

Thursday, 8th – Tuesday, 13th October, 2009

Without doubt, one of the best warbird airshows you will see anywhere in the world, and a 'must see' for many aviation enthusiasts - the annual Confederate Air Force Airsho' in Midland, Texas. Although it's been re-named the "Commemorative Air Force" - it's still called "The CAF" - and we spend 3 full days there: "Arrivals Day" on the Friday, and the airshow on the Saturday and Sunday.



The 2-day air display features an all-action programme from mid-morning, during which dozens of warbirds re-enact some of the famous air battles of World War II, e.g. the Raid on Ploesti, Pearl Harbor, The Mariana Turkey Shoot, and the B-29 mission to Hiroshima. With huge amounts of perfectly timed pyrotechnics the blue Texas sky is soon filled with flashes, flames, smoke, bangs and explosions, and diving, turning and wheeling aircraft as the Zeros, Vals and Kates of the Tora! Tora! Tora! Squadron fight it out with the P-40s, P-51s, P-38s, Wildcats, Hellcats, Corsairs, Dauntless', Avengers, SBDs, B-17s, B-24 (pictured), B-25s, A-20s, A-26s et al! The sky is full of 'flak' and warbirds!

We fly from London's Heathrow Airport on the scheduled services of Continental Airlines; transfers between Midland Airport/Air Show and the hotel are by coach; and we stay 4-nights at the Hilton Hotel in Midland on a bed and breakfast basis.

It is essential that you read very carefully the new "ESTA" entry requirements on page 5, introduced in January 2009 by the US authorities; failure to ensure you have the correct documentation when checking-in will mean your participation in the tour is likely to come to an abrupt end!

PROVISIONAL ITINERARY (all times local & approximate)

DAY 1: Thursday, 8th October

Between 05:45 and 06:30 please meet your Ian Allan Tour Manager, and fellow enthusiasts, at London's Heathrow Airport, at Continental Airlines' check-in area which is located on the Departures level (first floor) of Terminal 4. We recommend you check in no later than 06:30

✈ Heathrow Airport, Terminal 4	Flight: CO 33	Departs: 08:30
✈ Houston George Bush International		Arrives: 12:30

After Passport Control we collect our luggage from Baggage Reclaim and proceed through Customs; we then hand our suitcases back to Continental Airlines at the adjacent Transfer Desk and proceed to the departure gate of our Midland-bound flight.

✈ Houston George Bush Int'l Airport	Flight: CO 572	Departs: 16:15
✈ Midland Airport		Arrives: 17:42

On arrival we transfer the few miles to Midland where we stay 4-nights at the Hilton Hotel on a bed and breakfast basis. The hotel has a restaurant and lounge bar on site; there are also a limited number of other restaurants in the area. Website: Hilton Midland Plaza

Also staying at the hotel are your fellow aviation enthusiasts on our "CAF and Edwards AFB Airshow" tour.

DAY 2: Friday, 9th October

At 09:00 hrs. we depart for Midland Airport: today is "Arrivals Day". Access to CAF ramp is possible, and admission is free. At 17:00 hrs. we return to the hotel.

Today is a good day to see which CAF aircraft are offering (optional) pleasure flights.

DAYS 3 - 4: Saturday, 10th and Sunday, 11th October

Each morning we depart at 08:30 hrs. for 2 full days at CAF Airshow, and at 18:00 hrs. each evening we return to the hotel.



DAY 5: Monday, 12th October

Mid-morning we transfer to Midland Airport and check-in with Continental Airlines for our flights back to London, via Houston. Latest check-in time is 11:10hrs..

✈ Midland Flight: CO 2088 Departs: 13:10
✈ Houston George Bush International Airport Arrives: 14:45

On arrival at Continental Airline’s terminal building we make our way to the departure gate of our connecting flight to London.

✈ Houston George Bush International Airport Flight: CO 32 Departs: 16:30

DAY 6: Tuesday, 13th October

✈ Heathrow Airport, Terminal 4 Arrives: 07:40

Whilst waiting in Baggage Reclaim for our luggage we take the opportunity to bid each other "Farewell" – until we meet again.

COST PER PERSON	TOUR: 227922
£ 1,099.00	Based on sharing a twin bedded room on a bed and breakfast basis
£ 225.00	Single room supplement
On request	Land only (please speak with one of our consultants before booking)

TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- Flights on the scheduled services of Continental Airlines (or similar) from London’s Heathrow Airport
- UK and US Airport Taxes and UK Passenger Service Charge (subject to change)
- All transfers and touring by air-conditioned charter coach
- 4-night’s accommodation in rooms with private facilities
- Breakfast as stated
- Admission to the CAF 2009 Airshow on Saturday and Sunday
- Services of an Ian Allan Tour Manager

NOT INCLUDED

- Meals, except as stated above
- Optional pleasure flights
- Travel insurance – see General Information
- Visas: not required by UK Passport holders when entering the USA under the visa waiver programme – see General Information for details
- Personal expenditure, e.g. telephone calls, laundry, drinks, etc
- Additional tips and gratuities

Payment for Ian Allan Aviation Tours

A deposit of £250.00 per person should accompany your Booking Form, with the balance due 10 weeks prior to the tour's departure. Please see your Booking Confirmation/Invoice for the exact date. Please note that a reminder of the payment date will not be sent.

