

Flying from Bad Ragaz to Israel and Egypt with HB-DIE

Peter Lis, Hermann Moosbrugger and Jürg Steinmann

Overview



Flight Times

Date	Route	Airports	PL	HM	JS	T/O (UTC)	LDG (UTC)	HH:MM
16.07.2009	LSZE - LJPZ	Bad Ragaz - Portoroz	142			14:28	16:50	02:22
17.07.2009	LJPZ - LGKR	Portoroz - Kerkira	222			07:38	11:20	03:42
17.07.2009	LGKR - LGRP	Kerkira - Rhodes		182		12:44	15:46	03:02
19.07.2009	LGRP - LLHA	Rhodos - Haifa			164	06:48	09:32	02:44
23.07.2009	LLHA - LLET	Haifa - Eilat			101	06:50	08:31	01:41
26.07.2009	LLET - HESC	Eilat - St. Catherine		51		06:00	06:51	00:51
28.07.2009	HESC - HEOC	St. Catherine - 6. October		81		05:46	07:07	01:21
30.07.2009	HEOC - HECA	6. October - Kairo			23	10:10	10:33	00:23
30.07.2009	HECA - LGIR	Kairo - Heraklion		187		11:59	15:06	03:07
30.07.2009	LGIR - LGKR	Heraklion - Kerkira			161	16:26	19:07	02:41
31.07.2009	LGKR - LIBP	Kerkira - Pescara			138	07:27	09:45	02:18
31.07.2009	LIBP - LSZA	Pescara - Lugano	138			14:37	16:55	02:18
31.07.2009	LSZA - LSZE	Lugano - Bad Ragaz			36	07:01	07:37	00:36
Total time			502	501	623			27':06



Before leaving Bad Ragaz: Juerg, Hermann and Peter



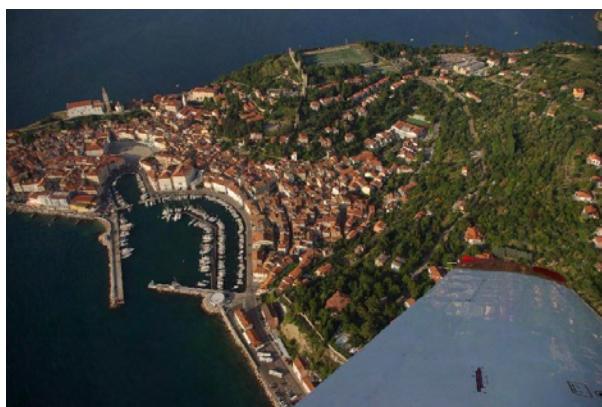
Crossing the Alps VFR on the way to Portoroz in Slovenia



Very unusual to have a clear view over the Po valley



Venice over the wing tip.



Overflying the old town and the harbor of Piran where we stayed overnight.



Exceptional customer support in Portoroz: our Mooney is parked while we get a welcome drink.



Concert at the sea in the evening



and after strolling around the tip of Piran we finished off a large platter of sea food.



Our second day: VFR along the coast on the way to Rhodes with a short fuel stop at Kerkira.



The view shortly after takeoff in Porto Roz



After landing in Rhodes: the Minos hotel provided us with a spectacular view onto the beautiful old town.



Strolling along the port.



Enough room to get back to our plane.



After passing the arrival identification procedure we were cleared to enter Israeli airspace.



Turning base to Haifa airport



We made it. After a warm welcome by our new friends in Israel



formalities and security checks became easy.



New to us: the chain around the prop to secure our plane and preventing eventual terrorist attacks



Eli gave us a city tour and showed us



the beautiful Bahai Temple and Gardens



Great food for hungry pilots.



Taking the train to Tel Aviv where we were invited to enjoy the great hospitality of an Israeli family



with roots in Switzerland for a few days.



Crossing sea level on our way



down to the Dead Sea at 400 m below sea level.



