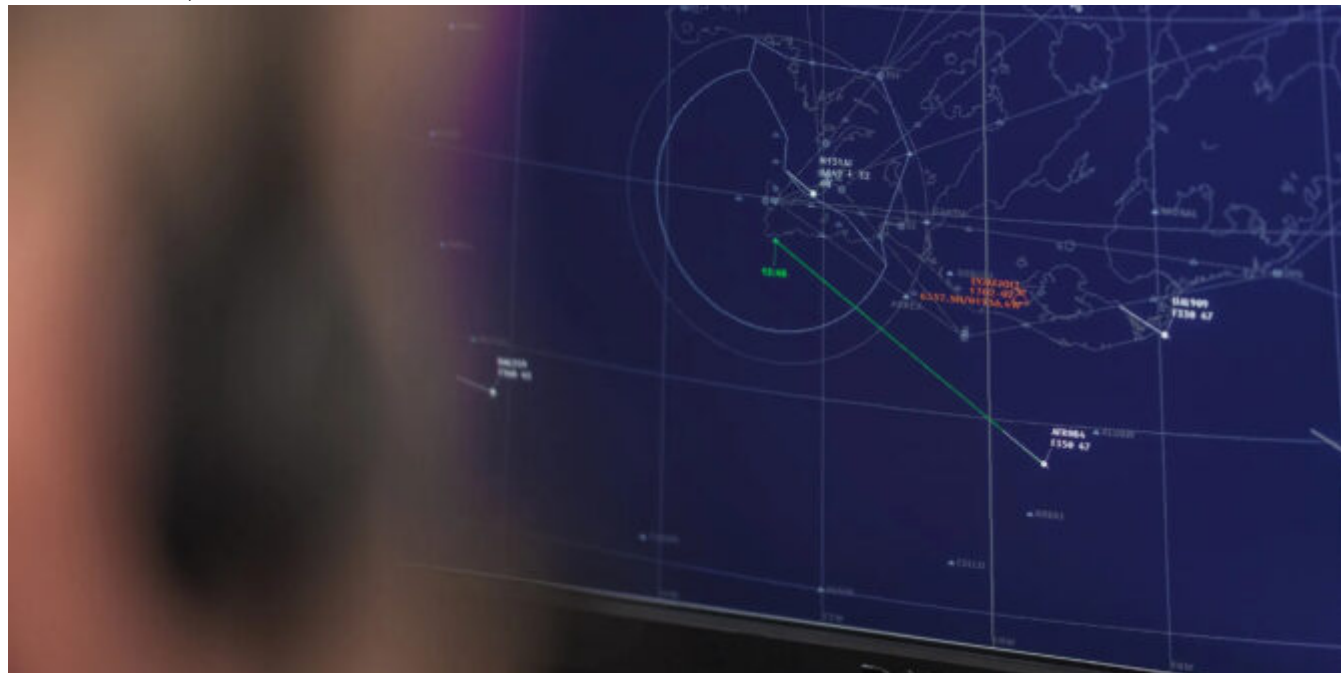


Iceland ATC strikes at Keflavik

David Mumford
19 December, 2023



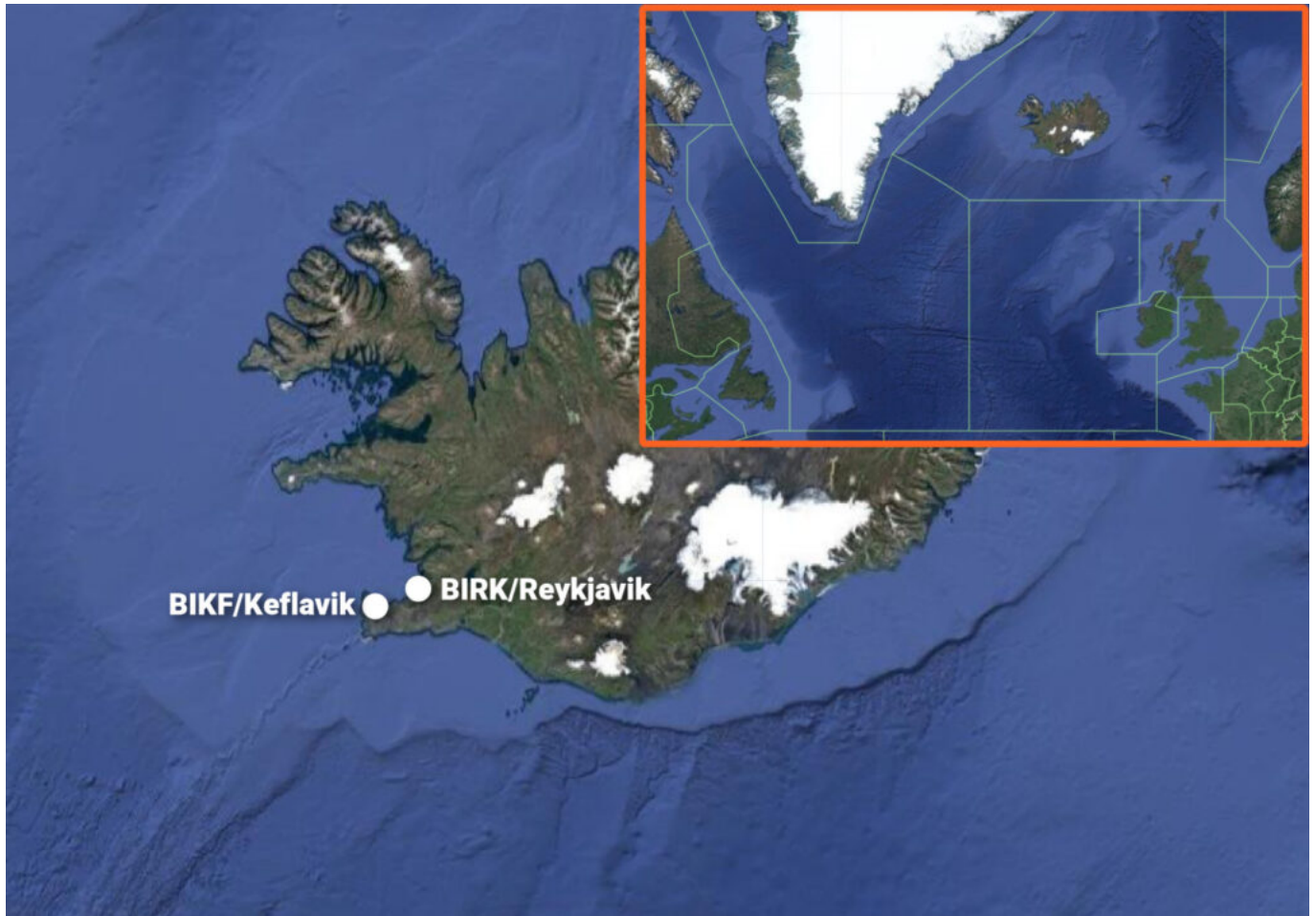
Update 19 Dec 1230z - The ATC strike at BIKF/Keflavik on Dec 20 has been cancelled due to a volcanic eruption on the Reykjanes Peninsula.

An Icelandic ATC strike took place on Dec 12, 14, and 18, with another planned for Dec 20 (now cancelled).

The Dec 12/14 strikes affected both BIKF/Keflavik and BIRK/Reykjavik. But the Dec 18/20 strikes were only planned at BIKF/Keflavik - no flights were allowed to operate in or out from 04-10z/

BIKF A0802/23 - DUE TO INDUSTRIAL ACTION KEFLAVIK CTR IS CLOSED.
BIKF TWR SERVICES IS LIMITED TO AMBULANCE FLIGHTS, EMERGENCY FLIGHTS
AND FLIGHTS ON BEHALF OF THE ICELANDIC COAST GUARD.
18 DEC 04:00 2023 UNTIL 18 DEC 10:00 2023.
CREATED: 15 DEC 13:40 2023

