

CAIRNS (CNS/YBCS)

Elevation 10ft

CATEGORY B

No AV brief required.

GENERAL

- Cairns is situated on the E coast of Queensland in latitude 17°S
- The city is immediately S of the airport and overlooks Cairns Harbour
- Preferred runways are 15 for landing and 33 for take-off.

Threat Based Briefing Topics

CFIT

- W of the airfield is Mt Whitefield, rising to 1,250ft asl within 1 nm of the runway.
- Further high ground from NW through S to E.
- Notable peaks/obstructions, are: 12 nm NW ~2,700ft asl, 7 nm NW ~2,250ft asl.
- 5 nm E ~2,200ft asl, 7 nm E ~2,750ft asl, 14 nm SE ~3,350ft asl, 23 nm SE ~5,400ft asl.
- 6 nm SW ~3,500ft asl, 10 nm SW ~4,350ft asl.
- There is a steep sided valley to the S of the city which narrows as it extends S.

Runway Incursion

- There is a short runway (925 m) orientated 12/30. Clearance is required to taxi across Rwy12 threshold.

Loss of Control

- Low level turbulence on final approach to both runways with SE to W winds; WINDSHEAR on short finals.
- If taking off with a tailwind on Rwy 33, expect an increasing tailwind component during early climb-out.
- Birds are a hazard, especially Pelicans.

ARRIVAL

- DME arc procedures are used but aircraft may be radar vectored to final approach.
- Maximum speeds are published for some procedures due terrain.
- Landings Rwy 33 rare, most likely during the afternoons July, August and September.
- The visual circling approach Rwy 33 is flown right hand and must not extend beyond 4.4 DME to the S. Consider accepting a tailwind landing on Rwy 15.

GROUND

- 4 engined aircraft are required to use low power on outboard engines whilst taxiing

- If the exit at B2/B5 are missed a backtrack may be required (though WF procedures may implement Taxiway G)
- Expect ATC and ramp congestion.

DEPARTURE

- High traffic levels can be expected with resulting ATC frequency congestion.
- Long taxi out times can be expected (2017: 34 mins and 21 mins). Plan taxi fuel and start-up time accordingly.
- Backtrack possible, but Taxiway G to runway end more likely

WEATHER

- Apr to Nov Cairns generally fine weather with prevailing SE wind
- High terrain surrounding Cairns has a significant orographic effect on the weather from Nov through to Mar. The onset of the wet season is signalled by a shift in the winds to the NE in Nov.
- Poor conditions can be expected to persist for lengthy periods throughout the wet season
- Cyclones can be expected to affect the area during the wet season
- Mean max/min temperatures: 32°/24°C in summer; 26°/17°C in winter.

OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

Handling Agent	Simfest Ground Services
Potable Water	Not Assessed

IF ONLY Electrical Power is required	Use APU (GPU/FEGP not available)
If BOTH electrical power and air conditioning is required:	Use APU (ACU not available)

