

PLANE SPOTTER'S GUIDE

Tail Identification

2022 Edition



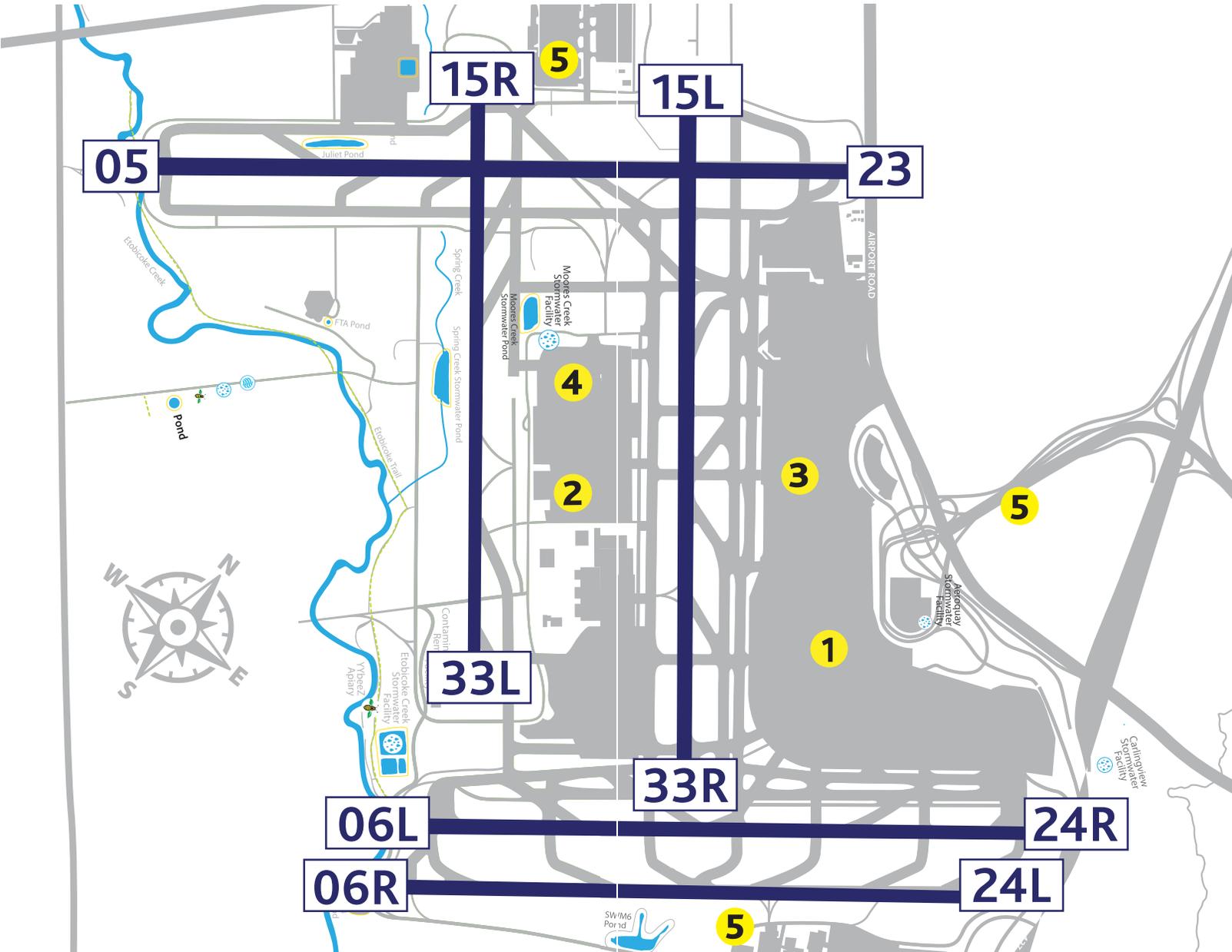
Toronto Pearson 

Which Runway?

Did you know that ideally airplanes take off and land into the wind? When assigning runways to an aircraft, Air Traffic controllers consider a number of conditions, including wind direction and wind speed, surface conditions, traffic levels, runway availability, and time of day. Approximately 95% of flights at Pearson are directed to take off or land using the airport's three east-west runways as these are aligned with the prevailing winds (westerly and easterly) and can handle the most traffic.

Air Traffic Control

Toronto Pearson has two control towers. One is operated by NAV CANADA controllers who direct aircraft in airspace and around parts of the airport, including which taxiways and runway an aircraft will use. The second tower is operated by GTAA staff who communicate with pilots once they reach the apron area that surrounds the terminal, helping guide the aircraft to their parking position.



Behind the Name

Runways can be used from both ends, so while there are five runways at Toronto Pearson, there are actually 10 ends for arrivals and departures so that an aircraft can continue to land and depart in various conditions.

Runways are named based on the compass heading of runway direction, but without the "0". For example, Runway 05 is aligned with 050 degrees, and Runway 23 is aligned with 230 degrees. Parallel runways are further distinguished by their position in relation to each other - Left (L) Right (R). Examples at Toronto Pearson include 06L and 06R, and 24L and 24R.

Legend:

- 1 Terminal 1
- 2 NAV CANADA Control Tower
- 3 Terminal 3
- 4 Terminal 3 Infield Concourse
- 5 Firehalls

Who We Are



The Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA) is the operator of Toronto's Lester B. Pearson International Airport – Toronto Pearson – Canada's largest airport.

Located in one of the fastest growing cities in North America and Canada's most populous region, we connect people and goods to the global economy.

Serving 155 destinations, Toronto Pearson unites and reunites people from all corners of the globe, and as a catalyst for trade and commerce, Toronto Pearson provides connections to over 67% of the world's economies.

Our vision is to be the airport of the future and support Canada, Ontario and our local region to compete in the 21st century. We are accomplishing this by building our business in a smart, healthy and profitable way.

Contact Us

community.engagement@gtaa.com

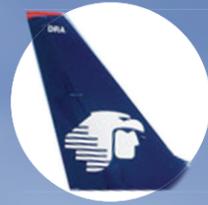


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AIR CANADA



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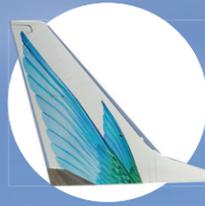
BRITISH AIRWAYS



CANADIAN NORTH



CARIBBEAN AIRLINES



CATHAY PACIFIC



CHINA EASTERN



CHINA SOUTHERN AIRLINES



CONDOR



COPA AIRLINES



DELTA



EGYPTAIR



EL AL



EMIRATES



ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES



ETIHAD AIRWAYS



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