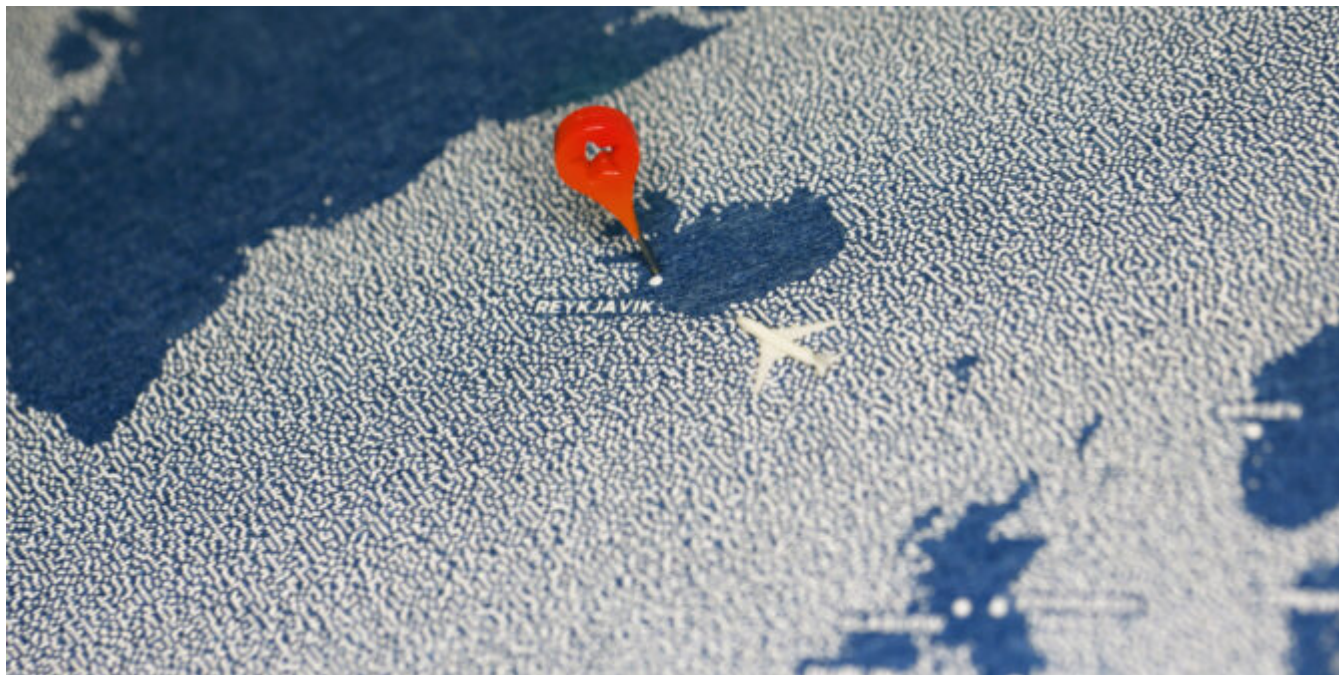
The Notams said that emergency flights were exempt. We confirmed with Isavia that **all diversions were accepted**, including emergency, and that carrying **BIKF as an alternate (including ETOPS) was OK**.



The strikes have gone quite smoothly so far, with minimal disruption to flights. Negotiations between controllers and employers are ongoing... □

Iceland Airports Reopen to GA/BA Flights

David Mumford
19 December, 2023



Update 1000z May 18: The summit is over, and the restrictions on flights at BIKF and BIRK have now been lifted. Below is original story from May 16.

There's a big state summit happening in Reykjavik this week, which means **restrictions for GA/BA flights at Iceland's main airports BIKF/Keflavik and BIRK/Reykjavik.**



BIKF/Keflavik

This is the most common stop for GA/BA flights doing North Atlantic stops. **There's no parking allowed here from 0000z May 15 to 1000z May 18.** That's what this super vague Notam A0133/23 actually means:

A0133/23 - EAST APRON/WEST APRON RESTRICTED FOR SPECIAL OPERATION.
STATE, DIVERTED AND AMBULANCE FLIGHTS ARE EXCLUDED.
15 MAY 00:00 2023 UNTIL 18 MAY 10:00 2023.
CREATED: 11 MAY 14:37 2023

We checked with a local handler at the airport, who said that **quick turns are not allowed either** during this period. You can contact them for more info at ops@southair.is.

