

UNFAMILIAR ARRIVALS

Unfamiliar airports with multiple runways can pose significant challenges to pilots. Using the relatively calmer time during cruise flight to consider the approach is always a good plan:

ROUTING

The exact routing to the destination can't be known, but we do know from which direction we'll be approaching. What should the airport layout (TCL's is depicted at right) look like?

ACTIVE RUNWAY

The runway we'll use should be obvious from the local weather, but keeping the CTAF frequency on in the background and listening for which runways are in use is always a good idea, no matter how familiar we are with the facility.

ORIENTATION

Understanding the airport's relationship to terrain features like mountains and lakes can help us find the facility as well as orient ourselves. Ultimately, though, turn the chart so it reflects what you're looking at, and the direction from which you're approaching the airport.

