enroute flight navigation

# A VFR navigation app from Akaflieg Freiburg

**enroute flight navigation** is a new, easy to use and free navigation app for VFR pilots. The app runs on mobile phones and pads with Android operating system. It was developed as a project of [Akaflieg Freiburg](https://akaflieg-freiburg.de/), a not-for profit flight club in Freiburg, Germany.

## What can the app do?

The app shows a moving map after launch, similar to the official ICAO charts. The current position is marked, in flight also the flight path for the next five minutes. A short double click on the map provides all relevant information about airspaces, airfields, reporting points and navigation facilities. If you zoom in on the map, the system also displays traffic circuits and entry/exit routes for the control zones[[1]](#footnote-1). The [free aeronautical charts](https://akaflieg-freiburg.github.io/enroute/maps) cover a large number of countries and receive weekly updates.

Simple flight planning is also possible. If desired, the app calculates heading, flight times and fuel consumption and displays the planned route on the map. In case of need, the app provides a list of the nearest airports, with courses, distances and all airport information. The [homepage of the](https://akaflieg-freiburg.github.io/enroute/maps) app has more information and shows many screenshots.

## Where can I get the app?

The App is freely available on [Google Play](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=de.akaflieg_freiburg.enroute). Developers can find the complete source code of the program on the Internet on the well-known developer server [GitHub](https://github.com/Akaflieg-Freiburg/enroute).

## Who wrote the app? And why?

The app is a project of the Akaflieg Freiburg. It was written there by Stefan Kebekus, many other club members were involved as testers.

Stefan was annoyed about the existing apps. On the one hand, he found most of the apps complicated and overloaded. On the other hand, he was annoyed that the apps often cost a lot of money although the relevant data is freely available. The idea for his own app was born when Stefan's phone broke down shortly before a long-planned flight and the terms of use of his navigation app at the time did not allow the installation on a replacement device.

## But there are many other apps. What is the difference?

There are of course already a number of other flight navigation apps. The developers summarize the main differences as follows:

* The app **enroute** is simple and very easy to learn.
* No user data is collected. There is no "registration", no "social network" and no spam.
* **enroute** does not contain program components such as „Crashlytics“ or the „Facebook API“, which analyse user behaviour and report directly to American companies.
* The app is completely non-commercial. There is no advertising, no in-app purchases, no paid "pro version" and there are no subscription models. Every user can install **enroute** on as many devices as he or she wants.

## Where do the maps come from?

Like many other projects, **enroute** uses the publicly available aeronautical data of [openAIP](http://www.openaip.net/), a project of the company Garrecht Avionik GmbH from Sandhausen near Heidelberg. Additionally, the excellent data of the [open flightmaps](https://www.openflightmaps.org/) are integrated. The [open flightmaps](https://www.openflightmaps.org/) are a project of the open flightmaps association based in Winterthur/Switzerland; the data are also publicly available.

The base maps were kindly provided by [OpenMapTiles](https://openmaptiles.org/), a project of Klokan Technologies GmbH from Unterägeri/Switzerland.

## Will there be a version for iPhones and iPads?

Maybe. Technically, **enroute** can run on iOS devices without any problems. But we are still looking for volunteers to help us port the app and to maintain the app's listing in the Apple store. This requires some patience and a good knowledge of C++ and iOS. If you are interested, please contact Stefan Kebekus at [stefan.kebekus@gmail.com](mailto:stefan.kebekus@gmail.com).

## Er appen også tilgjengelig på norsk? O aplicativo também está disponível em português? Gibt es die App auch in Deutsch?

Not at the moment, maybe in the future. That also depends on whether we can find volunteers to translate the app. No programming skills are required, but good language and computer skills.

## Are there any further plans for the app?

You bet there are! The next items in our pipeline are the automatic recording of take-off and landing times, as well as access to current weather information. For a more complete list of plans, check out the [GitHub site](https://github.com/Akaflieg-Freiburg/enroute/projects) on the Internet. The app will be developed with care and should remain easy to use in the long run.

## Can I participate?

Sure! If you are interested, please contact Stefan Kebekus at [stefan.kebekus@gmail.com](mailto:stefan.kebekus@gmail.com).

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1. Traffic circuits and routes inside control zones for select countries only. See [our web site](https://akaflieg-freiburg.github.io/enroute/maps) for details. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)