

Flight Journal: Putting the FN.333 Riviera through its paces over... and in the Caribbean

~4 minutes

I've got a review coming up for a unique aircraft in the Microsoft Flight Simulator stable and I wanted to share one particularly interesting exploratory flight in Mario Noriegas' FN.333 Riviera amphibious plane. And what better place to test such a plane than in the Caribbean!

Saba to St Barts testing flight

You get a bit of an inside look at what I tend to do on my first flights with general aviation aircraft. I like to challenge myself and the airplane and put it in difficult situations right from the start. So what did I do? Load up the FN.333 on one of the shortest and most treacherous airports in the world – Saba Island (TNCS)!

With its short 1,312 ft foot runway and cliffs on either side, there's little room for error. Would

the diminutive GA airplane even make the end of the runway? I wanted to find out!

Going through the checklist, I got the Riveria started up and then worked my way to the runway. The aircraft was in a bit of a tight spot and the 20 degree movement on the nose wheel made getting out of that spot difficult. But I managed to get it around and over to the runway. I backtracked onto runway XX and then got ready for takeoff. Power up, flaps set, let's go...

