals. Most after dark.
Alitalia	1R, 19C/R	332	Starting May 2nd, 2019
All Nippon ANA	1C, 19C	77W	Daily around 9 am
American American Eagle (JIA)	1C, 19C	319, 73H CR7, CR9	Multiple daily arrivals 4 daily arrivals
Avianca/TACA	1C/R, 19L	319, 320/A, 321/B	5 daily arrivals
Austrian Airlines	1R, 19C	76W	Daily
British Airways	1R, 19C	388, 772, 789	3 daily
Brussels Airlines	1R, 19C	332	Daily summer only
Cabo Verde Airlines	1R, 19L	75W	Arr 357 Dep 146 Start 12/8/2019
Cathay Pacific		35X, 359	Nightly arr/dep
COPA	1R/C, 19L	73H	3 x Daily
Delta	1C/R, 19L	712, 319, 320, 73J	Multiple daily arrivals
DL Connection	1C/R, 19L	CRJ, CR7, CR9	Multiple daily arrivals
Ethiopian	1R/C, 19L/19C	77W, 77L, 788	Daily
Etihad	1R, 19L/C	789	Daily
Emirates	1R, 19L/C	388	Daily arriving around 8AM.
Frontier	All	320/A	Multiple daily arrivals.
Iberia	1R, 19C	333	Starting 05/01/2020
Icelandair	1R, 19L/C	75W, 75T	Daily at 7pm. 2x Daily in summer
KLM	1R, 19C	789, 772, 332, 333	Daily around 4pm
Korean Air	1C, 19C	77W	Daily around 10 am
Lufthansa	1R, 19L/C	74H, 359, 346	3 daily summer (2 daily winter)
Porter Airlines	1R, 19L/C	DH4	4 flights daily
Qatar Airways	1R, 19C	77W	Daily around 3pm
Saudi Arabian	1R, 19C	77W	Daily around noon
Scandinavian SAS	1R, 19C	333	Daily at 3pm
Southwest	1C, 19C	73W, 73H, 7M8	Multiple daily arrivals
TAP Air Portugal	1R, 19C	332, 32B	
Turkish Airlines	1R, 19C	789, 333	Daily (789/350 in summer 2020)
United Airlines (UA)	All	All types, 789, 78X, 77W are rare	Multiple daily arrivals
United Express (ASH, ASQ, AWI, LOF, RPA, SKW, UCA)	All	ER4, E70, E75, CRJ, CR7	Multiple daily arrivals
Virgin Atlantic	1R, 19C	333	Daily
Volaris		320	2x weekly nightly arr.
South African	1C/R, 19L/C	332, 333, 346	Daily at 6:30am, dep. at 5:20pm
Swiss	1R, 19C	333	Daily starting 03/2020

## Spotting Guide to Washington Dulles Intl. Airport - IAD

### **Cargo Airlines at IAD:**

<b>AIRLINE</b>	<b>RWY</b>	<b>EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>ARRIVAL TIME</b>
FedEx	1C, 19C	AB6, 76F, 752, C208, rare D1F	4 daily
UPS	1C, 19C	752, 76W, AB6	2 daily

### **Other Operators at IAD:**

<b>AIRLINE</b>	<b>RWY</b>	<b>EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>ARRIVAL TIME</b>
Foreign Military	All	A400, C130, 319, 343	Unscheduled
VIP	1C/R, 19L/C	Various	Parking: W Ramp, R Ramp
Charters	All	Various	Unscheduled
Other Cargo	All	All Cargo types	Unscheduled
Special Cargo (VDA, ADB)	1R/C, 19L/C	A124, IL76	Unscheduled but fairly often

- This information is provided as a courtesy to local area spotters and no warranties of any kind are expressed or implied.
- Please be courteous to local spotters and citizens (after all they live there), as well as to local law enforcement (after all they have a job to do).
- For any suggestions, issues, or recommendations please [contact us](http://www.washbaltpotters.net/contact.shtml) at <http://www.washbaltpotters.net/contact.shtml>

### **Credits**

This guide was written and edited by Washington Baltimore Spotters Group members Blend Qatipi, Rafal Szczypek and Sunil Gupta