

BWI Frequencies:

ATIS:	127.8
Approach:	119.7(33L/15R/10/28), 119.0 (15L/33R)
Tower:	119.4, 123.75
Eastbound departures:	124.55
Westbound departures:	118.95
Ground:	121.9
Clearance Delivery:	118.05

All locations described below are designated spots for BWI airport. Do not go to any other place. There is no point of going anywhere else because all traffic can be seen/photographed from these fine spots. Please respect those simple rules so other spotters can enjoy BWI for years to come.

Location No.1 – Thomas A Dixon Jr.

Aircraft Observation Park (also called Friendship Park): This is one of the finest spotting locations in the Washington - Baltimore area. This location is good only for arrivals on Runway 33L. (Runway 33L is the preferred Runway at BWI and used if winds are from North, Southwest or West). This Runway is used by most airlines with exception of few commuter turboprop flights.



There are two simple rules that you should know and obey while in the park. Do not cross the wooden fence. If you cross the fence and walk on the grassy area you can be arrested. You have no business going there. That land belongs to Federal government and has all Runway system installations. Maryland State Police has headquarters located few hundred feet away. You will be spotted in matter of seconds. Also, don't walk on the street. Police don't like people walking on Dorsey Road. That street has posted speed limit of 55mph. It is for your own safety to stay away from it. Finally don't be alarmed if cars blow their horns - the local drivers seem to get some amusement out of it.

Camera: Up to about 300mm is required for bizjets but liners are possible with less than 150mm.

Times: This place is good for photography from noon until dark.

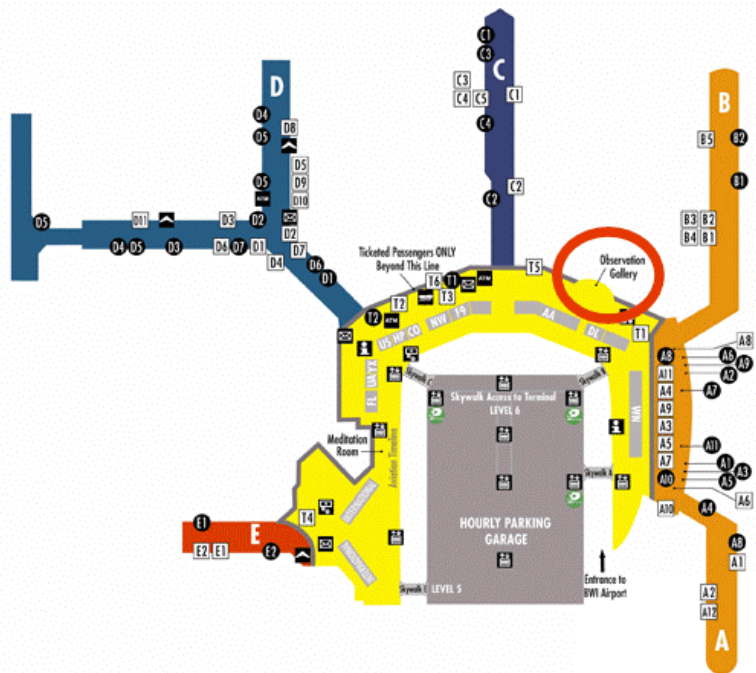
Parking: This parking lot fills up quickly on the weekends and you might have hard time looking for space to park your car (because there is also playground for kids and bike trail).

Amenities: If you are planning on staying at this spotting location for extended period of time, you should get some food and water before going there. If you leave from there mid-day in search for a food, you might have problems finding a spot for your car when you return. The closest food place to the park is Subway, Burger King, Dominos Pizza and 7-11. All of them are located 1-2 miles West on Dorsey Road. This park has couple of portable toilets. Also, in the summer ice cream trucks will visit this place pretty often.

Directions: The easiest way to get to Thomas Dixon Observation Park is to drive to the airport (but not entering the terminal area), and then continue on the Airport Loop road that goes around entire BWI. This small parking area (space for around 50-60 cars) is located right off Dorsey Road (MD-176). You should find it very easily.



Location No.2 – Observation Gallery: This location is preferred by registration chasers. It is located in the public side of the terminal between Concourses B and C. Photography from that place can be done afternoon, when sun is behind you. From that spot you are overlooking Southwest gates, and Runway action (28/10 and 33L/33R).



- Camera:** 300mm-400mm for Runway action. Use wide angle to short-tele for movements to and from the gates.
- Times:** Afternoon.
- Parking:** Use the Daily or Hourly parking garages.
- Amenities:** You are in the terminal where there are several restaurants and convenience shops.
- Directions:** To find this place, go to the terminal and follow the signs.

Location No.3 – New Daily Parking Garage: This spot is overlooking Runway 15R/33L. This place is not suited for photography (sun directly in front of you); however, if you are just after registration numbers then probably you can try it if Runway 15R is in use. If you use this spot, it is best to contact the MdTA police at 410 859 7040 so they are aware you are there. These are the only 'legal' spots around BWI. If Runway 28 or 10 is in use you will have better luck spotting/taking pictures from the Observation Gallery. Thankfully because of the winds in our area, Runway 33L is in use most of the time.

Airlines serving BWI:

AIRLINE	EQUIPMENT	ARRIVAL FREQUENCY
ATI Air Transport Int'l	DC8	1 daily (except Sat.)
Air Canada Jazz	DH8	Few daily arrivals
Air Jamaica	320, 321	1 daily flight
AirTran Airways	712, 73W	Multiple daily arrivals
American Airlines	M80, 73H, 752	Multiple daily arrivals
American Eagle	ER3, ERD, ER4, CR7	Multiple daily arrivals
British Airways	763	1 daily arrival
Continental	733, 735, 73W, 73H, 739	Multiple daily arrivals
Conti Express – BTA	ER3, ER4	Multiple daily arrivals
Conti Express – CJC	DH8	2 daily arrivals
Delta Air Lines	M88, 738, 752	Multiple daily arrivals
Delta Connection	CRJ	Multiple daily arrivals
JetBlue	320, E90	Multiple daily arrivals
Midwest Connection	CRJ	3 daily flights
Northwest Airlines	DC9, 319, 320, 752	Multiple daily arrivals
NWA Airlink – Pinnacle	CRJ	3 daily flights
NWA Airlink – Compass	E75	
NWA Airlink – Mesaba	CR9	
North American Airlines	752, 763	Unscheduled
Omni Air International	D10, 763	Unscheduled
Ryan International	M80, 763	Unscheduled
Southwest	733, 73W	Over 150 daily arrivals
United Airlines	319, 320, 752	Multiple daily arrivals
USA 3000	320	Few daily arrivals
US Airways	733, 734, 319, 320, E90	Multiple daily arrivals
US Airways Express	CRJ, CR9, E70, E75	Multiple daily arrivals
World Airways (Pax and Cargo)	D10, M11	Unscheduled
Charters and VIP	All types	Unscheduled
FedEx, UPS, DHL + more Cargo	All Cargo Types	Early morning, Evenings/Nights

Aircraft based or frequently seen at BWI:

OPERATOR	EQUIPMENT	FLIGHTS
Northrop Grumman	BAC-111, 737, Sabreliner, Citations	Northrop Grumman aircraft are frequently seen flying test flights at BWI mostly during week days

Credits

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