Tours Affected by World Events or Unforeseen/Unplanned Circumstances

In an ever-changing world, events may occur immediately before or during a tour that result in cancellations or changes to the tour itinerary. For example, an increase in security may result in an approved visit being cancelled by the host, etc.. Ian Allan Travel Ltd cannot be held responsible for any tour being cancelled, or itineraries affected, due to world events or circumstances beyond our control.

Passports and Visas

Citizens of the UK are required to be in possession of a Full UK Passport which must be valid for at least 6 months from the date of your return to the UK. As was introduced in October 2004, all travellers to the USA under the Visa Waiver Scheme must be in possession of a machine-readable passport.

Non-UK citizens should contact the relevant Embassy in their country of residence for specific information and instructions.

IMPORTANT - NEW REGULATIONS FOR ENTRY TO THE USA

Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA) - Mandatory from 12th January, 2009

From 12th January, 2009 anyone seeking entry to the USA must comply with the mandatory Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA), introduced by the U.S. government for all persons flying into the United States under the Visa Waiver Scheme.

The USA government has made changes to its visa-waiver programme meaning travellers will be required to apply for authorisation to travel under the scheme **before arriving at their departure airport**.

The changes, which came into effect in August 2008 on a voluntary basis are now mandatory and will affect all passport holders from 34 countries currently participating in the Visa Waiver Scheme, including UK passport holders.

You must now obtain authorisation (known as ESTA) before arriving at the airport, and **can only apply online** at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>

The application process may take up to approximately 15-20 minutes and authorisation is normally granted immediately but may take up to 72 hours. We recommend that you **apply for authorisation at the time of booking** your place on our tour - or at very latest 72 hours before the tour departs, to ensure you are able to travel.

If your application for an ESTA is unsuccessful you must apply for a US visa from the US Embassy in London.

Once granted, your ESTA is valid for two years, during which time you need not re-apply. Any future visits to the USA during these 2 years will be allowed under your current approval. After 2 years you will have to apply for another ESTA.

For more information, please go to <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>, or www.visitusa.org.uk

The responsibility for acquiring an ESTA lies with each individual (and not Ian Allan Travel). If you arrive at check-in without an ESTA (or a US Visa if you were refused an ESTA), you will not be allowed to travel to the USA. No refund of the tour price whatsoever will be possible from Ian Allan Travel Ltd. It is also extremely unlikely that any travel insurance company would agree any subsequent claim therefore it is important that you act upon this information NOW.

Examination of Flight Bookings by US Customs – APIS Information

All airlines flying to the United States are obliged to provide information about US-bound passengers, under an agreement reached between the United States and the European Commission on the 18th February 2003.

Under the agreement, as of 5th March 2003, US customs officials have discretionary power to examine passenger booking information held on computer reservation systems relating to flights beginning, ending, or stopping over in the United States. The European Commission has received guarantees from the United States that this information will be used appropriately.

This requirement, based on the US Air Safety and Transportation law of November 2001, is intended to increase air safety and is in addition to the information supplied when applying for your ESTA (see above paragraph).

Inspection of Luggage by US Transport Security Administration

Items of luggage going into the hold of the aircraft may be opened by US Transport Security Administration (TSA) officials without you being present. In some instances locked suitcases have been forced open, their contents checked, and then re-sealed with tape and a note left inside by the TSA. Most airlines and insurance companies insist that your unaccompanied luggage be locked at all times; the TSA prefer they are left unlocked! The only advice we (and ABTA) can give at this time is that it is your choice whether you leave your suitcases locked or unlocked. You may wish to consult your travel insurance company before making a decision. Or you may purchase a "TSA Approved Lock", available at various local retail shops (and airports); these locks can be opened by the TSA, thereby, avoiding damage to your luggage.

First Nights Stay in the USA

Airlines flying into the USA are required to provide the American authorities with the full postal address of where each passenger will stay on their first night. This information will be asked for when you check in at your departure airport and you will also be required to include this information on the I-94 US Immigration Card. The address of where you will stay will be included with the final itinerary.

Baggage Regulations – Continental Airways - Departing London's Heathrow Airport

Checked Baggage: Continental Airlines will transport up to 2 pieces of 'checked' baggage per person, the dimensions of which must not exceed 62" or 157cm (length + width + height) nor weigh in excess of 23kg (50lb) per piece.

Cabin Baggage: for travel out of London's Heathrow Airport you may take one carry-on bag, not exceeding 22 x 18 x 10 inches or 56 x 45 x 25 cm, and one personal item, e.g. laptop, camera bag, handbag et al. All larger-sized items must go in the aircraft's hold. Carry-on baggage must be stowed in carry-on compartments of the aircraft, under a seat, or in an overhead locker.