Masada, the lowest airport of the world at the south-western end of the Dead Sea



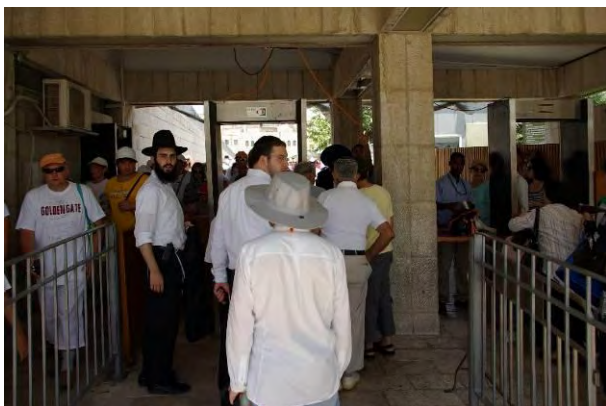
New to us: to have a beer in the airport office tent.



With a Swiss looking cable car up to the ancient fortress of Masada overlooking the Dead Sea.



Peter is taking a mud bath in the Dead Sea, while the ambient air temperature was exceeding 50°C.



After passing an airport-like security check we spent a full day in the overwhelming Jerusalem.



The entrance, the wailing wall and in the background the golden cupola of the dome of the rock.



Following the Via Dolorosa through the different quarters of Jerusalem



The most holy place: the Church of the Holy Sepulcher shared by six religious denominations.



Inside the Church of the Holy Sepulcher built on the hill of Golgotha



The tomb of Jesus



The dome of the rock where prophet Mohammed is believed to have ascended to heaven.



End of our tour: the biblical locations and the mix of different cultures made a deep impression on us.



What an honor to be invited by the president of AOPA Israel to a round of beers at the shore line



under the approach path of Sde-Dov airport in Tel Aviv.



Travelling to the Galilean Sea and



Capharnaum, town of Jesus.



Our most expensive lunch at the shore of the Galilean Sea: the famous St. Peter fish.



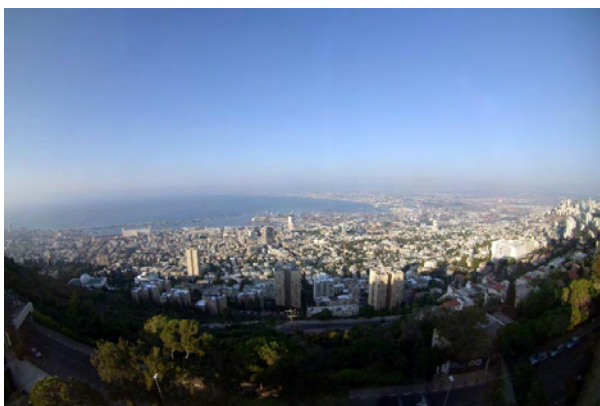
The Jordan river.



Time to say good bye: Farewell dinner with Yigal



and Ariel in Haifa.



The view from our hotel on the beautiful city of Haifa



Eli and Yigal: Leaving Haifa after getting special instructions on Israeli VFR procedures from Yigal.



The Jordan river, boundary between Israel and Jordan.



Masada airport near the Dead Sea under the mountain fortress constructed by King Herod.



Enroute to Eilat



Climbing into cooler air and enjoying the view down on Israel and Jordan.



IFR approach to Eilat at the Red Sea, Aquaba in the background.



The fuel we need to continue to Egypt in 3 days.



The view from our hotel outside of Eilat at a coral reef



One day of diving at the Red Sea just across street from our hotel



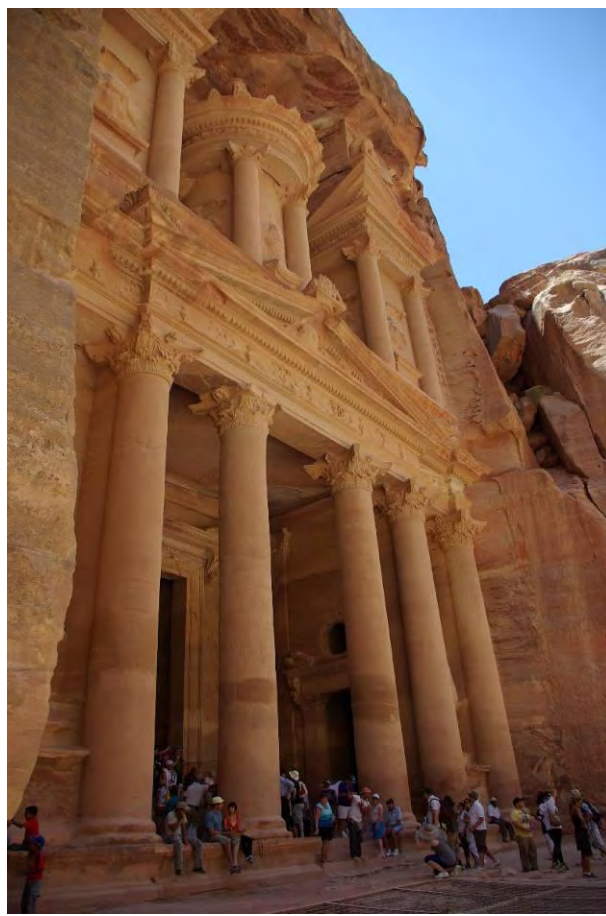
Crossing the Jordan border on our one day bus trip to the UNESCO world heritage site Petra.



