

JUAN SANTAMARIA/SAN JOSE (SJO/MROC)

Elevation 3022ft

CATEGORY B

OMC brief required for initial qualification and revalidation

GENERAL

- Juan Santamaría International Airport is the primary airport serving San José, Costa Rica. It is located 20km NW of downtown San José.
- SJO is located within a horseshoe shaped valley with high terrain up to 11500ft within 25 nm to the N, E and S. Terrain increases to 12600ft outside of 25nm toward the SE.
- SJO operations are complex and require effective flight management, preparation and briefing.

Threats

CFIT

- Terrain rises 2000ft above AD elevation within 5nm TIO VOR with significant terrain and obstacles within 10 nm TIO – highest is a mast 7972ft AMSEL 10 nm SSE TIO.
- Maintain a high level of terrain-based situational awareness. Deviation off the STAR may be required for weather avoidance.

Runway Incursion

- Initial taxi can take you immediately onto the active runway.
- Crossing the runway is needed to use Twy K to reach Rwy 25 full-length.

Runway Excursion

- Due to elevation and warm temperatures, expect higher than normal ground speeds and plan accordingly.
- If rain is reported the runway is likely to remain wet.
- The LDA for Rwy 25 is 500m shorter than Rwy 07 due to displaced threshold.
- Rwy 07 has an upslope which can create the visual illusion of being high on approach.
- Rwy 25 has a downslope which can create the visual illusion of being low on approach

Loss of Control

- WINDSHEAR and turbulence can be expected in the vicinity of the airfield and at low levels with only moderate winds. The surface wind often differs along the runway.
- Strong gusty winds on approach can cause unpredictable downdrafts on short final, particularly in winter.

Mid Air Collision

- MRPV, Tobias Bolanos airport is 4 nm SE of the airfield and has similar runway orientation and is used for local traffic.

ARRIVAL

Diversion Airports

PANAMA CITY	PTY/MPTO	292 nm/101°T	CAT B
SAN SALVADOR	SAL/MSLP	353 nm/306°T	CAT B
KINGSTON	CUN/MMUN	683 nm/347°T	CAT A

CANCUN	CUN/MMUN	87 nm/294°T	CAT A
--------	----------	-------------	-------

- Contact ATC as early as possible for landing runway and wind conditions, or use D-ATIS if available. ATIS reception usually not available until late in the descent due to local topography.
- Dry season: winds usually favour Rwy 07. Wet season: winds usually favour Rwy 25
- Irregular terrain prior to threshold will cause rapid RAD ALT changes.
- Rwy 07: terrain rises toward runway but touchdown zone has downslope and the rest of the runway has an upslope. This creates an unusual visual picture.
- Rwy 07: with cloud in the valley, it is common to remain in cloud to short final
- Rwy 07: Consider flying the RNP 07 rather than the ILS to help reduce workload associated with possible GS capture from above.
- Rwy 07: pay close attention to the go-around procedure climb gradient, speeds and bank angle.
- Rwy 25: RNV V 25 follows a wider circuit pattern than the previous CYRUS visual and is preferred. RNP W has lower minimas and can be flown with FD guidance but requires RF.

GROUND

- A tight complex airport with many hotspots and restrictions for larger aircraft. Study the ground charts and pay close attention to ATC when moving on the ground.

DEPARTURE

- Rwy 25 is the preferred runway as you avoid flying a performance limiting departure from Rwy 07. Long-haul aircraft regularly use Rwy 25 with a tailwind for take-off to maximize TOPL. This is an approved procedure and ATC is aware.
- Departures from Rwy 07 must be flown by Captains or Air Vice Marshals.

WEATHER

- San Jose lies in the tropics and has a tropical wet and dry climate. Weather conditions at the airport change quickly between extremes.
- Hurricanes occasionally affect Costa Rica.
- Mid Nov to Mid Apr: dry season. Predominantly Easterly winds. These can produce clouds that obscure terrain during arrival and departure.
- Mid Apr to Mid Nov: wet season. Predominantly Westerly winds. Rain mainly falls in the middle of the afternoon and can last 2-3 hours. Clouds begin to form around noon, developing into thunderstorms and heavy rain from 1400L.

OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

Handling Agent	IBERIA
Handling Agent VHF	130.450
Potable Water	Uplift permitted

IF ONLY Electrical Power is required	Use ground power at all times
IF BOTH electrical power and air conditioning is required:	Use both ground services at all times

