

# DESTIN-Ft. WALTON BEACH AIRPORT

DESTIN  
GENERAL AVIATION AIRPORT

**DESTIN  
AIRPORT**



**COLEMAN KELLY  
FIELD**

A SERVICE OF OKALOOSA COUNTY 

**AIRPORT LOCATION**

Destin-Ft. Walton Beach Airport is located in Okaloosa County, approximately one mile east of Destin.



## Existing Facilities

Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport is served by one runway, Runway 14/32, that is 5,001 feet long by 100 feet wide. The airport also has an NDB. The runway is asphalt and is in good condition. The runway has VASIs on both ends. The runway is equipped with medium intensity runway lights. The airport has GPS and NDB approaches.

## Current and Forecast Demand

### GENERAL AVIATION

Being a high-end tourist destination, Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport attracts a large number of corporate jet aircraft. The largest plane that uses the airport on a routine basis is a Gulfstream V Corporate Jet. General aviation is the mainstay of the airport's annual activity, and the airport currently reports 75 based general aviation aircraft. Miracle Strip Aviation Inc. and Destin Jet are the fixed base operators (FBO) for the airport. They operate full-service maintenance facilities and accomplish annual FAA certification inspections for all customers. Miracle Strip Aviation also provides aviation-training services to the Department of Defense through Military student flight training programs in connection with local Colleges and Universities.

Due to the unique location of the Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport, which is located between high-speed approaches to the Eglin Air Force Base Runways, there is a safety concern for VFR traffic into the Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport. To improve the safety of both airports' traffic patterns, Okaloosa County Airports has programmed development of an aircraft control program.

Historic and forecast FDOT aviation activity information on file for the Airport follows:

Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport	2009	2014	2019	2029
Based Aircraft	83	89	95	109
General Aviation Operations	63,000	67,869	73,114	84,852
Commercial Operations	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Enplanements	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source: FDOT Aviation Office.

### COMMUNITY SERVICES

In its current role, Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport focuses primarily on serving general aviation. The airport serves recreational activity, flight training, and private business needs. The airport is developing increased levels of each activity. The airport's future role is unrestricted, as downsized commercial transportation is becoming a new small-scale focus for development. The airport's vision for the future is to better serve the community through development of infrastructure on the airport in order to support development of small business.

General aviation operations by corporate and business users are common at the airport. The airport estimates that 60 percent of its annual general aviation operations are business-related. Local companies that use the airport's general aviation facilities include commercial construction



contractors for condominiums and hotels. The airport attracts a high number of transient general aviation aircraft due to its proximity to beautiful white sand beaches.

## OTHER AIRPORT CHARACTERISTICS

As part of its process to plan for near term and longer-term development needs, the airport has identified the following initiatives as being needed in the near term.

### Projects

- **Application to FAA:** Contract Air Traffic Control Tower Program.
- **Recently Completed:** Terminal for Destin Jet, Inc.
- **Under Construction:** Taxi lanes for private hangar development.

### Master Planning

- **Updated:** March 2010.
- **In Progress:** Airport Stormwater Master Plan.

## CURRENT AND FUTURE SYSTEM SERVICE REQUIREMENTS / RECOMMENDATIONS

At the time of this review, the Management reports several current and future airside or landside improvement projects on the airport. Future development includes a Contract Air Traffic Control Tower, and rehabilitation of runway and markings. The airport will continue to provide tourism, corporate and SATS services in the future.

COMMERCIAL SERVICE ROLE	<u>Current Service</u>	<u>Future Service</u>
Tourism		
Business		
Air Cargo		
International		
GENERAL AVIATION AIRPORT ROLE		
Flight Training		
Corporate	X	
Tourism	X	X
Recreational / Sport	X	X
Business / Recreational		