

# Sion, Switzerland

## February 2009

Below you can find my report from a week of sun, snow and planes in the Swiss Alps. On valentine's Day I flew early in the morning from Düsseldorf to Zürich with Air Berlin (D-ABGA, A319-100). The planes below were logged before departure.

### 14 February 2009 Düsseldorf EDDL

D-ABDJ	Airbus A320-200	Air Berlin
D-ABGA	Airbus A319-100	Air Berlin
D-ABOF	Boeing 757-300	Condor
D-ABQD	Dash 8-400	Air Berlin
D-AHFC	Boeing 737-800	Hapagfly
D-ALTF	Airbus A320-200	Air Berlin
D-ALTG	Airbus A320-200	Air Berlin
D-ANND	Airbus A320-200	Blue Wings
D-ANNJ	Airbus A320-200	Blue Wings
G-EUUL	Airbus A320-200	British Airways
PH-LXP	Fokker 50	KLM Cityhopper
TC-JFT	Boeing 737-800	Turkish Airlines

### 14 February 2009 Zürich-Kloten LSZH

CS-DLC	Falcon 2000EX	Netjets Europe
D-ABEL	Boeing 737-300	Lufthansa
D-ABGA	Airbus A319-100	Air Berlin
D-ABLA	Boeing 737-700	Air Berlin
D-AGWE	Airbus A319-100	Germanwings
D-AILT	Airbus A319-100	Lufthansa
EI-RJR	BAe 146-RJ85	Air France / CityJet
G-BZAY	BAe 146-RJ100	BA Connect
G-GEVO	Cessna 680	TAG Aviation
HA-LOP	Boeing 737-700	Malev
HB-IHS	Boeing 757-200	Air Berlin
HB-IHX	Airbus A320-200	Edelweiss Air
HB-JST	Falcon 7X	Cat Aviation
OE-GLY	Learjet 60XR	VistaJet
OK-CGK	Boeing 737-500	CSA
VP-BEK	Bombardier BD-100-1A10	
Z3-AAG	CRJ 900ER	MAT Macedonian Airlines

Plus: Swiss A319-100/A320-200/A321-100/A330-200/A340-300/BAe 146

When I arrived at Zürich, the weather was horrible: snow showers and poor visibility. All the above was logged during taxiing and from Parkhaus P3 and P6. I quickly decided to look for some better weather and I went to Sion by train.

### 14 February 2009 Sion LSGS/LSMS

CS-DNY	Cessna 560XL	Netjets Europe
CS-DQB	Cessna 560XLS	Netjets Europe
CS-DXY	Cessna 560XLS	Netjets Europe
G-FRYI	Beech 200	London Executive Aviation
G-OMEA	Cessna 560XLS	Marshall Executive Aviation
G-OMRH	Cessna 550B	MC Air Services
G-PWNS	Cessna 525	Hangar 8
G-SABI	Falcon 900EX	London Executive Aviation
HB-XCB	SA316B Alouette III	Air Glaciers
HB-XOE	SE3160 Alouette III	Air Glaciers

HB-XRL	SA315B Lama	Air Glaciers
HB-ZCZ	AS350B3 Ecureuil	Air Glaciers
HB-ZES	AS350B3 Ecureuil	Eagle Helicopter
HB-ZGV	AS350B3 Ecureuil	Fuchs Helikopter
HB-ZIJ	AS350B3+ Ecureuil	Heli Alps
HB-ZIN	EC-130B4	Heli Alps
HB-ZJH	EC-130B4	Horizon Invest
HB-ZJR	AS350B3+ Ecureuil	Heli Alps
HB-ZKF	AS350B3+ Ecureuil	Air Zermatt
LX-SAM	Falcon 2000	Global Jet Luxembourg
N2FU	Learjet 31	Motor Racing Developments Corporation
N421DD	Cessna 421C	Fidair Corporation
N57543	Piper PA.31P-425	
N850AC	Socata TBM-850	TBM 850 Corporation
OE-GVX	Learjet 40	VistaJet
OE-HHH	Falcon 50EX	Global Jet Austria
OO-LFN	Learjet 45	Abelag Aviation
OY-ZAN	Learjet 40	Execujet Scandinavia
VP-CEB	Bombardier BD-700-1A10	Silver Arrows

This was the result of three hours of spotting in the afternoon. It's a fifteen minute walk from the railway station to the approach of runway 25. Take the back exit of the railway station, go to the right and walk straight on (Rue de la Blancherie) along the railway line. When the road seems to go to the left, still follow the railway line. You will see a busy road (Rue Traversiere) and a little left you see a roundabout. Cross the Rue Traversiere at the roundabout and walk straight on. You are now on the Route de l'Aeropotr. When you arrive at the T-junction, turn left to go to the approach of runway 25, turn right o go to the terminal. The terminal even has a special check-in desk from Netjets Europe! I spent the whole afternoon near the helicopter platform to photograph planes landing at runway 25 with some awesome backgrounds. You don't really need stairs, because there's a small electricity case where you can stand on to overlook the fence. Larger bizjets can be photographed with 300mm, for the smaller planes, you need 400mm or more (on a 1,5 crop factor camera). The sun is good here from noon till about 4.30 PM (winter time). Runway 25 (locally known as 'piste deux-cinq') was in use the whole week.

