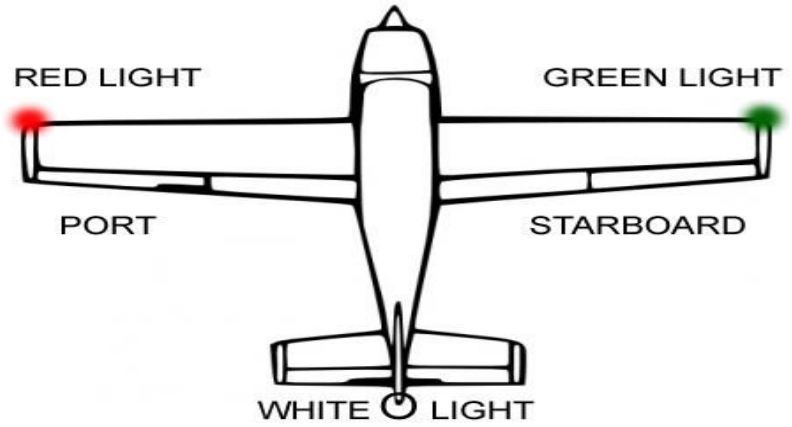
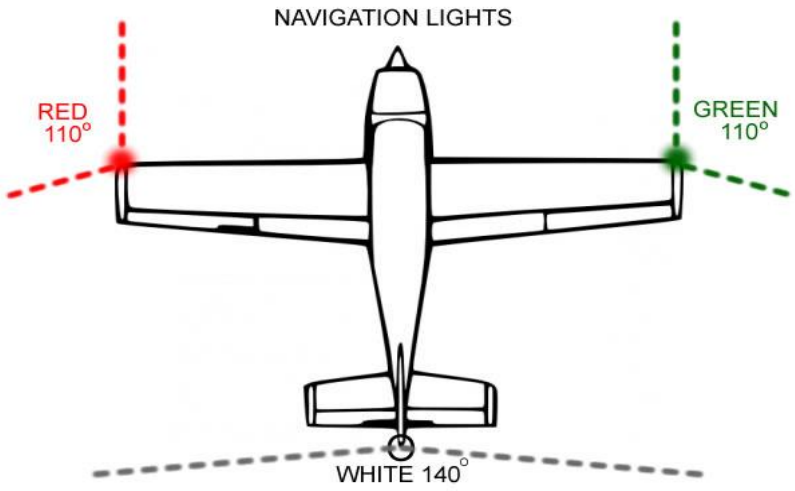
Airplane Typical External Lights System

Navigation or Position Lights: All aircraft are equipped with a steady light near the leading edge of each wingtip. The starboard light is green while that on the port wing is red. The different colors make it possible for an outside observer, such as the pilot of another aircraft, to determine which direction the plane is flying. These are required to be on during operation (in night). In addition to the red and green lights, most large planes like airliners are also fitted with other steady white navigation lights in various locations like the trailing edges of each wingtip, horizontal tail and top of the vertical tail. The main purpose is to increase the visibility of aircraft from behind:

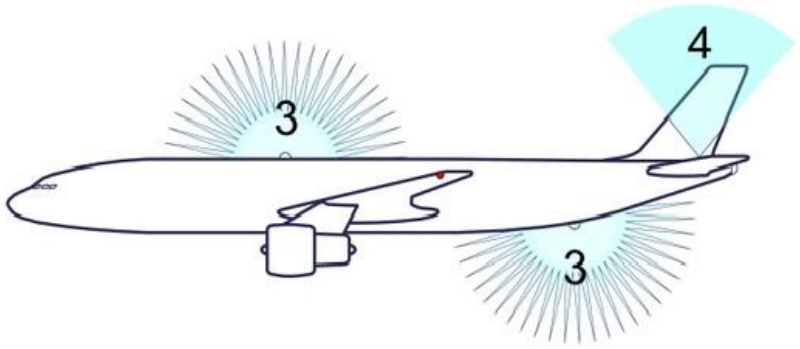
- 1 x Red light in left wingtip (port) position - Steady
- 1 x Green light in right wingtip (starboard) position – Steady
- 1 x White light in tail position – Steady