Limited quantities of liquids are allowed as hand baggage but must be carried separately through security in a clear plastic, zip-top or re-sealable bag that does not exceed 20cm x 20cm (8 inches x 8 inches), or quart size. Individual containers must not exceed 90ml or 3 American ounces, and items must fit in the bag comfortably and the bag must be completely closed. The bag can only contain: Shampoo, suntan lotions, creams, toothpaste, hair gel and hair spray, perfumes, cosmetics such as mascara and lip gloss, water and other drinks, soups and syrups and other items of a similar consistency.

Hand baggage can include: Electronic equipment including mobile phones, digital cameras and MP3 players (such as i-Pods). Laptops must be removed from the bag for x-ray. Prescription medicines in liquid form, e.g. diabetic kit.

At security all remaining items should be placed in the tray provided for screening, e.g. car keys and fobs, cash, solid food, books, newspapers, cigarettes and tobacco, belts and shoes. Pushchairs and walking aids are permitted but must be x-ray screened. All wheelchairs will be subject to search. Please note, you may be subject to a hand search by the security team and required to remove footwear to be x-ray screened.

Once in the departure lounge passengers may purchase certain items in any shop and take it onto the aircraft as normal. Passengers may be subject to a secondary search at the departure gate before boarding. Any items not on the approved list will be removed.

As baggage regulations can change with little warning, you are strongly advised to contact the airline for the latest information nearer to the time of your departure.

Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) Consular Advice

The FCO's consular service is a major operation. Every hour of every day consular staff around the world are advising and helping British nationals. We suggest you visit www.fco.gov.uk/knowbeforeyougo for up-to-date passport, visa and security information on the destination you intend visiting.

In addition, the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) provide an Information Line, telephone: 0901 201 505 (calls currently charged at 50p per minute).

Meals

Meals are not normally included in the price of our tours unless they are included within the room rate as we realise that not everyone wants three meals a day, especially in the USA where dinner tends to be quite large. Furthermore, hotel meals can be expensive and in general, we have found it is better to allow each person to decide for themselves. On this tour breakfast is included.

In-flight meals when included within the cost of the air ticket form part of the tour price, however some airlines (primarily European carriers) now only serve refreshments for which they charge accordingly.

Health Requirements

There are currently no known mandatory or recommended precautions required for travel to the USA. However, we strongly recommend that you consult your local doctor or health centre for the latest information.

Climate and Dress

The weather should be warm and sunny during our visit with temperatures in the mid 70°F.

Travel Insurance

For citizens of the United Kingdom, Ian Allan Travel Ltd can provide competitive and comprehensive insurance cover for the duration of your tour. However, if you do not wish to take out our insurance, you must ensure that comparable or greater cover is taken. The number of your Insurance Policy should be written, if known, on your Booking Form at the time of making the reservation, but no later than the date when final payment is due. A copy of the policy must be forwarded to Ian Allan Travel Ltd.

Individual insurance policies are arranged through CoverMore Insurance Services Limited; the premiums for which will vary according to your circumstances. Full details are available on request.

The Policies for the USA also include cover for non-scheduled flights, i.e. pleasure flights, where the aircraft is licensed and insured to undertake such flights, and where a payment is made.

Wheelchair Assistance at Airports

Anyone requiring wheelchair assistance at airports must have this service requested and confirmed in advance. Airlines and/or airports can no longer provide this service without prior confirmation, therefore, please annotate your booking form accordingly.

Flexible Itinerary

We are very happy for enthusiasts to take time away from the printed itinerary to pursue their own interests during multi-day stays in the same place, so long as they inform the Tour Manager. It will be the individual's responsibility to ensure that they re-join the group in the hotel at the stated time on the day of departure.

Land Only Price

For enthusiasts who would prefer to join the tour in the USA (instead of flying from the UK with the main group), we will be very pleased to provide a 'Land Only' price on request. This price *does not* include any flights whatsoever and you are strongly advised to contact us before making your own flight arrangements in the event that there has been a change to the published itinerary. This is particularly relevant where travel on specific domestic flights forms part of the tour itinerary.

Please note that the 'Land Only' price is based on you meeting the tour at the Hilton Hotel in Midland, and does not include either arrival nor departure airport transfers; however, should your arrival/departure coincide with that of the group, a seat will be offered when available for an appropriate supplement.

Flight Timings & Connecting Travel Arrangements to Departure Airport

All flight departure and arrival times are correct at the time of preparing each itinerary, however, airlines may change these times with little or no prior warning. In practice such changes are only a few minutes either way and the final itinerary will show the actual times. Clients making their own arrangements to get to the departure airport by air, rail, coach etc., should bare the above in mind if purchasing non-refundable or non-changeable tickets. Ian Allan Travel cannot be held responsible for any changes to flight times, and any privately arranged travel tickets to the airport becoming invalid.

Pre-departure

For connecting flights from UK regional airports - please call Ian Allan Travel on 01932 255627 for the latest special offers available.

Airport Hotel and/or Car Parking - we can offer special rates for the above at most UK airports, please ask for details.

Pleasure Flights – Disclaimer

Should you decide to undertake any pleasure/sightseeing flights which have not been offered or sanctioned by us, Ian Allan Travel Ltd will not be held liable for any injuries or death resulting thereon.