### 18 February 2009 Sion LSGS/LSMS

E89/314-LX	Alpha Jet E	French AF
E128/314-TM	Alpha Jet E	French AF
E142/314-LO	Alpha Jet E	French AF
A-101, A-102	Pilatus PC-21	Swiss AF
A-104, A-105	Pilatus PC-21	Swiss AF
A-106	Pilatus PC-21	Swiss AF
A-907	Pilatus PC-7	Swiss AF
J-1190	Vampire FB6	Swiss AF
J-3204	F-5F Tiger	Swiss AF
J-4100	Hunter F58	Swiss AF
J-5018	F/A-18C Hornet	Swiss AF
V-206	SA316B Alouette III	Swiss AF
CS-DRI	BAe 125-800XPI	Netjets Europe
G-WCCP	Beech 200	William Cook Aviation
HB-FDU	Pilatus PC-6	Air Glaciers
HB-HOX	Twin Pioneer 1	
HB-RVI/"U-1235"	Vampire T55	Air Vampires
HB-RVN/"J-1197"	Vampire FB6	private
HB-XJN	SA315B Lama	Air Glaciers
HB-XXJ	SA315B Lama	Air Glaciers
HB-XZU	SA315B Lama	Air Glaciers
HB-ZEB	Bell 206B	Peligni

HB-ZHH	Robinson R22	Groupe Helicoptere Sion
M-TEAM	Cessna 525	
N441FP	Beech 350	
N444LN	Piper PA.42	
OY-PPP	Pilatus PC-12/47	Air Alpha
RA-3412K	Yak-52W	
VP-CED	Cessna 550B	Iceland Frozen Foods
VP-CGN	Gulfstream V-SP	Genie One Aviation

After a few days of bad weather, I went to Sion again on Wednesday. I decided to rent a bike for CHF30 to explore the airport.

Near the control tower there's some kind of official spotting place where you can see the largest part of the airport. Photographing can be done with small stairs (or a small snow hill of course...). Airplanes on the taxiway require 70-200mm, airplanes on the runway require 200mm and more. Please keep in mind that you have some ugly railway lines, buildings and other aircraft on the background of your photo. That is why I recommend being here only in the morning and going to the approach of runway 25 in the afternoon. Along the whole airport there is a fence of more than two meters high. Between some buildings, an Alouette III was stored without rotor blades. When runway 07 is in use, again photographing shouldn't be a problem. Both at the hold short and during approach, planes can be photographed very nice. Please keep in mind that if you come by public transport, you need to go to the railway station of Chateauneuf-Contthey (one railway station beyond Sion) by train. From this railway station, it is about ten minutes walking to runway 07.

The main terminal of the airport is located at the north side of the airport. There is a nice spectators terrace, but since you have backlight all day, I will not recommend this place for taking photos. As you can see in the movements, the airport is mainly used by bizjets, bizprops, helicopters and there is military activity as well. All six PC-21s flew multiple missions per day, the whole week. Unfortunately there was hardly any Swiss fighter activity, so the three French Alpha Jets which made some approaches were a welcome surprise. The highlight of the day (and probably of the week) was the flying Vampire HB-RVN.

### 18 February 2009 Sion town

0856	MiG-21UM	Polish AF
J-1154	Vampire FB6	Swiss AF

These two aircraft are preserved at two different garages on the south side of the highway in the town of Sion. From the airport, follow the Rue Traversiere to the south. When you cross the highway, turn right into Route d'Aproz. Best time to photograph these planes is in the afternoon.

### 19 February 2009 Sion LSGS/LSMS

A-103	Pilatus PC-21	Swiss AF
A-908, A-938	Pilatus PC-7	Swiss AF
A-940	Pilatus PC-7	Swiss AF
C-405, C-411	Pilatus PC-9	Swiss AF
J-5016	F/A-18C Hornet	Swiss AF
T-323	AS332M1 Super Puma	Swiss AF
V-262	SA316B Alouette III	Swiss AF
CS-DFP	Cessna 560XL	Netjets Europe
D-IKKY	Mitsubishi MU-2B-40	
HB-LSG	Piper Aerostar 602P	private
HB-POP	Piper PA.46-350P	Schweizer Eidgenossenschaft
HB-VNY	Cessna 560XLS	Jet Club
HB-XQT	SE313B Alouette II	Air Vampires
HB-ZEM	Robinson R22 Groupe	Helicoptere Sion
HB-ZFB	EC-130B4	Farner Air Service
HB-ZJW	Robinson R44	Heli Alps

PH-RID Cessna 680 Cartier Europe

Today was a rather quiet day at Sion. The weather wasn't great either: the sun did not appear before 3 PM. Highlights of the day were the Mitsubishi and the flying Alouette II.