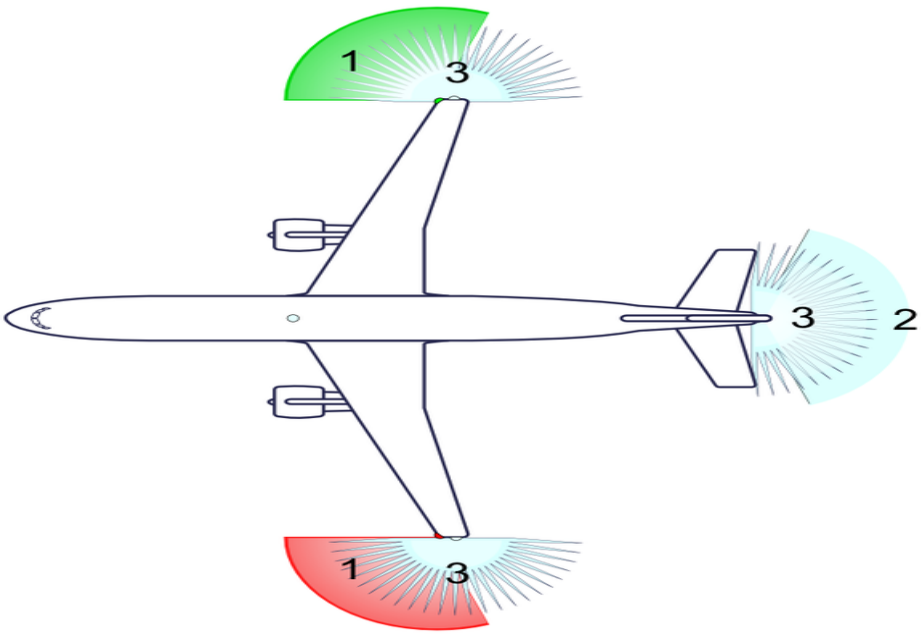
Anti-Collision Beacon Lights (3): These are flashing (or strobe) light assemblies installed on the upper and lower fuselage of aircraft, used to improve visibility of the aircraft. These can be switched off at the discretion of the pilot under some conditions. Light (4) is logo light explained below:

- 1 x Red light in upper body position – Blinking as beacon
- 1 x Yellow/Orange light in lower fuselage position – Blinking as beacon



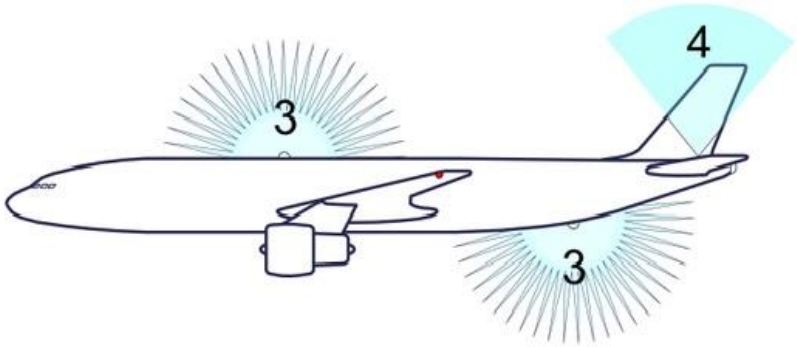
Strobe Lights (3): High-intensity strobe lights that flash a white-colored light are located on each wingtip. These flashing lights are very bright and intended to attract attention during flight. They are sometimes also used on the runway and during taxi to make the plane more conspicuous:

- 1 x White light in left wingtip (port) position - Blinking
- 1 x White light in right wingtip (starboard) position – Blinking
- 1 x White light in tail position – Blinking * (sequence of blinking is different)



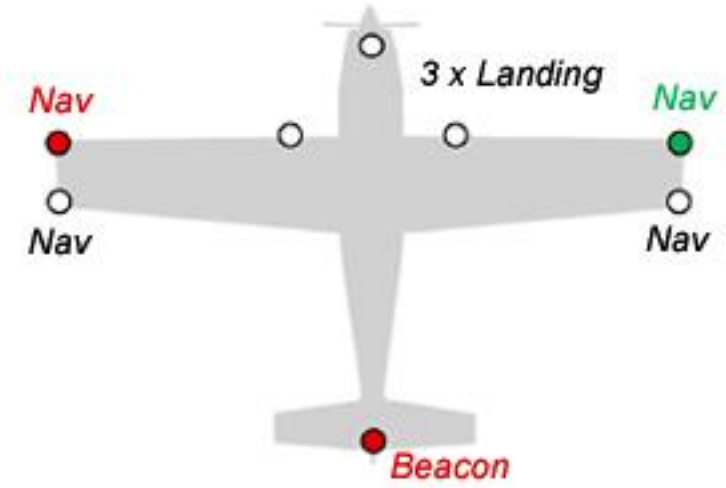
Logo Lights (4): These steady white lights on the surface of or at the tips of the horizontal stabilizer are used to illuminate the company's logo painted on the vertical tail. These are usually switched off in airports to improve the visibility of the aircraft.

