Extra overnight slots for Hong Kong extended until 2019

OPSGROUP Team
5 October, 2018

We reported a few months back that the Airport Authority (AAHK) and the Hong Kong Schedule Coordination Office (HKSCO) have decided to trial an increase in slot availability from 4 to 6 total slots each night. It looks like **the trial is being extended until March 2019.**

The published details:

Notice on night slot availability (trial from 8 August 2018 until 31 March 2019)

1. **The number of slots available for GA/BA operations between 0000 to 0500 local time (16-21 UTC) will increase from 4 slots daily to 6 slots daily.**

2. **The application procedure for these 6 slots will be the same as that for the 4 daily slots currently available.**

3. **The above are provided on a trial and temporary basis and are subject to continuous review jointly by AAHK and HKSCO.**

4. Also important to note, as pointed out to us by our friends at the Asian Business Aviation Association (AsBAA) – **these 6 slots will be made available to all aircraft types, not just the ones currently exempted from the noise abatement regulations. This means that BBJ's/ACJ's/Lineage 1000/Globals/G650ER etc can now operate in and out of Hong Kong at night-time, subject to slot availability.**

Hong Kong is a pain in the ass – it's official

David Mumford
5 October, 2018

After a few members complained, we put the question out to OpsGroup: **is operating a non-scheduled flight to Hong Kong really that difficult?**

The response was a resounding "Yes".

Why then? Operators talk of having to cancel planned flights, that it's impossible to get a decent schedule, and even with a poor one, that lining up slots, parking, permits and handling is extremely difficult. End result: a mountain of frustration.

Trying to get slots at Hong Kong International Airport has always been tricky. Now the world's third busiest airport with over 1000 flights per day departing from its two runways, severe congestion means that only a handful of daily slots have been available to private, corporate and non-scheduled operators.

Here's a look at a typical daily slot availability chart at Hong Kong International Airport:

| Day | Slot Availability | | | | | | |
Hour UTC	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
0000-0059	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
0100-0159	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
0200-0259	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
0300-0359	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
0400-0459	D	X	X	X	X	X	X
0500-0559	A	D	X	D	X	X	X
0600-0659	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
0700-0759	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
0800-0859	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
0900-0959	X	X	A	X	X	X	D
1000-1059	X	C	X	X	A	X	C
1100-1159	C	X	A	A	A	X	X
1200-1259	D	A	X	A	X	X	X
1300-1359	A	C	A	A	A	X	X
1400-1459	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1500-1559	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1600-1659	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1700-1759	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1800-1859	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1900-1959	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2000-2059	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2100-2159	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2200-2259	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2300-2359	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

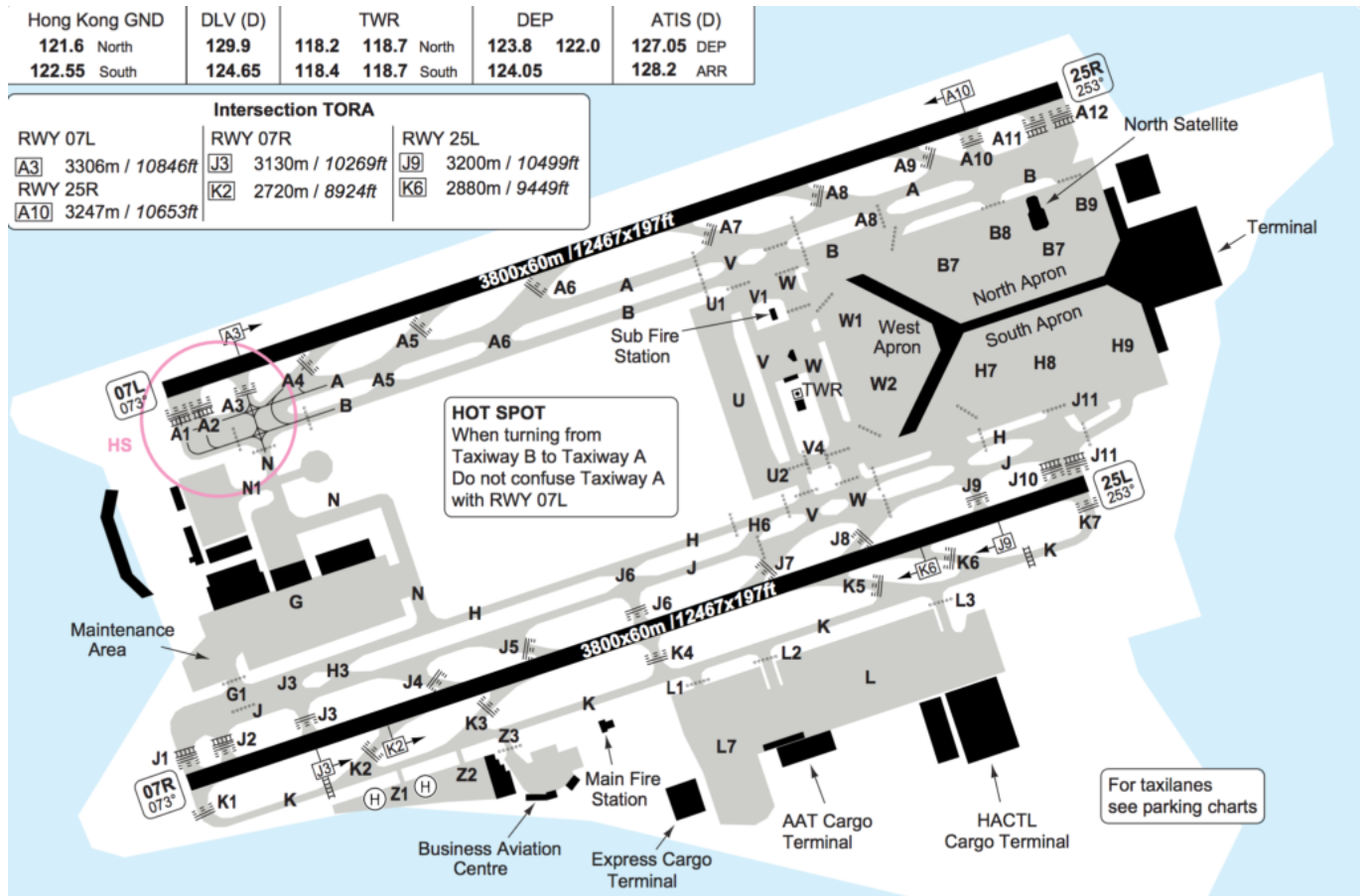|	
X	Full
C	Close to full
A	Available for arrivals only
D	Available for departures only

