

FLOAT PLANE OPERATIONS OVER THE CITY

There are two major float plane facilities located in the Vancouver area – one is located at YVR and the other is located in Coal Harbour. The following provides information on activities at the two facilities that are of interest to the community. While the Vancouver Airport Authority is responsible for managing the noise issues arising from the YVR Float Operations, Transport Canada manages the issues from Coal Harbour Operations.

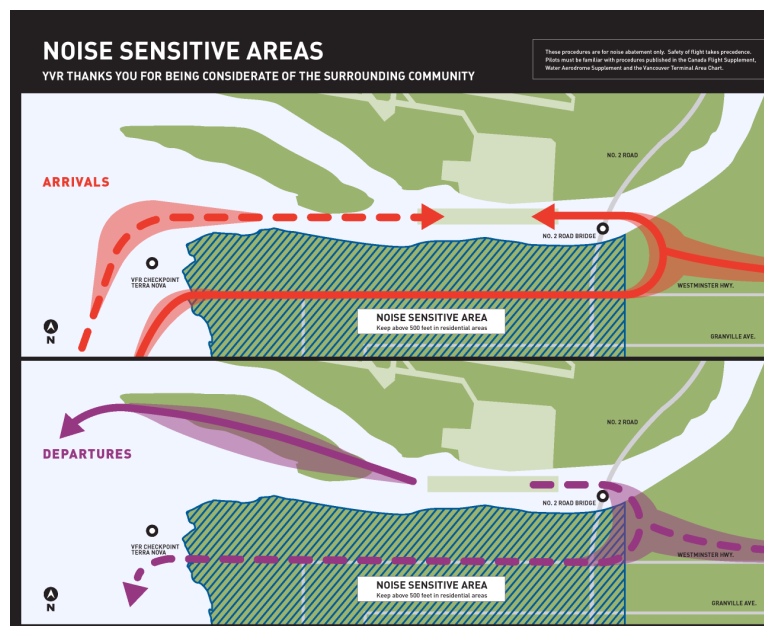
Vancouver International Airport (YVR) Float Operations

The float plane dock at YVR accommodates a large number of float plane operations and there are a number of operators that use YVR as their base. During the peak summer months, there are over 100 arrival and departures of float planes from the Fraser River.

Hours of operation for float planes are limited to day light hours as pilots must be able to see water during landing and take-off. During the summer months, float plane operations start earlier and stop later in the day to take advantage of the longer days.

Given the proximity of residential developments to the south of the airport, it is not possible to eliminate float plane over-flights over residential areas. Over-flights of residential areas are an unfortunate necessity to ensure a safe landing or take-off from the Fraser River.

To raise awareness and to educate the operators on community issues, the Airport Authority meets regularly with float operators and have provided the information below, which illustrates the preferred routing and attitude requirements when operating from the Fraser River. These routes were designed with both safety and noise implications taken into account.



Coal Harbour Operations

During the summer months, the majority of float plane traffic over the City is associated with aircraft flying between Vancouver Coal Harbour – Victoria Inner Harbour. The main reason these float planes must transit directly over the City is due in part to the location of YVR – the safest transit route is directly over the airfield to avoid conflicts with aircraft that are landing and departing. If these float planes were to fly further east or west, around YVR, they would be in conflict with arriving or departing aircraft.

The transit routes will depend on which runway is active at YVR. The following diagrams illustrate the typical routing of float planes operating from Vancouver Coal Harbour depending on which runway is active.