A quick glimpse into a Mosque during a short bus stop.



Walking through a narrow gorge called the "Siq" formed from a deep split in the sandstone rocks



At the end of the gorge Al Khazneh (The Treasury) a 42m high monument carved out of solid rock



Inside Al Khazneh looking towards the Siq canyon



The site and its monuments are incredible in numbers and size, another highlight of our trip.



A last portrait in the heat of Eilat airport.



Climbing out of Eilat



En route to St. Catharine, Egypt.



The view over the Sinai desert



After landing in St. Catharine International at 4'368 ft elevation (1'331m) on the Sinai.



Endless negotiations: the fees were four times of what we were originally told by our German agent.



But finally we made it to our hotel "downtown" St. Catharine.



Our well earned first meal after landing in Egypt.



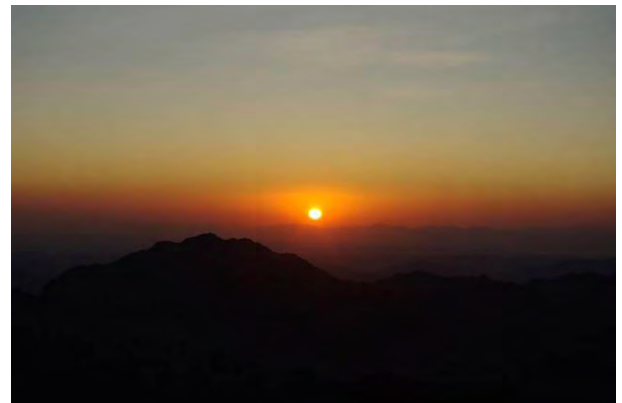
Our next adventure: up at 2 AM in the morning and ready to tackle Mount Moses.



Passing reams of camels and hundreds of tourists we reached the 2'285m peak before 5 AM.



Waiting for the sunrise near the chapel on top of Mount Moses.



The moment everyone was waiting for.



Peter with our young guide on the way down.



The two young sales men we met on the way down.



Nearly back in the valley: the view onto the St. Catherine's monastery



Taking a taxi back to our hotel



Shortly after takeoff: after surviving a taxi race to the airport we felt safe again in our Mooney.



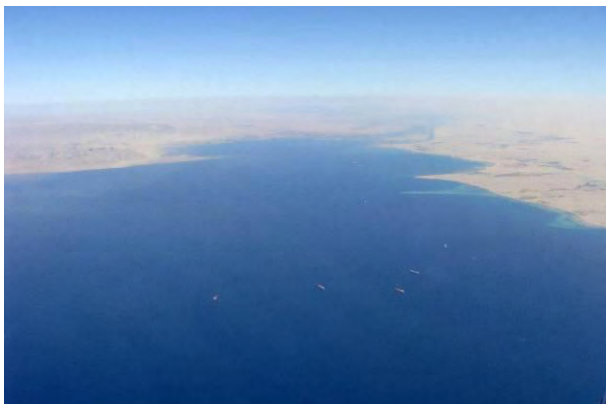
We were not allowed to overfly Mount Moses but the view on the desert was just spectacular.



One of the many wadis of the Sinai desert on our way to Cairo.



The GPS map of our flight from HESC (St. Catharine) to HEOC (6th of October)



Overflying the Gulf of Suez, the Suez Canal at the top of the image.



Cleared to land at 6th of October airport.



A friendly but again expensive welcome crew plus a big positive surprise: avgas is available.



Our "Swiss Inn Nile Hotel" featured a roof terrace with swimming pool and a panoramic view on the



Nile and the pyramids.



