

Palm Beach TFRs: The President's Back In Town

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Key Points

- **During President Trump's second term, TFRs will periodically be activated over KPBI/Palm Beach.**
- **Two rings will apply - a 10nm inner ring, and a 10-30nm outer ring.**
- **Aircraft wishing to operate inside the inner ring (all KPBI departures and arrivals) will require TSA pre-screening. Inbound aircraft must depart one of five gateway airports.**
- **The 10 - 30nm ring will only be available to aircraft operating in and out of local airports but will not require pre-screening.**
- **These restrictions will only apply when activated by NOTAM.**
- **A local TFR request form is only required for utility aircraft required to 'loiter' in the TFR such as aerial survey, banner and ag-aircraft.**

Home-sweet-home

The start of President Trump's second term in the White House also means a return of a TFRs over **KPBI/Palm Beach** and Southern Florida.

The Mar-a-Lago Estate has been his primary residence since 2019 - a little over 5nm east of the field. Which means that whenever he comes and goes, operations will be heavily disrupted at the airport.

The FAA has published a reminder of procedures for when the presidential TFRs are active. Here is a brief summary of what you need to know.



The Mar-a-Lago residence, not far from KPBI.

Flight Restrictions

The Presidential TFR is comprised of two rings, centered on KPBI airport.



The FAA has warned operators that TFR activation will be **unpredictable in frequency and duration**, so make sure you continue to check the current NOTAMs.

The Inner Ring (Most Restrictive)

A 10nm radius applies and extends from surface to **17,999' MSL**.

When active, all aircraft in and out of **KPBI/Palm Beach** will require **TSA pre-screening**. Once complete, aircraft details will be broadcast over the FAA Domestic Events Network – which includes all ARTCCs and various other Federal agencies.

For departures, this is available at the following FBOs between 0800 and 1700 local: Atlantic, Jet, Net Jets and Signature.

For arrivals, you will need to depart from one of the following five gateway airports:

- *KHPN/White Plains*
- *KTEB/Teterboro*
- *KIAD/Washington Dulles*
- *KMCO/Orlando*
- *KFLL/Fort Lauderdale*

Once pre-screened, **intermediate stops are not allowed** unless you have a bona-fide emergency.

In both cases you'll need to register for screening at least 24 hours before your departure. Reservations are available by calling 561-616-9650.

Air Force One Inbound

If you happen to be on the field when the President arrives, a **ramp freeze** will be enforced starting from seven minutes (or so) prior to his arrival.

A security inspection will be carried out on the runway after which it will be kept clear.

Once he (or any other VIP) has left the airport, the freeze will be...well, defrosted, and normal ops will resume – albeit Air Force 1 itself will remain under heavy security.

An **important note** from the FAA that's easy to miss! If a pre-screened aircraft is holding for this process and reaches minimum or divert fuel, let ATC know. They may be able to get you special permission to land, but it's not a guarantee.

Consider **extra holding fuel** if arriving during an active TFR. For obvious reasons, his precise arrival and departure times will not be made publicly available.



A ramp freeze will apply during the President's arrival/departure during the TFR window. Expect some holding!

Outer Ring (less restrictive)

The outer ring extends from 10 to 30nm from PBI airport, from surface to 17,999' MSL.

TSA pre-screening is **not required**, however only aircraft arriving or departing local airfields will be allowed. If things are *really* quiet, a transit clearance may be granted by ATC. However, any 'loitering' or other such tomfoolery is not allowed.

Discrete Squawks □

All aircraft inside either ring will be required to **squawk a discrete code** and maintain constant contact with ATC on VHF.

The friendly folk at PBI ATC have clarified the following:

- *Departing PBI* – code will be allocated by clearance delivery.
- *Departing a satellite airport* – call TRACON prior to departing on 561-684-9047 to request a squawk and departure frequency.
- *Arriving at a satellite airport* – call ATC prior to entering the 30nm ring to obtain a code and get radar identified.

Or better yet, avoid the TFRs completely.

All sounds too hard?

Presidential TFRs will only be activated when the president is in town. At all other times it will be **ops-normal** at PBI and nearby airfields.

If you're planning a trip here, it's important you monitor the NOTAMs closely. The FAA endeavors to provide at least 72 hours' notice. You can also check the TFR website [here](#).

Asking for a friend, what do you do if intercepted?

Don't panic. Talk to them in plain English on **121.5** and follow their instructions.

Notify ATC that you have been intercepted – expect a number to call when you're back on terra firma.