General

- Description
- Surrounding Area
- Alternates

Description

Friedrichshafen Airport (EDNY/FDH) is located in the southern part of Germany, directly on the shores of Lake Constance (Bodensee), near the borders of Switzerland and Austria. Despite its relatively compact size, the airport serves as an important regional gateway for both business and leisure travel within the Lake Constance region.

The airport is known for its scenic surroundings and visually distinctive approaches, particularly during operations along the shoreline of Lake Constance. Due to its proximity to Lake Constance and the Alpine region further south, weather conditions around EDNY can change rapidly, particularly during low visibility situations, fog formation and winter operations.

Friedrichshafen itself is widely recognized as the historical home of German aviation and aerospace development. The city became internationally known through Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin, whose airship development originated in the region during the early 20th century. Even today, aviation and technology remain strongly connected to the local identity.

Beyond aviation, the Lake Constance region is one of the most popular leisure and tourism destinations in Central Europe. The area is characterized by:

- picturesque lakeside towns
- vineyards and rolling countryside
- Alpine scenery
- maritime culture around the lake

The region attracts visitors year-round for outdoor activities, tourism, trade fairs and cultural events. During summer months especially, the area experiences increased tourism traffic due to its favorable climate and proximity to the Alps.

Operationally, EDNY combines the atmosphere of a regional airport with the environmental and weather-related considerations typically associated with more terrain-sensitive destinations.

Surrounding Area

The area surrounding EDNY is characterized by relatively flat terrain north of the airport and progressively rising terrain towards the south and southeast in the direction of the Alpine region. While the airport itself is not considered terrain-critical, terrain awareness becomes increasingly important during southbound departures and operations in reduced visibility conditions.

Lake Constance (Bodensee), located directly south of the airport, serves as one of the most prominent geographical and visual references in the region. The shoreline is frequently used for visual orientation during arrivals and departures, particularly during RWY 06 operations where aircraft are commonly vectored along the lakeside instead of flying extended straight-in approaches. Due to the popularity of the lake region for general aviation and sightseeing flights, increased crossing VFR traffic can frequently be expected along the shoreline area.

Several notable airports are located within short distance of EDNY. Zurich Airport (LSZH) is located approximately 75 NM southwest of EDNY and acts as the primary international hub in the region. St. Gallen–Altenrhein (LSZR) lies around 12 NM southeast of EDNY directly across Lake Constance in Switzerland. Memmingen Airport (EDJA) is located approximately 35 NM northeast of EDNY, while Munich Airport (EDDM), the primary BlueLake Airways alternate airport for EDNY operations, is situated roughly 85 NM northeast of Friedrichshafen.

The surrounding airspace is influenced by the close proximity of German, Swiss and Austrian FIR boundaries, resulting in frequent cross-border traffic throughout the region. Traffic density is generally moderate but can increase significantly during regional events and online network operations.

Important visual landmarks in the area include the Lake Constance shoreline, the Friedrichshafen waterfront, the Zeppelin Hangar and museum complex, local ferry terminals and the Alpine mountain range visible south of the lake. Fog and reduced visibility conditions are common near the lake area, especially during colder seasons and early morning operations.

Alternates

Primary Alternate – Munich (EDDM)