BIRK/Reykjavik

From 0700z May 16 to 1900z May 17, GA/BA flights are **not allowed to go here either!** Not unless your flight is directly related to the summit, in which case you need slots. And you can't use it as a FPL alternate.

The days before and after (May 15 and 18), BIRK will be somewhat restricted as well - it'll be busy, all areas and access to the airport will be restricted and guarded by police, and access will only be granted to operating crews, VIPs and staff that have been approved and listed by authorities. Roads and areas close to the summit in downtown Reykjavik will be closed or restricted as well, so good to keep that in mind if crews are staying at a hotels close to the summit.

The Notams for BIRK are actually pretty clear (unlike those for BIKF), and if you need more info about all this, you can contact the local handler at ops@reykjavikfbo.is, but also check out AIP SUP 6-23 below:

SUP - 1

04 MAY 2023

AIP Supplement – ÍSLAND / ICELAND
Isavia ANS ehf., Reykjavíkflugvelli, 102 Reykjavík /
Isavia ANS, Reykjavík Airport, IS-102 Reykjavík, Iceland
Sími / Telephone: + 354 424 4000
air@isavia.is
<http://www.isavia.is/>

AIP SUP nr 06/2023

Effective from 04 MAY 2023
Published on 04 MAY 2023



**BIRK Reykjavík - Leiðtogafundur Evrópuráðs í Reykjavík 16. og 17. maí 2023 /
BIRK Reykjavík - Council of Europe Summit 16th and 17th of May 2023 in Reykjavík**

Efningar ábyrgð: Isavia / Isavia Domestic
Content Responsibility: Isavia / Isavia Domestic

1 Inngangur
Fjórir leiðtogafundir Evrópuráðsins verður haldinn í Reykjavík dagana 16. og 17. maí 2023.
Reykjavíkflugvöllur (BIRK) mun ekki aftasta þeim fjóða loftfara sem óska eftir að lenda á vellinum ofanefnda daga.
Loftför í millitíðisflugum ofanefnda daga þurfa því að óska eftir staðisúthlutun, sem og skömmtuðum komu- og brottfaratíma.
Önnur loftför, að undanskildu, áætlanarflugi innanlands, sjúkra- og nýðarflugi munu verða fyrir takmörkunum, sem auglýstar verða með töglu NOTAM.

2 Staðisúthlutun
Aðstoðreglur flugrekendur sem óska eftir að leggja á BIRK, frá kl. 07:00 þann 16. maí til kl. 19:00 þann 17. maí, þurfa að óska eftir staðisúthlutun ekki seinna en 72 klst. fyrir áætlaða komu.

Ríkisflug munu njóta forgangs og beðnir verða afgreiddar í þeirri röð sem þær berast.
Óska skal eftir staðisúthlutun á vefsbunni
<https://airportcoordination.com/> með eftirfarandi upplýsingum:

- Kalimerki vélar
- Skráningarstöfum vélar
- Flugvæðingund
- Áætlaður komutími
- Áætlaður brottfarartími

Fjöldi staða í boði á BIRK mun verða:

- 18 loftför með kóða staf B
- 3 loftför með kóða staf C

1 Introduction
The 4th Council of Europe Summit will take place in Reykjavík 16th and 17th of May 2023.
Reykjavík Airport (BIRK) is expected to receive a number of aircraft that will exceed the airport's capacity.
Therefore, all international aircraft will be subject to landing and take-off slot allocation as well as parking stand availability.
Other flights, except scheduled domestic flights, hospital, and emergency flights, will be subject to limitations that will be published by NOTAM.

2 Parking allocation
All international aircraft operators requesting to park at BIRK, from 0700 UTC on May 16th to 1900 UTC on May 17th, will have to request parking no later than 72 hours before the estimated time of arrival.

Priority will be given to state flights and requests will be handled on a first come first served basis.
To request a parking allocation visit:
<https://airportcoordination.com/> with the following information:

- Aircraft callign
- Aircraft registration
- Aircraft type
- Estimated time of arrival
- Estimated time of departure

Parking capacity at BIRK will be as follows:

- 18 aircraft with code letter B
- 3 aircraft with code letter C

ISAVIA ANS

06/2023

Where else to go?

