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Small plane from Germany is flying round the globe

German pilots flying around the world to land in Taipeh on August 18

Private pilots are on a world trip in a single-engine Cessna: 52,000 kilometres (28,000 nautical miles), 30 countries and 50 landings in 80 days. The second leg is taking them from Australia via Asia and America and back to Europe.

On August 18, red roses will be floating over Taipeh's skies. Pilot Uwe Thomas Carstensen (60) and his co-pilot Hans Christian Albertsen (59), flying round the world in a single-engine plane, are landing at Hong Kong International Airport. The fuselage of their Cessna T260H is decorated with pictures of red roses and the name "Marie" – a declaration of affection by the pilot to his wife Maria Carstensen, who will be at home in Germany, without her husband, for 80 days.

World trip started in mid March

Carstensen and Albertsen are the 139th crew since 1924 to fly round the world in a single-engine plane. Their adventure began mid March in Germany. Their flight route took them over south east Europe, the Middle East, Pakistan, India and South East Asia, right over the Australian continent to Sydney, where the first leg of the round the world trip was completed after 22,000 kilometres (11,900 NM).

Despite extra tanks on the wing tips, the Cessna's range is only 1,850 kilometres (1,000 NM.) As a result, during their stop in Sydney, an additional tank was put in the baggage hold, so that the longest route of approx eleven hours from Russia to Alaska could be tackled.

From Asia via America to Europe

On August 1, the rose-painted plane started on the second leg of the global adventure, some 30,000 kilometres (16,200 NM) long. From Australia the route stretches over Indonesia, Malaysia,

- Two German private pilots are flying around the world in a single-engine plane
- Landing on August 18 at International Airport Taiwan Taoyuan
- The second leg is taking them from Australia via Asia and America and back to Europe
- The longest section from Russia to Alaska will take around eleven hours

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Cambodia, China, Taiwan and Japan to Russia on the peninsular of Kamchatka. When they fly over the Bering Straits, they will cross the international dateline and experience August 25 twice. The two private pilots will land in Alaska and Canada on the American continent. And then via Greenland, Iceland and Great Britain back to Germany. The end of the extraordinary trip is scheduled for September 14 in Hanover, Germany.

For the whole flight route, the pilots' travel reports, log book entries and background reports about the adventure see www.globeflight-rallye.com.



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