

Memorial Hans Gutmann Tourist Rally Flight 2019

“After the MHGTR-Flight = before the MHGTR-Flight”.

Back in Luxembourg and shortly after the 2019th MHGTRF to Israel, the Organisation Committee around Jean Birgen met to start organizing the 2020th edition. Like for all the editions before, Jean had already his ideas of where we should go during this 9th Rally: **Melilla**. Melilla is a Spanish autonomous city located on the northwest coast of Africa, sharing a border with Morocco. It has an area of 12.3 km² (4.7 sq mi). Melilla is one of two permanently inhabited Spanish cities in mainland Africa and was part of the Province of Málaga until 14 March 1995, when the city's Statute of Autonomy was passed.

Melilla is one of the special territories of the European Union (EU). Movements to and from the rest of the EU and Melilla are subject to specific rules, provided for inter alia in the Accession Agreement of Spain to the Schengen Convention.

Our planned way to Melilla, and how could it be for a long-range rally flight, was not a short trip:



The official departure of the Rally was planned on June 19th in Andorra, fly in of all participants in **LESU**, La Seu D'Urgell Airport in Spain. An official welcome dinner was planned in the hotel.

The following 2 days were planned in Santa Cruz, Portugal (**LPSC**, Aeródromo Municipal de Torres Vedras). For aircrafts with low range fuel capacities, we had planned a technical stop in Salamanca (**LESA**) in Spain.

On our way to Casablanca (**GMMT** Casablanca Tit Mellil Airfield, Morocco) on June 22nd, a further technical stop for refuelling had been foreseen on Gibraltar Airfield (**LXGB**) and another one on Tanger Ibn Tatouta (**GMIT**) for customs and police purposes.

On June 23rd and 24th, we had planned 2 nights in Fès (**GMFF**, Aéroport Fès Saïss Oulad Tayeb) before flying on June 25th to Melilla (**GEML**, Ctra. de Yasinén, Spain) for one night.

The way back home was planned via Castellón (**LECN**, Camino La Plana, El Grao de Castellón) on June 26th and finish with a farewell dinner on June 27th in Cannes-Mandelieu (**LFMD**, Cannes) in France.

Optional one or two nights had been planned in Bihać (**LQBI** Golubic-Bihac – Bosnia & Herzegovina).

This had been the plan! Up to end of March!

Nearly everything was finalized: airports accepted our group (around 15 airplanes) to land and if needed, stay overnight, fees had been arranged, hotels, transfers and touristic trips were arranged and prebooked and last but not least, from all over Europe, crews and airplanes had preregistered to participate in the 9th edition of the Memorial Hans Gutmann Tourist Rally Flight, when we, as the organisation team, had, with a heavy heart, to cancel the rally due to the COVID-19 restrictions, several of the countries we planned to visit closing their borders and forbidding any private or touristic flights.

We want to thank all our friends and fellow pilots who had helped us in organising this “NON-rally 2020” and are very happy to announce that end of October 2020, the organisation committee met and decided to plan the

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You see, **we do not give up**, and specially for this 10th edition, we plan another interesting and about 3'000 miles long-range rally. As we had organized already all the rally destinations for 2020, we will keep some of these destinations foreseen in 2020, like Santa Cruz, Melilla, Castellon and Andorra.

The dates below will be matter to change, but more or less during the period of 3rd and 4th quarter of June, starting June 18th up to June 26th.

The official **starting point** of the Rally will be on June 18th in Santa Cruz, Portugal (**LPSC**, Aeródromo Municipal de Torres Vedras). An official welcome dinner and party will take place in the hotel on the first evening. We will stay in Portugal for 2 nights, as all crews will have to fly during more or less two days to join the group in Portugal.

As planned for the 2020th edition, we will go for a technical (refuelling) stop on Gibraltar Airfield (**LXGB**) prior to crossing the Mediterranean Sea and landing in Melilla (**GEML**, Ctra. de Yasinén), Spain.

On June 21st, our aircrafts will take us back to good old continental Europe heading to Castellon (**LECN**, Camino La Plana, El Grao de Castellón) Spain where we stay for another night.

The next destination will be the one we had planned for being the starting point in 2020: Andorra, (**LESU**, La Seu D'Urgell Airport in Spain). We will stay one night in Andorra.