### **20 February 2009 Sion LSGS/LSMS**

V-612, V-623	Pilatus PC-6	Swiss AF
CS-DHL	Cessna 550B	Netjets Europe
CS-DXJ	Cessna 560XLS	Netjets Europe
CS-DXS	Cessna 560XLS	Netjets Europe
CS-DXT	Cessna 560XLS	Netjets Europe
F-GFIR	Beech 90	
G-CEGP	Beech 200	CEGA Air Ambulance
G-CEGR	Beech 200	CEGA Air Ambulance
G-FBLI	Cessna 510	Blink
G-OJWB	BAe 125-800XP	Hangar 8
G-TBEA	Cessna 525A	Xclusive Jet Charter
HB-GHD	Beech F90	Air Evasion
HB-LTP	Piper PA.44-180T	private
HB-XOF	SE3160 Alouette III	Air Glaciers
N514MM	IAI 1125SPX	Wilmax International
OE-INI	CL-604	VistaJet
PH-FIS	Cessna 525	KNSF Flight Services

The weather was a lot better on Friday and there was rather busy flying activity. The Pilatus Porters did some paradrops and turned sometimes very spectacular towards runway 25. There was also a nice amount of bizzers and one of them was the well known PH-FIS.

### **21 February 2009 Sion LSGS/LSMS**

J-1080	Vampire FB6	Swiss AF
CS-DHF	Cessna 550B	Netjets Europe
CS-DQA	Cessna 560XLS	Netjets Europe
CS-DXC	Cessna 560XLS	Netjets Europe
CS-DXV	Cessna 560XLS	Netjets Europe
CS-DXX	Cessna 560XLS	Netjets Europe
D-1KJS	Cessna 525A	MSR Flug Charter
G-BYCP	Beech 200	London Executive Aviation
G-CDNK	Learjet 45	Air Partner Private Jets
G-ODDM	Cessna 525A	Hangar 8
G-SNZY	Learjet 45XR	TAG Aviation
G-YPRS	Cessna 550B	Executive Aviation Services
HB-FCT	Pilatus PC-6	Air Glaciers
HB-FPY	Pilatus PC-12/47	Momentum Value Management
HB-VNA	Cessna 560 Ultra	Speedwings
HB-ZFW	Robinson R44	Air Glaciers
HB-ZHP	Agusta A109S	Swissjet
HB-ZIL	AS350B2 Ecureuil	Heli Alps
LX-JFN	Pilatus PC-12/47	Jetfly Aviation
OO-FPB	Cessna 550B	Flying Group
OO-FYG	Cessna 550B	Flying Service
PH-LCG	Falcon 900B	Jet Management Europe
SP-DSA	Beech 200GT	Ad Astra Executive Charter
VP-BBP	Falcon 2000	Albinati Aeronautics
VP-COM	Cessna 500	

Today was already the last day of our holiday. In the morning I spent a few hours at Sion before I went back to Zürich again. Saturdays are by far the best days for bizjet lovers. Planes continuously brought rich people to their winter holiday in expensive villages like Verbier, Crans Montana and Zermatt. Unfortunately I already had to walk back to the railway station at about 1.45 PM.

**21 February 2009 Zürich-Kloten LSZH**

4X-EAP	Boeing 767-300ER	EI AI
9H-AEM	Airbus A319-100	Air Malta
A6-ERM	Airbus A340-300	Emirates
D-ABBB	Boeing 737-800	Air Berlin
D-ABDT	Airbus A320-200	Air Berlin
D-ABGC	Airbus A319-100	Air Berlin
HB-AEU	Dornier Do 328-300JET	Air Engiadina
HB-IVZ	Gulfstream V	Neet-Air
HB-JGR	CL-604	Nomad Aviation
HB-JID	MD-90-30	Hello
HB-JSW	Falcon 900EX	Dasnair
OH-LZF	Airbus A321-200	Finnair
TC-SNF	Boeing 737-800	SunExpress
VP-BDZ	Falcon 900EX	Squadron Aviation Service
VP-CLI	Embraer 135BJ	Execujet Europe

Plus the regular Swiss-fleet.

This was logged in darkness from the terminal and Parkhaus P3. At 7.50 PM I flew back to Düsseldorf with D-ABGC.

**21 February 2009 Düsseldorf EDDL**

D-ABGC	Airbus A319-100	Air Berlin
D-ACRL	CRJ 200LR	Lufthansa Regional
D-ALPG	Airbus A330-200	LTU
D-ALTC	Airbus A320-200	Air Berlin
D-ALTH	Airbus A320-200	Air Berlin
D-AOLT	Saab 2000	OLT
OK-CGH	Boeing 737-500	CSA

And this was the end of one beautiful week of winter sporting (I mean winter spotting...).