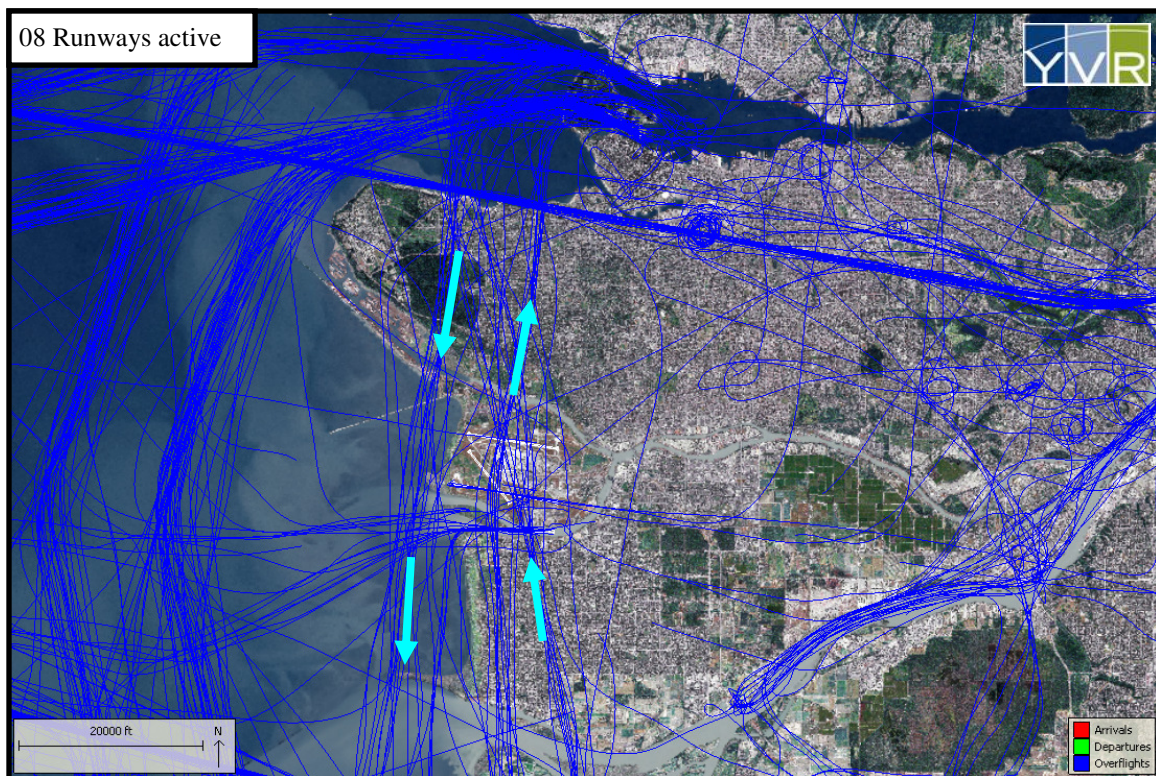


Figure 1: Typical Over-flights of the City by Aircraft Operating from Vancouver Coal Harbour

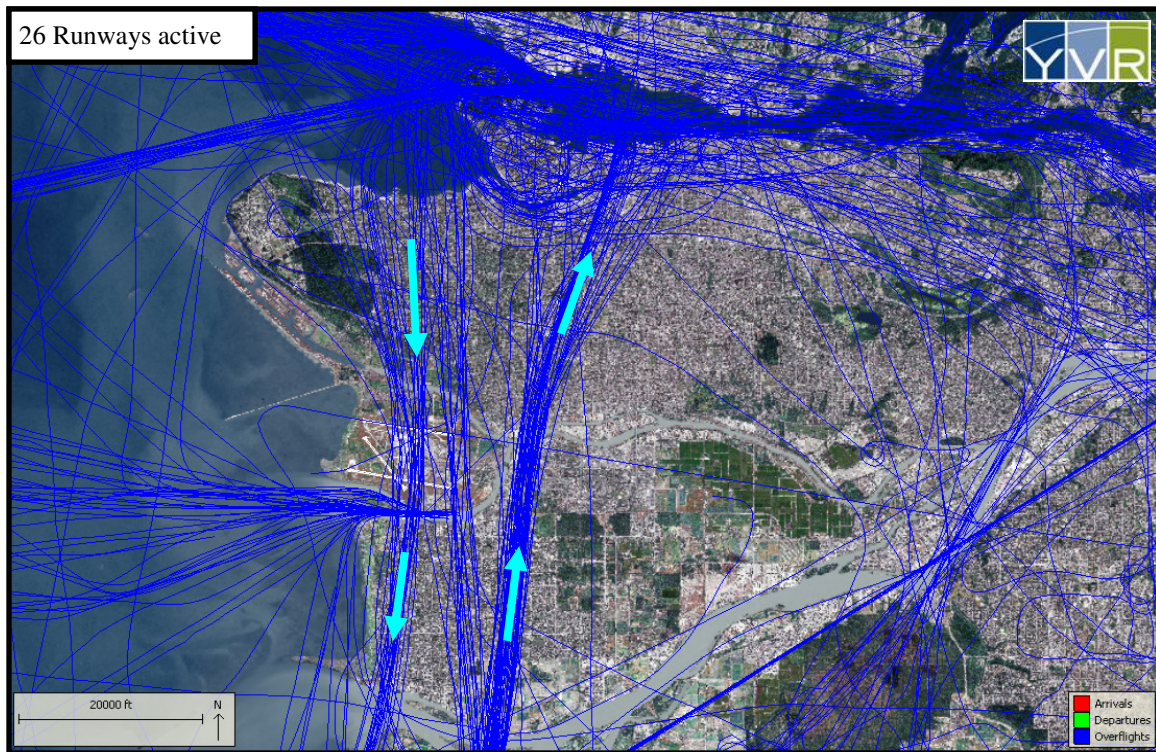


Figure 2: Typical Over-flights of the City by Aircraft Operating from Vancouver Coal Harbour

The transit routes can be found in the Vancouver Terminal Area (VTA) Charts and are designed to ensure that there is safe separation of the north and south bound traffic streams, as well as other traffic using the airspace.

The summer months see an increase in the number of float operations at Vancouver Coal Harbour and like other float operations, the hours of operation is restricted to day-light.

The Vancouver Airport Authority recognizes the community's concern regarding float plane operations from Coal Harbour; however, Transport Canada is the appropriate regulatory authority to discuss these types of aircraft operations. In addition, if you suspect that a float plane is operating too low or in an unsafe manner, you may contact Transport Canada directly at:

Transport Canada
620 - 800 Burrard Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2J8
Telephone: (604) 666-4916