- 1 x White light placed (usually) in back wing position - Steady



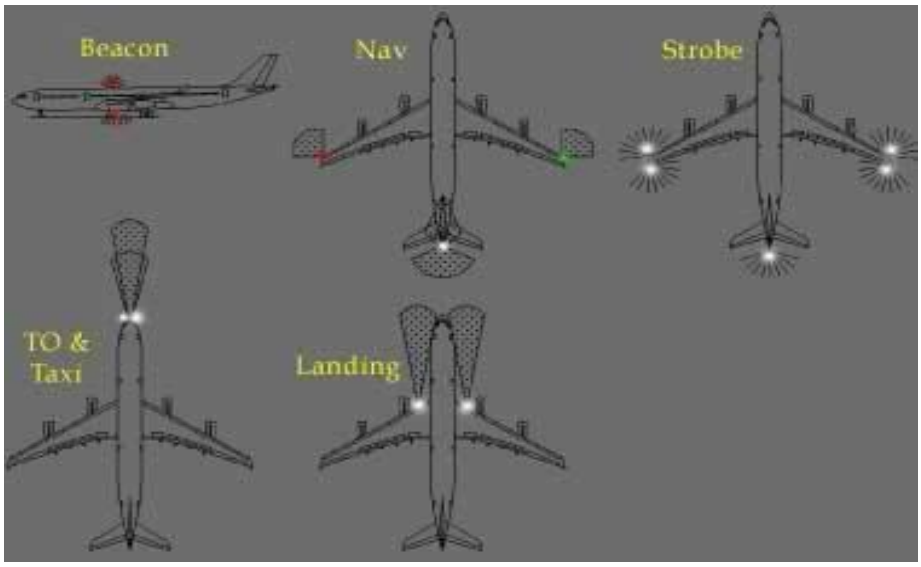
Wing Tip Lights (also called Navigation lights): Many airliners feature lights along the root of the wing leading edge that can be used to illuminate the wing and engine pylons in flight. These lights may be used to make the plane more visible during takeoff and landing or to inspect the wings for damage in flight. Pilots can also use the wing lights to inspect the wings and slats for any ice accretion that might build up when flying through clouds.

- 1 x White light in left wing (port) front position – Steady
- 1 x White light in right wingtip (starboard) front position – Steady



Taxi Lights: A bright white lamp is located on the nose landing gear strut of most planes. This light is typically turned on whenever the aircraft is in motion on the ground for greater visibility during taxi, takeoff, and landing.

- 1 or 2 x White lights in nose gear position or front landing gear – Steady



Landing Lights: Typically, the brightest light in the aircraft, these are fitted on most planes (and helicopters) for enhanced visibility during the landing approach. These lights can also be used to illuminate the runway at poorly lit airports. They located in the wing root, in the outboard wing, or somewhere along the forward fuselage (the usual location in case of helicopters), with some aircraft having them in more than one location.

- 1 x White light in left wing (port) front position - Steady
- 1 x White light in right wingtip (starboard) front position – Steady
- 1 x White light in landing gear front position – Steady

