

## 25 TIPS FOR NIGHT FLYING

1. Always, always, always use flight following at night
2. Carry a hand-held COM radio
3. Plan a route that zig-zags from airport to airport (or landing areas like open roads). Don't use "direct-to."
4. Plan a higher cruise altitude than normal. An extra 2000 feet buys you 2-3 minutes
5. Use oxygen above 5000'. The visual difference is huge
6. Bring snacks and drinks to keep your mind awake
7. Use 1-hour fuel reserves (for ALL your flying). Period
8. Scan for traffic and airports in 10-degree slices. Use peripheral vision
9. Mark your course on an actual chart. Learn the MEFs. Use "mud maps"
10. Depart "semi-IFR." Look at IFR departure procedure for that airport and follow it
11. Bring multiple flashlights and a headlamp. Use Velcro to stick them close by
12. Use green instead of red light. Bring portable LED lights and place them around cockpit
13. Use a powerful LED flashlight with focusable beam to see ice on wings
14. To see fuel contamination at night: place sample against white paper or fuselage. Shine light sideways
15. Double-check altimeter and note even slight elevation errors
16. Climb at Vy to 1000' then cruise climb for better visibility ahead
17. When planning, consider the moon phase (show in Aeroweather or <https://www.timeanddate.com/moon/phases/>). Fly at full-moon
18. If lights begin disappearing or "blinking" ahead, something is blocking them
19. At night over dark, rural areas, pilots tend to fly lower than in daylight. Use your altimeter and know terrain elevations. This is "black-hole" illusion
20. Light up like a Christmas tree – Turn on strobes only at takeoff
21. Don't fly at night if you are uncomfortable with your instrument flying skills
22. You will not see clouds at night. Period. KNOW YOUR FORECAST and use FSS for current conditions
23. Obstacles (like towers and cranes) become invisible at night. Know your NOTAMs and chart
24. Use ILS glideslope on your approaches, if you have it. Otherwise ALWAYS follow PAPI/VASI
25. If it's hazy or misty, turn runway lights to full intensity (7 clicks)
26. Invest in some kind of terrain-awareness display (foreflight on your phone or iPad, etc.) & use it!
27. Set a defined "descent point." Don't "wing" it
28. SLOW DOWN- all phases