If you want to use Iceland as a North Atlantic night stop this week, local handlers are advising to use **BIEG/Egilsstadir** or **BIAR/Akureyri** in the north of the country.

BIEG/Egilsstadir is open weekdays 0800-1745z and weekends 0915-1745z (400EUR charge outside these hours), and are able to handle almost all GA/BA flights – but they do not have a VIP lounge or FBO. There seem to be a few different handling agents able to make arrangements here. We've been speaking with jetcenter@icelandair.is – so maybe get in touch with them for more info.

BIAR/Akureyri is open 0700-2300z (and outside these hours, for an extra fee), and they do have an FBO for GA/BA flights – so this might be the airport to go to. Local agents have reported that there is still space at the airport right now, but it's busier than usual due to the summit. Contact them at jetcenter@icelandair.is.

Anything else worth knowing about ops to Iceland?

- **There's been a change in AFTN addressing for filing of flight plans** in the BIRD/Reykjavik FIR. IFR FPLs now need to be sent to BIRDZPZZ. VFR and mixed FPLs should be sent to BIRDZPZX. AIC 8-23 refers.
- **Iceland's airspace is now entirely covered with ADS-B.** Coverage extends from the North Pole to Scotland and from the Greenwich Meridian to the west of Greenland. You can see their coverage map including flight levels at [this link](#).
- **There are some specific route requirements for flights to BIKF/Keflavik and BIRK/Reykjavik.** These can be found in AIP ENR 1.8.4.1.3.7 which explains exactly how you should file your flight plans to/from both BIKF and BIRK. But to make all this blurb easier to understand, the good folks at Isavia have published some handy graphic presentations of the requirements which you can find [here](#).

Anything else big we missed? Let us know! Or even better, if you've operated to Iceland recently and can share some info on how it went, file an Airport Spy report!



Got some intel?

Are you an Airport Spy?

You go to unusual places and see curious things. Your turboprop friends envy you. Now, it's time to give back.

For your next trip, pack a notebook, and file your Spy Report below. You'll get a weekly ops briefing in return.

[File your report](#) >

New Covid testing rules in Iceland

David Mumford
19 December, 2023



There are new rules for **all crew and passengers** from August 19 regarding Covid testing on arrival.

The rules for crew have not been officially published yet, but local handlers have confirmed that if crew stay for more than 24 hours **they will need to take a Covid test**.

The process is different for passengers – all arriving pax will be able to choose between 14 days of self-quarantine, or a Covid test at the airport. However, those who choose to be tested will **still have to enter self-isolation** and be retested again 4-5 days later before they can be released. This was not previously the case. The rule applies **regardless of whether or not their first test was negative**.

All passengers must also complete a pre-registration form before travelling at covid.is. Iceland's borders are currently open to all EU/Schengen States in addition to those countries on the EU's "safe list."