The three pilot in front of the 4'500 year old monuments: Cheops, Chephren and Mykerinos



Cheops on the left is the highest: 146.6m (today 138.7m)



A perfect tourist trap: we enjoyed the camel ride, but unfortunately forgot to negotiate the price first.



The view from the other side is at least as impressive.



Sphinx, 20m high, 74m long and over 4'600 years built by Pharaoh Cheops or his son Chephren.



What a life: pool, dinner, pool and then the view:



Birds in front of the pyramids at dusk,



A perfect sunset,



and finally the Nile and Cairo by night.



Ready for departure we got the message that our destination was closed by the military until 1 pm



or later because of a visit of president Mubarak. After long negotiations we flew over to Cairo Int.



Short final at Cairo International



Finally able to clear customs we were very glad to leave to Egypt behind.



A last glimpse of the Nile



Over the coast on the way to Heraklion.



Approaching Crete



A friendly reception and an efficient turnaround but we could not make up the delay from Egypt.



Our leg from Crete to Kerkira



Leaving Heraklion late afternoon



A beautiful sunset over the Mediterranean Sea is



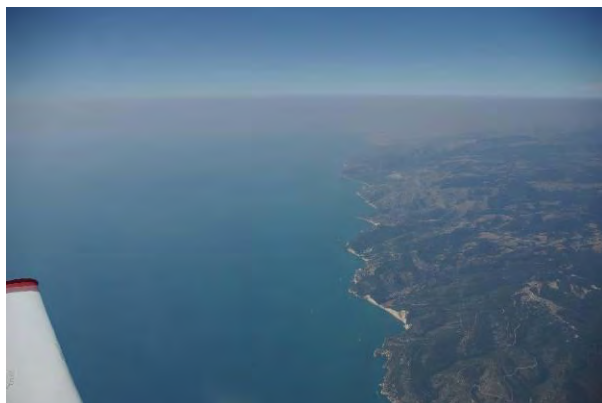
fading over into an interesting night flight.



In the morning on our way from Kerkira to Pescara



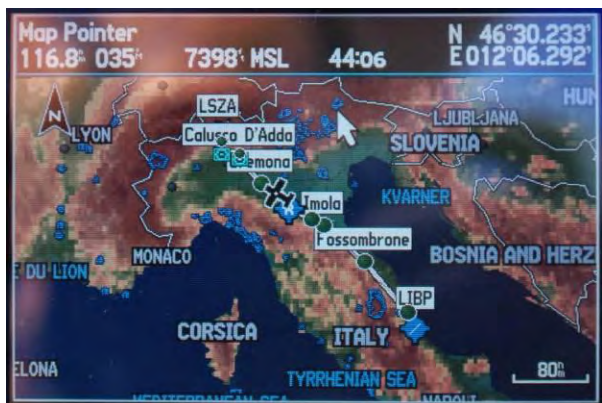
Peter preparing his VFR leg from Pescara back to Switzerland



Crossing the Italian coast approaching Pescara.



Thunderstorms over the Alps and not enough time to reach our final destination before dawn.



We decided to continue to Lugano.



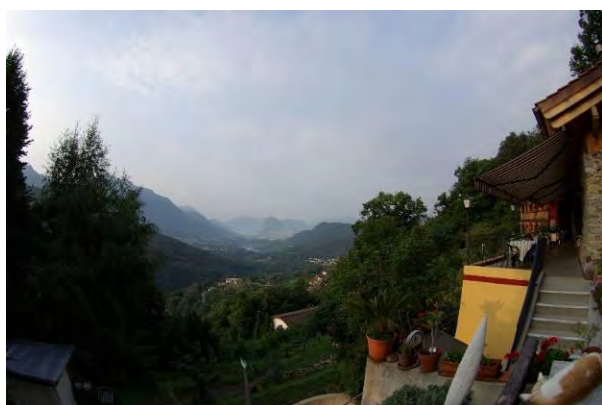
Flying low over the picturesque Italian landscape



Many villages on the hill tops looked like fortresses



Arriving at Lugano in the evening and no chance to cross the alps because of heavy thunderstorms



The Eco Locanda Hotel was great for the last night: nice people, excellent food and a jazz band



All's well that ends well: back in Bad Ragaz we got a warm welcome with champagne.

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