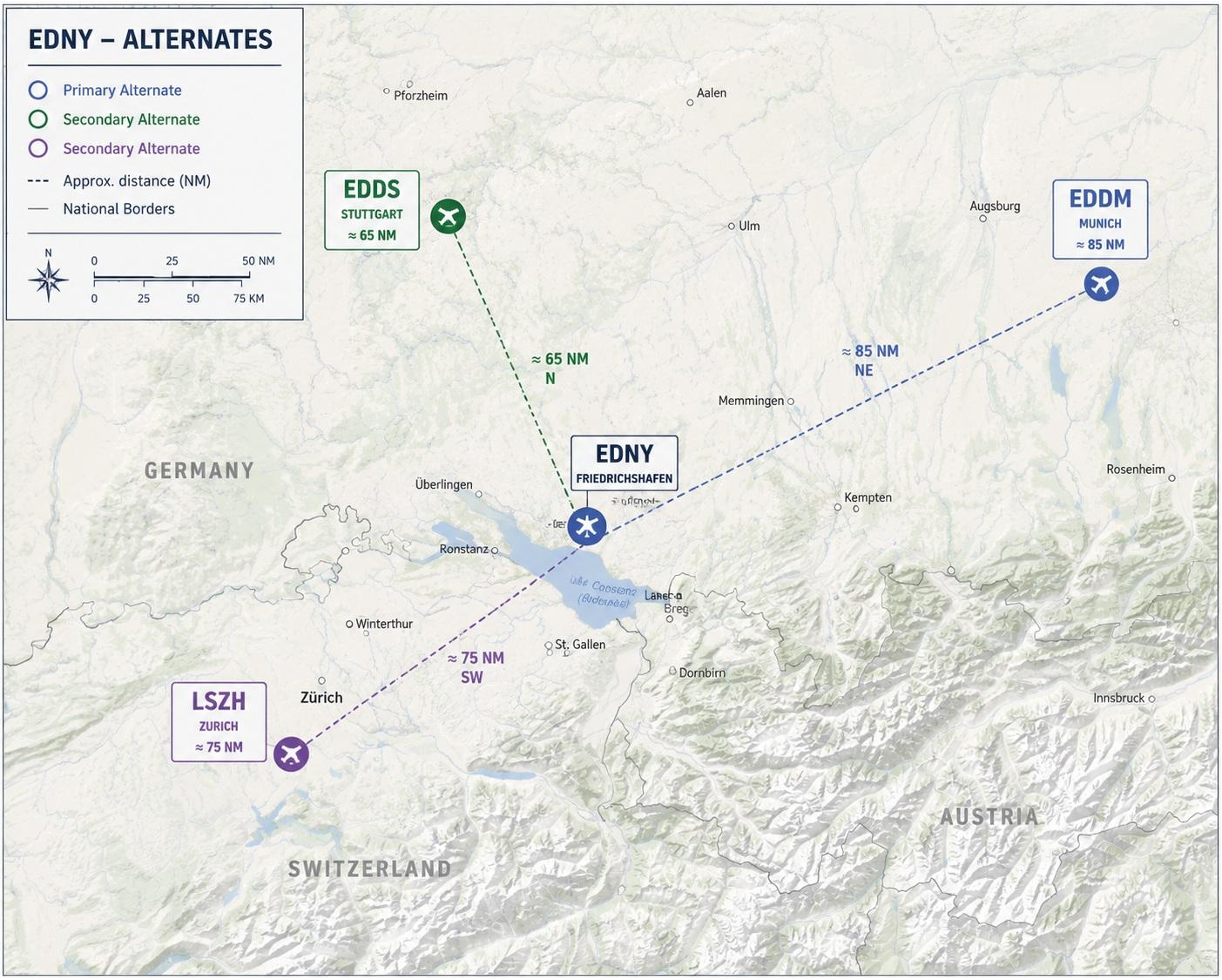
Munich Airport (EDDM) serves as the primary BlueLake Airways alternate airport for EDNY operations. Located approximately 85 NM northeast of Friedrichshafen, EDDM provides extensive operational capabilities including multiple precision approaches, parallel runway operations and highly reliable all-weather infrastructure. Due to its size and traffic density, crews should expect significantly higher ATC workload, longer taxi times and possible sequencing delays compared to EDNY. During low visibility conditions at Friedrichshafen, Munich frequently remains operational due to its advanced CAT II/III capabilities and overall airport infrastructure.

Secondary Alternate – Stuttgart (EDDS)

Stuttgart Airport (EDDS), located approximately 65 NM north of EDNY, serves as an additional alternate option for operations within southern Germany. The airport offers reliable IFR infrastructure and generally lower traffic density compared to Munich, while still providing sufficient operational flexibility for diversion scenarios. Due to its elevated terrain environment and surrounding hills, crews should remain aware of terrain-related considerations during arrivals and departures, particularly during adverse weather conditions.

Secondary Alternate – Zurich (LSZH)

Zurich Airport (LSZH), located approximately 75 NM southwest of EDNY, acts as another highly suitable alternate airport within the region. As one of Central Europe’s major international hubs, LSZH provides extensive operational redundancy and excellent approach infrastructure. However, crews should be aware of the airport’s complex airspace structure, frequent traffic congestion and noise-sensitive operational procedures. During peak traffic periods or event operations, arrival sequencing and holding delays can be expected.


EDNY – ALTERNATES
Primary Alternate
Secondary Alternate
Secondary Alternate
Approx. distance (NM)
National Borders
N
0 25 50 NM
0 25 50 75 KM
EDDS
STUTTGART
≈ 65 NM
EDDM
MUNICH
≈ 85 NM
LSZH
ZURICH
≈ 75 NM
EDNY
FRIEDRICHSHAFEN
≈ 65 NM
N
≈ 85 NM
NE
≈ 75 NM
SW
Pforzheim
Aalen
Ulm
Augsburg
Memmingen
Kempten
Rosenheim
Überlingen
Ronstanz
Lake Constance
(Bodensee)
Bregenz
Winterthur
St. Gallen
Dornbirn
Zürich
Innsbruck
GERMANY
SWITZERLAND
AUSTRIA