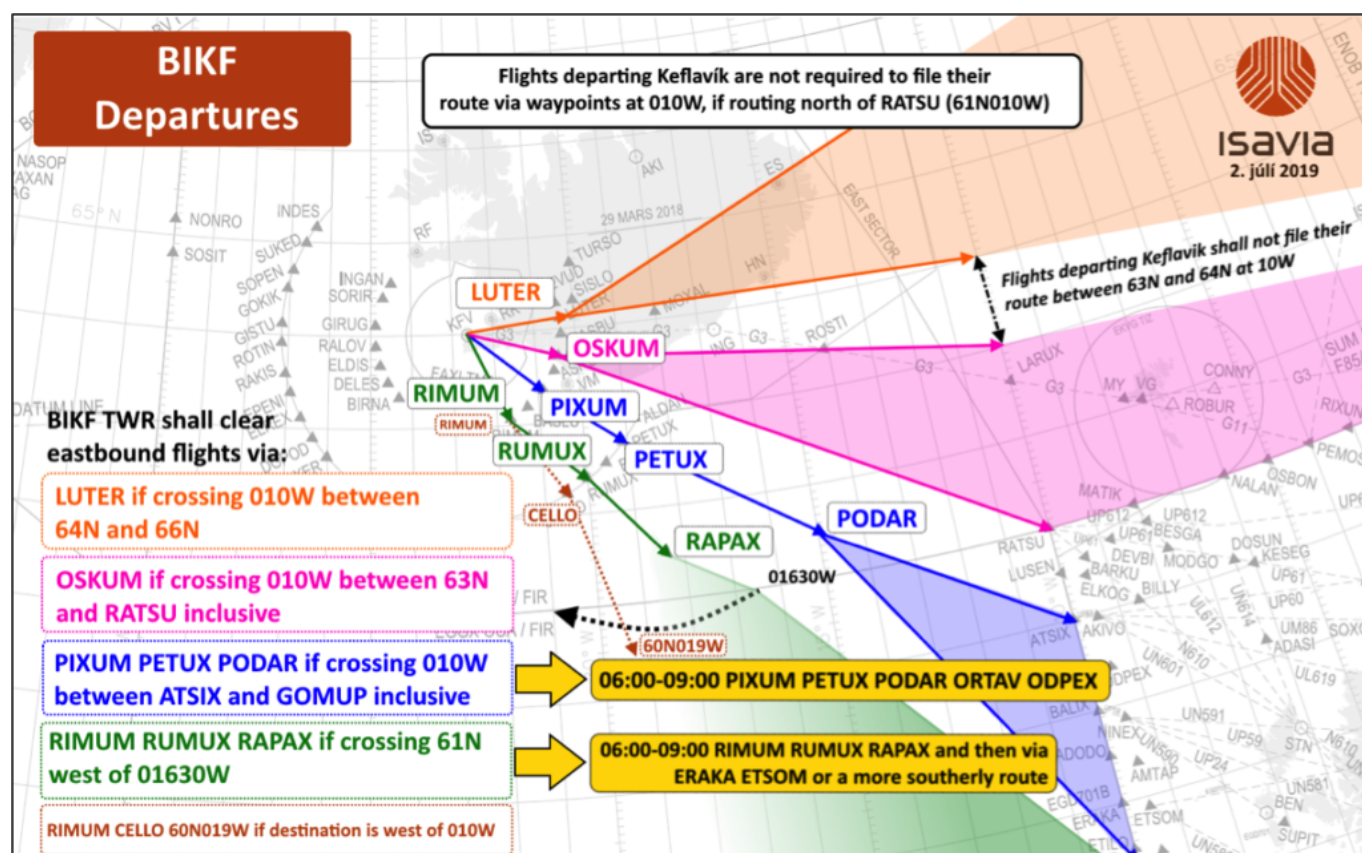
New route requirements for Iceland

David Mumford
19 December, 2023



There are some new route requirements for flights to BIKF/Keflavik and BIRK/Reykjavik.

These can be found in the updated version of **AIP ENR 1.8.4.1.3.7** which explains exactly how you should file your flight plans to/from both BIKF and BIRK. But to make all this blurb easier to understand, the good folks at Isavia have published some handy graphic presentations of the requirements:



BIRK Departures

Flights departing from Reykjavik are not required to file their route via waypoints at 010W, if routing north of RATSU (61N010W)

ISAVIA
3. janúar 2019

BIRK TWR shall clear eastbound flight via:

LUTER MOXAL if crossing 010W
between 64N and RATSU inclusive

PIXUM PETUX PODAR if crossing 010W
between ATSIX and GOMUP inclusive

RIMUM RUMUX RAPAX if crossing 61N
west of 01630W

BIKF/BIRK Arrivals

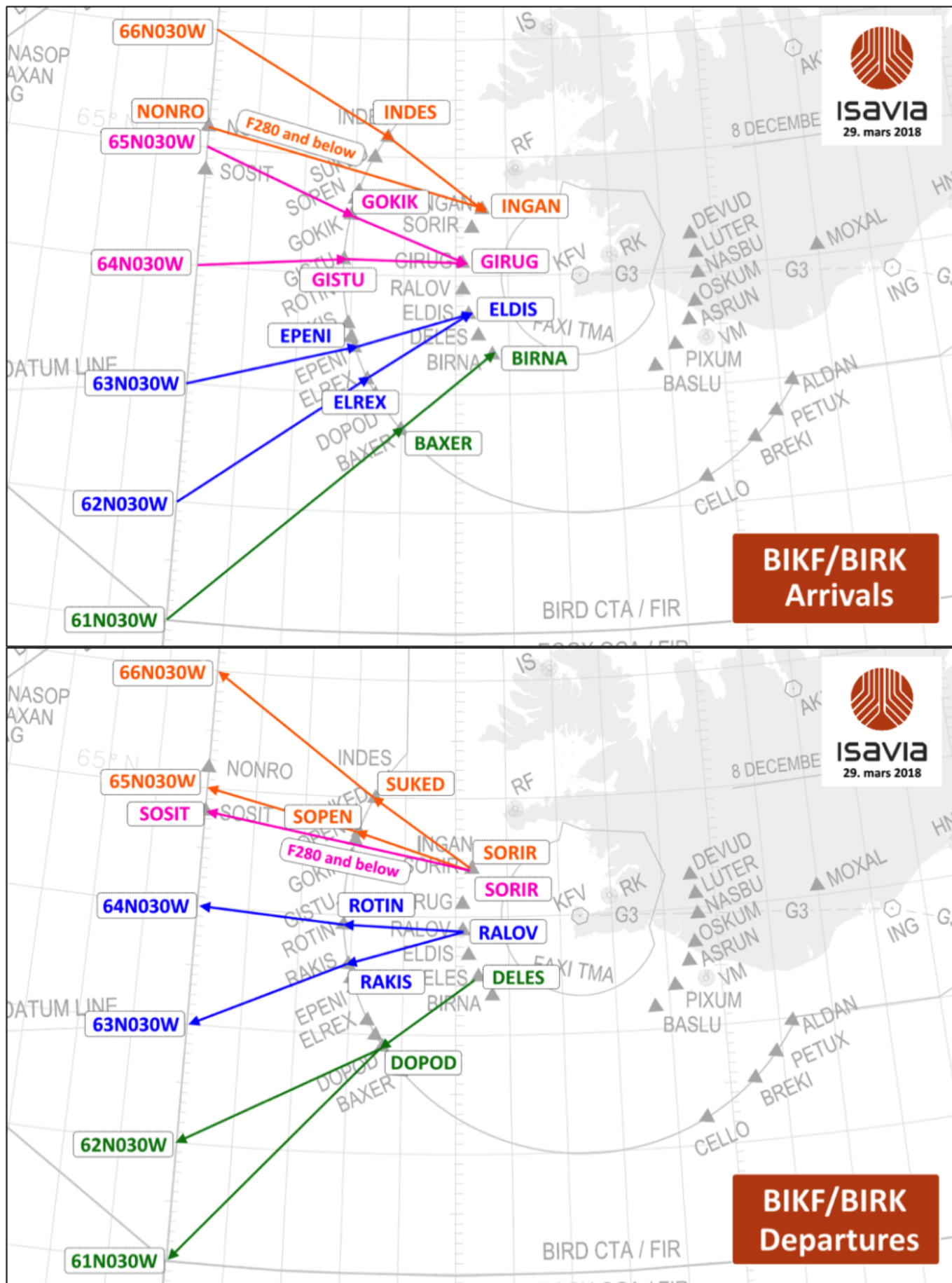
Flights inbound to Keflavik or Reykjavik are not required to file their route via waypoints at 010W, if routing north of RATSU (61N010W).

ISAVIA
3. janúar 2019

Reykjavik OACC shall clear westbound flights inbound to BIKF/BIRK via:

ING NASBU or ALDAN ASRUN if crossing
010W between 64N and ATSIX inclusive

BREKI BASLU if entering BIRD between
61N01236W and 61N019W



If you follow the guidance and flight plan accordingly, you should avoid any nasty last-minute “FPL REJ” messages!

Further reading:

- You can check the full Iceland AIP online [here](#).
 - For a summary of all the NAT changes, including EGGX/Shanwick, CZQX/Gander, BIRD/Iceland, ENOB/Bodo, LPPO/Santa Maria, and KZWY/New York Oceanic East, click [here](#).
-

Iceland ATC Strike Over

Declan Selleck
19 December, 2023



We say the words with trepidation, because it's been promised a few times over the last few months but then closures continued – but what we can tell you is that:

- There was an agreement on **July 18**, that appears to be holding
- There have been no closures of BIKF, BIRK, or BIRD in the last week or so.