On June 23rd, our destination will be Piacenza (**PC02** Gargnano airfield, Aero Club Piacenza or **LIMS** Piacenza Airport), Italy. From here, a bus will take us to Bobbio where Hans Gutmann died in a crash on June 18th 2011. We will visit the place he crashed and stay in Bobbio overnight.

(OE-KSY • The aircraft that crashed with Hans and two of his friends near Bobbio)

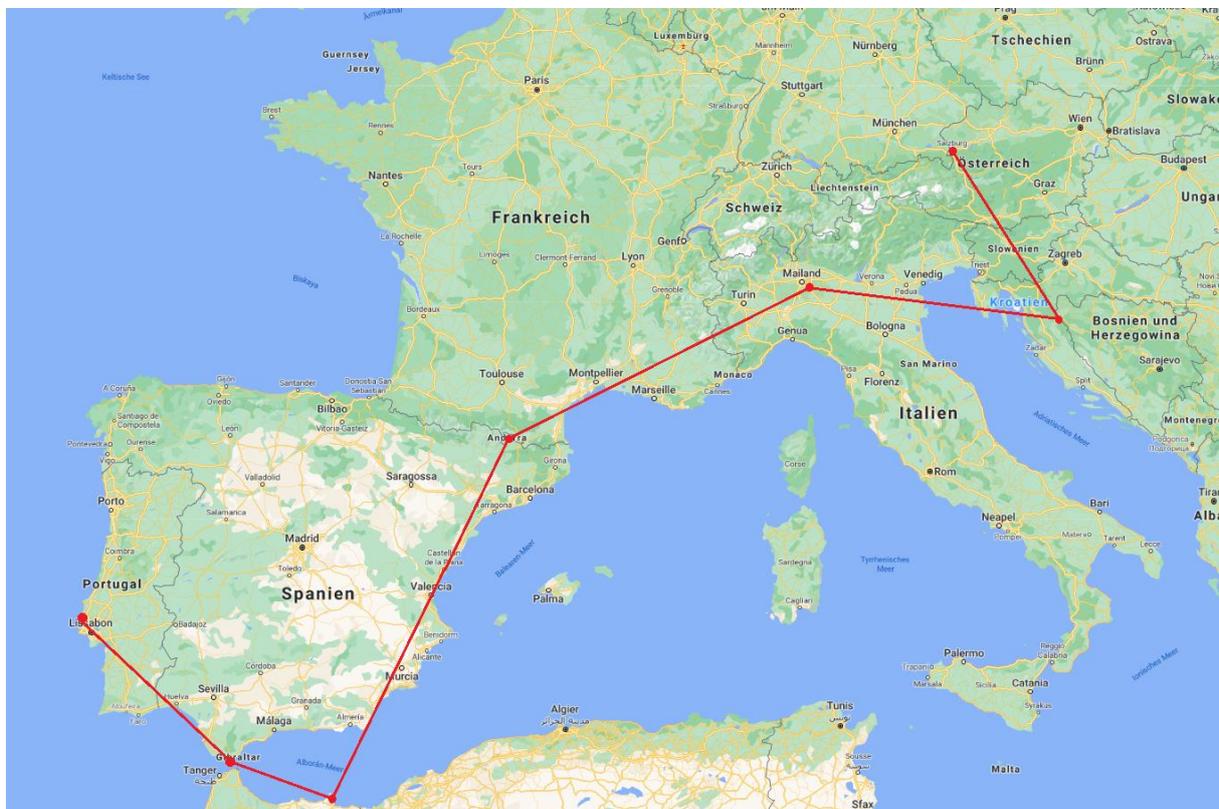
June 24th will take us to Bihać (**LQBI** Golubic-Bihac Airfield or **the new LQ??** Željava Airfield with runway 14R / 32L) in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

From the City of Bihać, the **Aero klub ZELJAVA** received a part of the former military airport Željava near Bihać, for the purpose of registering a sports airport for flying sports, tourist and recreational aircrafts in that area.



“cleaning work” started in Željava some monts ago

After two nights in Bihac, we will head to Salzburg (**LOWS** Salzburg Airfield), on June 26th. Here, in **HANGAR 7**, will end our Memorial Hans Gutmann Tourist Rally Flight 2021 with our official farewell dinner.



Memorial Hans Gutmann Tourist Rally Flight 2021 Organisation-Team:

Jean BIRGEN
President

Artem KIRILOV
Project Manager

Mike KORNEV
Secretary General

Pierre LORANG
Hospitality

Helmuth LEHNER
Local Support for
Italy and Austria