Back in March 2016, the airport authority made it mandatory for all BA/GA operators to start using the Online Coordination System (OCS) to reserve their slots, rather than by email as they had done previously. But for many, this system has proven to be frustrating, as a lack of enforcement has meant that **slot hoarding and mismanagemen**t by some operators has largely gone unpunished.

But in a recent attempt to crack down on such behaviour and to prevent slots going unused, the airport authority has tightened restrictions for operators flying into or out of Hong Kong. You now need all 4 of the following to be confirmed in advance: **landing permit**, **parking**, **ground handling**, and **slots**.

New changes mean that slots can be booked up to 14 days in advance (instead of 7 days as before), and authorities will monitor the slot system for intentional misuse – which could lead to operators being banned from using the system altogether. Other violations include any cancellations of outbound flights less than 72 hours before departure, and delays on the day by more than 2 hours – although any off-slot operations outside a tolerance of +/-20 minutes can still flag up for potential slot misuse.

Intersection TORA

RWY 07L		RWY 07R		RWY 25L	
A3	3306m / 10846ft	J3	3130m / 10269ft	J9	3200m / 10499ft
RWY 25R		K2	2720m / 8924ft	K6	2880m / 9449ft
A10	3247m / 10653ft				

HOT SPOT
When turning from Taxiway B to Taxiway A Do not confuse Taxiway A with RWY 07L

As for parking – again, severe congestion means this is problematic. Parking is confirmed on a first-come-first-served basis, and can be applied for up to 30 days in advance – ultimately, the earlier you apply the better. However, parking requests for 5 days or more will likely be rejected, and overnight parking is often denied during busy periods. If this happens, unfortunately the best strategy is still to just keep making new applications until you get accepted!

Over 100 business jets use HKIA as their home base, but fewer than 70 parking spaces are available at any given time, and the GA ramp itself only has space for 20 aircraft. If full, the authorities will rarely grant parking on the commercial side, and often they will just deny the parking request altogether. Once your parking is approved, you'll receive a confirmation, and this must be given to your ground handler.

It should be noted that the requests for the landing permit, parking, ground handling and slots are all separate from each other, and need to be applied for individually. We would recommend the following, in order:

1. Apply for LANDING PERMIT

Can be done whenever, but should probably be done first.

www.cad.gov.hk/english/efiling_home.html

Civil Aviation Department (CAD)

Email: asd@cad.gov.hk, gcmtse@cad.gov.hk

Phone: +852 2910-6648, -6629

2. Apply for PARKING

Can be done up to 14 days in advance of flight, the earlier you do this the better!

https://extranet.hongkongairport.com/baps/

Hong Kong Airport Authority (HKAA)

Email: bjetslot@hkairport.com

3. Apply for GROUND HANDLING

There are plenty of agents and handlers at VHHH, but only one dedicated FBO for BA/GA flights:

http://www.hkbac.com/en

Hong Kong Business Aviation Centre (HKBAC)

Email: hkbac@hkbac.com

Phone: +852 2949 9000

4. Apply for SLOTS

Will only be considered 14 days prior to flight.

http://www.hkgslot.gov.hk/Online_Coordination.html

Hong Kong Schedule Coordination Office (HKSCO)

Email: hkgslot@cad.gov.hk

Phone: +852 2910 6898