With that in mind we think it's safe to say that the strike is over, and it should be Ops normal through Iceland from now on.

Iceland ATC strike bigger than ever

Declan Selleck
19 December, 2023



We had some really positive hints at a resolution of the Iceland ATC strike last week, but it's not over yet – by any measure. Today sees another long list of airspace and airport closures. Oceanic Eastbound, Westbound and landing traffic all affected.

BIKF/KEFLAVIK A0454/16 06JUL 1007Z

(NOTAMR A0453/16) – DUE TO STAFF SHORTAGE BIKF TWR SERVICE LIMITED TO SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL AND INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS, AMBULANCE AND EMERGENCY FLIGHTS. NO TOUCH AND GOES OR LOW APPROACHES FOR VFR TRAINING FLIGHTS, ONLY DEPARTURE AND ARRIVAL. TWR BIKF SERVICE LIMITED TO AMBULANCE AND EMERGENCY FLIGHTS ONLY DURING THE FOLLOWING HOURS: 09:00-09:30, 11:30-12:00 AND 14:00-14:30. 06 JUL 10:05 2016 UNTIL 06JUL 21:00 2016.

BIRD/REYKJAVIK OACC A0452/16 05JUL 2146Z

(NOTAMR A0451/16) – DUE TO STAFF SHORTAGE IN REYKJAVIK OACC WESTBOUND TFC PLANNING TO ENTER BIRD FROM ENSV VIA GUNPA, VALDI, IPTON, INGAL, ISVIG AND EGPX VIA LIRKI, GONUT, OLKER, MATIK AND RATSU AND THEN PROCEEDING INTO EGGX OR CZQX SHALL REMAIN SOUTH OF BIRD CTA. 06 JUL 11:00 2016 UNTIL 06 JUL 20:00 2016.

BIRD/REYKJAVIK A0450/16 05JUL 1518Z

– DUE TO STAFF SHORTAGE IN REYKJAVIK CENTRE, OPERATORS SHALL FILE TO COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. EASTBOUND TFC WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FROM CZQX AND EGGX EXCEPT TRAFFIC WITH DESTINATION IN ICELAND, SCANDINAVIA, BALTIC STATES AND RUSSIA.
2. EASTBOUND TRAFFIC FROM AERODROMES EAST OF 105W WITH DESTINATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST SHALL REMAIN CLEAR OF BIRD CTA.

OPERATORS ARE URGED TO KEEP REQUESTS FOR LEVEL AND SPEED AMENDMENTS WITHIN BIRD CTA TO A MINIMUM.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL REYKJAVIK SHIFT
MANAGER +354 424 4141. 06 JUL 02:00 2016 UNTIL 06 JUL 08:00 2016.

BIRD/REYKJAVIK A0452/16 05JUL 2146Z

(NOTAMR A0451/16) - DUE TO STAFF SHORTAGE IN REYKJAVIK OACC WESTBOUND
TFC PLANNING TO ENTER BIRD FROM ENSV VIA GUNPA,
VALDI, IPTON, INGAL, ISVIG AND EGPX VIA LIRKI, GONUT,
OLKER, MATIK AND RATSU AND THEN PROCEEDING INTO EGGX
OR CZQX SHALL REMAIN SOUTH OF BIRD CTA. 06 JUL 11:00 2016 UNTIL 06 JUL 20:00 2016.

Iceland ATC strike - a solution

Declan Selleck
19 December, 2023



The strike goes on ... but there may be a solution by Friday this week. Icelandic MPs passed a bill forcing a resolution to the ongoing pay dispute with air traffic controllers. The new law states that the air traffic controllers' union and the airport operator Isavia have until Friday to reach an agreement - failing this, the matter be sent to a court of arbitration for a final resolution.

In the interim, sporadic airport closures at BIKF/Keflavik and BIRK/Reykjavik continue, as do general airspace restrictions in the BIRD FIR. If you can avoid a stop in Iceland, it would seem sensible to do so until the conflict is resolved.