LFPM/Villaroche: Paris Without the Pain

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If LFPB/Paris Le Bourget is proving too noisy, too crowded, or just too regulated for your liking this summer – there's another option.

Thanks to the team at Elyxan Aviation, we've got the full scoop on LFPM/Paris Villaroche, a lesser-known but promising alternative for BizAv flights heading to Paris. Located about 45-50 minutes from the city center, this airport sits southeast of Paris and offers something refreshingly rare: **no slots, no APU restrictions, and 24/7 availability.**

Why consider LFPM?

LFPM/Paris Villaroche isn't new – it's a former flight test site that's been quietly evolving into a solid business aviation option southeast of Paris. It has a similar feel to EGLF/Farnborough, and although public ownership has slowed its full development, what's already in place is pretty impressive:

- 1972m x 45m runway with GNSS/LPV approach
- No slots, no APU restrictions, no curfews
- 24/7 ops capability, with English-speaking ATC available on request
- RFFS Cat 5 available on request
- Modern FBO with hangars for bizjets up to Global 7000/Gulfstream 700
- Direct ramp access, VIP pax facilities, and fast turnarounds
- No public access = high privacy for pax and high-profile ops

What's the catch?

LFPM is not a designated port of entry – so it only accepts flights arriving from or departing to EU/Schengen airports (Switzerland included). No customs or immigration means international flights must route in from a Schengen stop first.

Also, while the runway can easily handle larger jets, **LFPM imposes a 37-tonne (approx. 81,600 lbs) limit on actual operating weight** at the time of arrival or departure – not MTOW. For heavier aircraft, fuel loads may need to be adjusted accordingly.

Looking at other options around Paris:

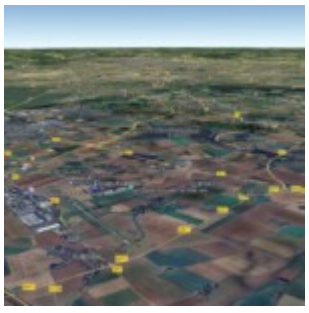
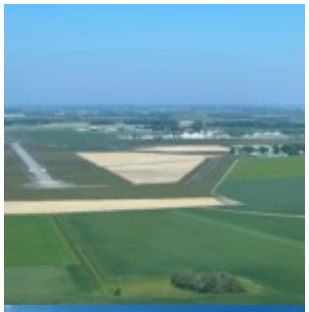
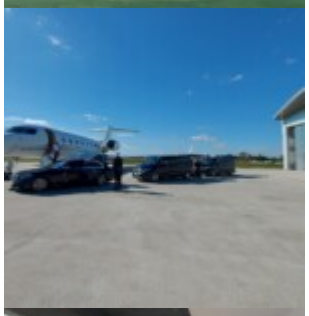
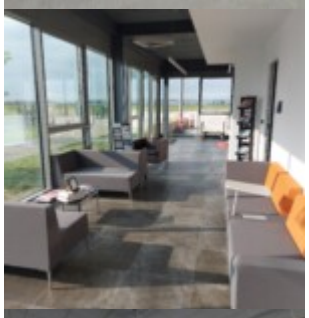
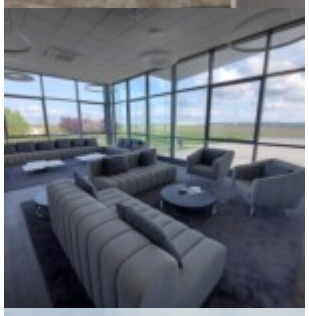
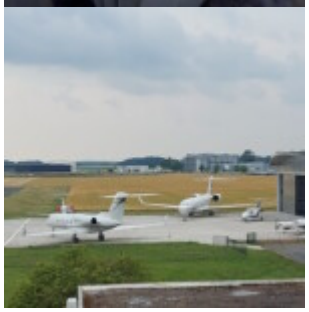
- **LFPB/Le Bourget** is Paris's main BizAv airport – but it's slot-controlled, has APU restrictions, and can be congested in summer.
- **LFPG/Charles de Gaulle** and **LFPO/Orly** are international, but mainly serve scheduled airlines and are not BizAv-friendly.
- **LFOB/Beauvais** and **LFOK/Vatry** are international airports with customs, but they're significantly farther from the city.
- **LFPT/Pontoise** (NW of the city) is also Schengen-only, with a shorter runway and stricter weight limits. Currently undergoing refurbishment.

Faster into Paris?

Actually, yes – and not just on paper.

Even though LFPM looks farther from central Paris than LFPB, the real-world travel time is often the same or shorter. That's especially true if you're arriving from the south – you'll avoid the extra flight time needed to route around LFPG/Charles de Gaulle and skip the congestion-prone A1 motorway used by LFPB/Le Bourget arrivals.

Elyxan put together a practical comparison of travel times from LFPM vs. LFPB to central Paris – factoring in flight routing, ramp access, and road traffic.

For now, it's Schengen-only – but if French authorities eventually install CIQ, Villaroche could become a serious player. In the meantime, it's a great EU option: straightforward, operator-friendly, and low on red tape.

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