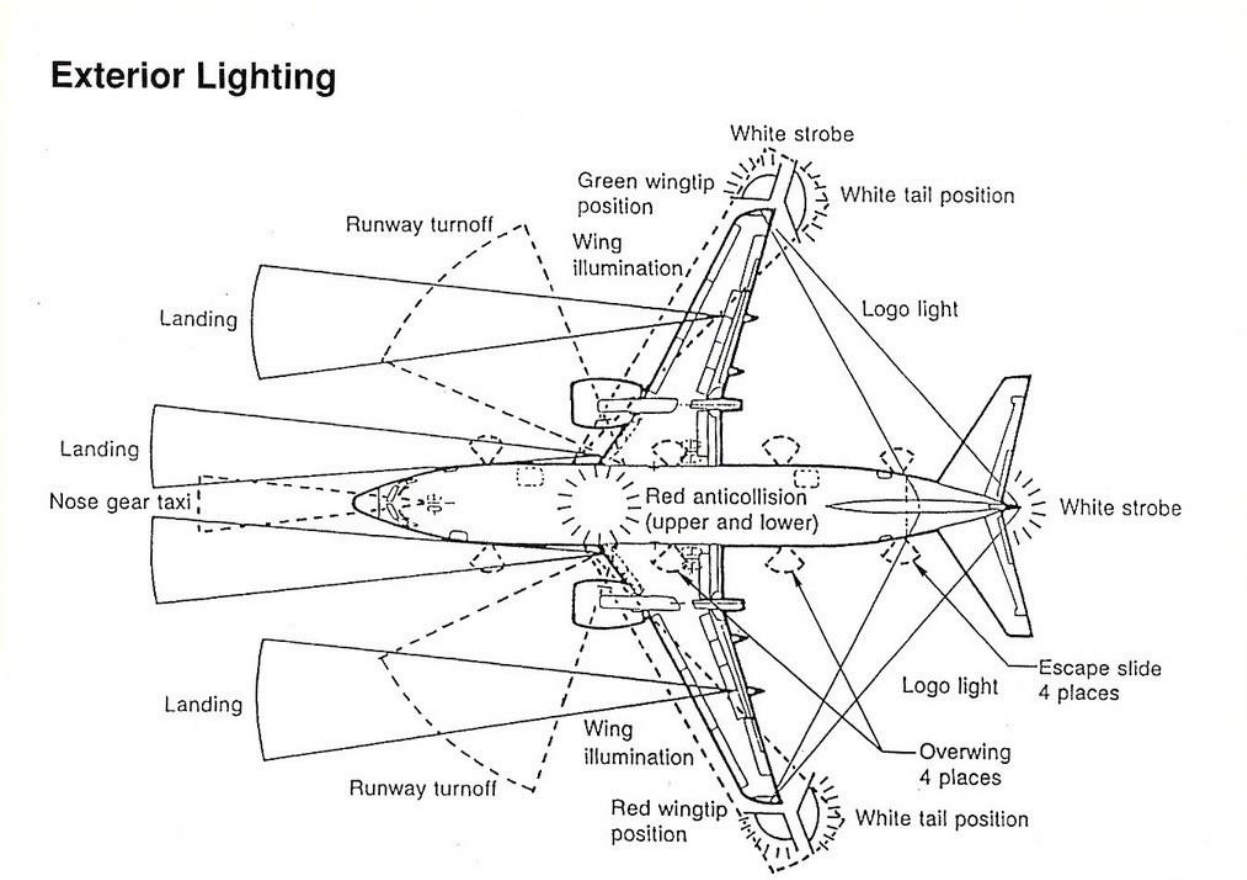
Runway Turnoff Lights: Usually located in the leading edge of the wing root, these bright white lamps are intended to provide side and forward lighting during taxi and when turning off the runway. These lights are most useful at poorly lit airports but are usually unnecessary. The lights can also be used in flight if greater visibility is required.

- 2 x White lights – Steady

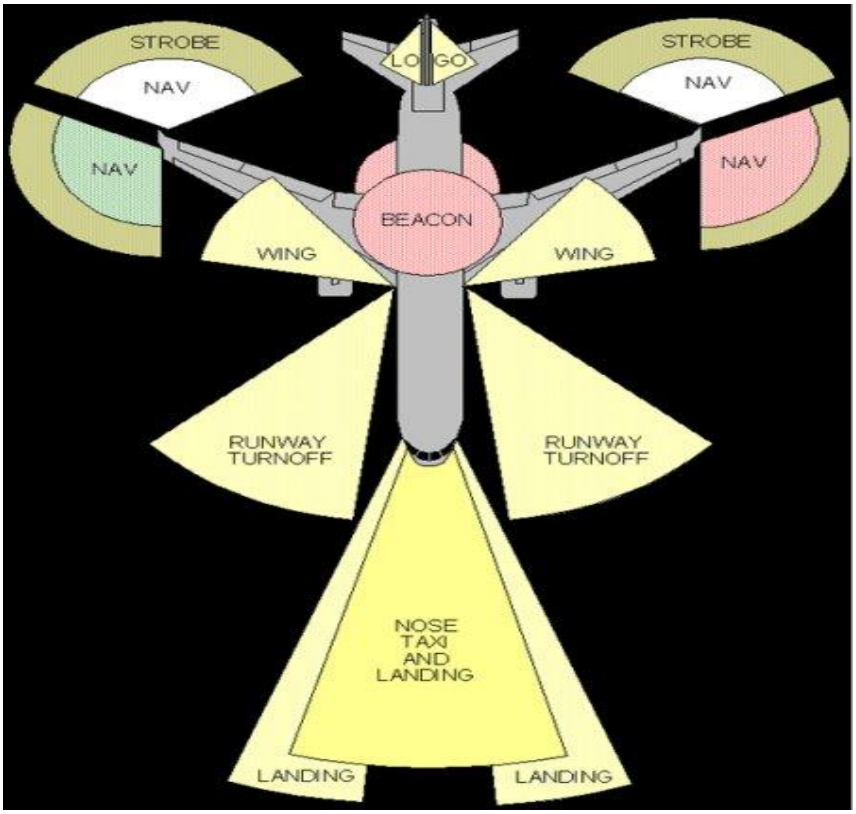
Wheel Well lights: Some planes are equipped with additional lights in the nose and main gear wheel wells. These lights are provided primarily to assist ground personnel in making pre-flight inspections of a plane at night.

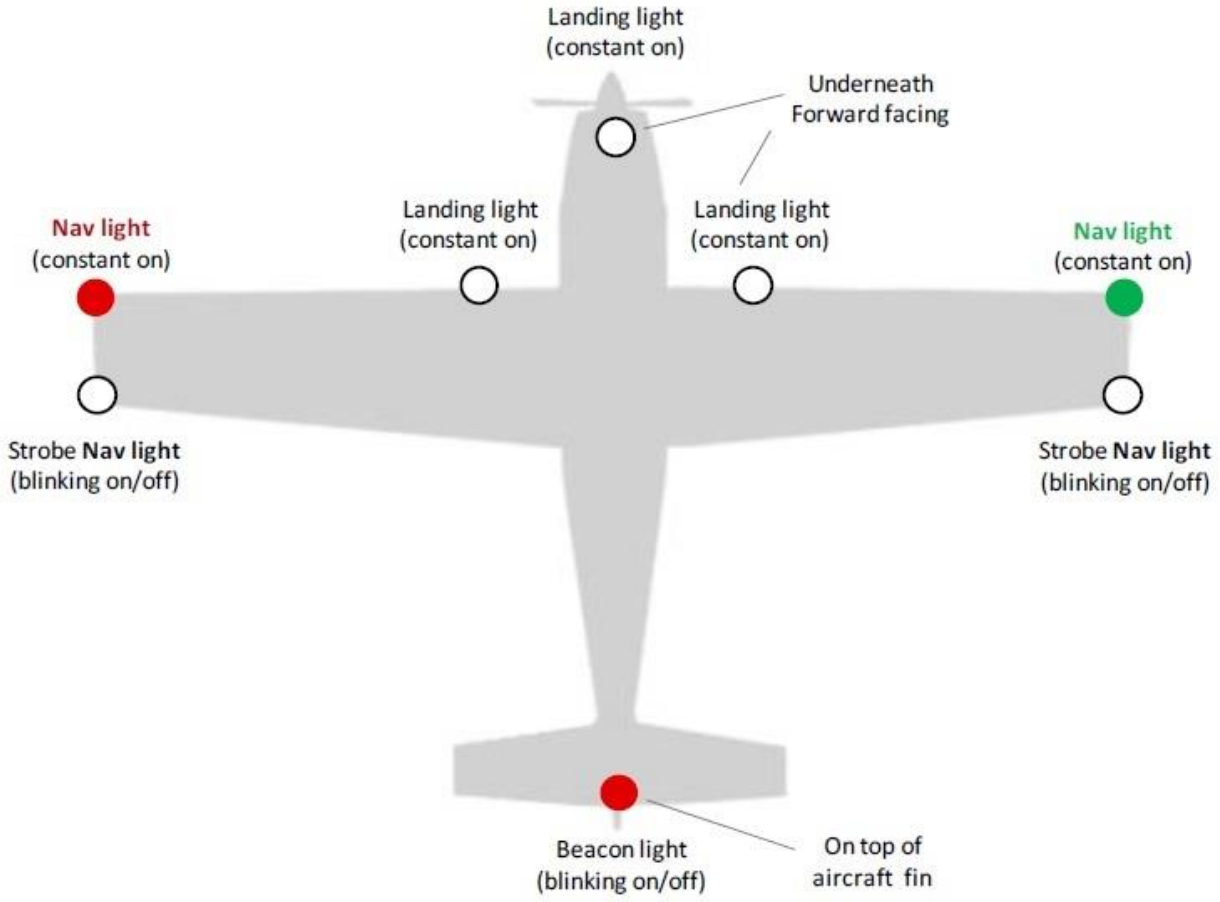
- 1 x White lights – Steady

The image below shows the lights in a Boeing 737.



Other useful photos:





A 380-800 Lights

1. Right Navigation Light (Green)
2. Left Navigation Light (Red)
4. Obstruction Light
5. Upper Anti-Collision Light (Red)
8. Engine Scan Light
9. Wing Scan Light
10. Wing Strobe Light (High Intensity White)