

Saturday, 3rd – Monday, 12th October, 2009



A fabulous 10-day tour featuring 2 air shows, 3 aircraft carriers, and a whole lot more!

The Marine Corps air show at Miramar is the biggest in the Western USA.

The US Navy's annual Fleet Week in San Francisco includes an air show and a parade of ships, including a 'flat top'. Some of the ships even offer onboard tours!

The famous, historic aircraft carriers, USS Hornet and USS Midway, are now museums each with their own collection of aircraft, as well as being of great historic interest themselves.

We plan to visit Naval Air Facility (NAF) El Centro: the US Navy's huge flight-training and combat range, used by the US military and allied air forces.

Our itinerary also includes some other very interesting aviation collections, including the Flying Leathernecks Museum in Miramar and the Oakland Aviation Museum – pictured here is the latter's Short Sandringham of BOAC!

There is also free time in San Diego and San Francisco.

We fly from London's Heathrow Airport on the scheduled services of American Airlines; travel in-country by air-conditioned coach; and stay each night at a comfortable hotel on either a bed and breakfast or room only basis, as stated in the itinerary.

This tour is also ideal for non-aviation enthusiasts, as we stay in 2-centres - San Diego and San Francisco. Plenty of time for sightseeing, shopping or relaxing in 2 of America's most popular holiday destinations.

It is essential that you read very carefully the new USA entry requirements (on page 5), and apply for an "ESTA". Introduced last year to replace the Visa Waiver Scheme, from January 2010 (deferred from January this year) it will be mandatory to have an "ESTA" to enter the USA. In the meantime, you will also have to complete the usual I-94 Immigration Card.

PROVISIONAL ITINERARY (all times local)

DAY 1: Saturday, 3rd October

Between 08:30 and 09:50 please meet your Ian Allan Tour Manager, and fellow enthusiasts, at London's Heathrow Airport, at American Airlines' check-in area which is located on the Departures level (ground floor) of Terminal 3. We recommend you check-in no later than 09:55.

✈ Heathrow Airport, Terminal 3
 ✈ New York JFK Airport

Flight: AA 105

Departs: 11:55
 Arrives: 14:35

After Passport Control we collect our luggage from Baggage Reclaim and proceed through Customs; we then hand our suitcases back at American Airlines' Transfer Desk and go to the gate of our San Diego flight.

✈ New York JFK Airport
 ✈ San Diego

Flight: AA 127

Departs: 15:50
 Arrives: 18:35

On arrival we transfer to the Comfort Inn Airport At The Old Town, staying 5-nights on a bed and breakfast basis. Located one-half mile from the Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, known as the "Birthplace of California", you can dine at one of the many restaurants in the area, enjoying Irish, Italian, Asian and South American fare, as well as seafood and good old American cuisine. Website: www.comfortinn.com



DAY 2: Sunday, 4th October

Departing the hotel at 07:30 we enjoy a full day at the annual Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar Airshow – the largest military airshow held in the Western USA.

DAY 3: Monday, 5th October

At 08:30 we depart for NAF El Centro, 2-hours to the east, which provides support to US Naval aviation squadrons and maintains target ranges for their weapons and combat air training. It also supports US Marine Aviation units, air elements from the US Army, Air Force units, and allied forces. Please note that this visit can only be confirmed nearer the date, as it is subject to the prevailing security level.

Arriving back in San Diego mid-afternoon, the remainder of the day is free.

DAY 4: Tuesday, 6th October

Leaving our hotel at 09:00 we travel to MCAS Miramar to look around the Flying Leathernecks Museum. Website: www.flyingleathernecks.org

In the afternoon we arrive in downtown San Diego where we visit the retired aircraft carrier “USS Midway”, now a museum with an on-board aircraft collection. Website: www.midway.org

DAY 5: Wednesday, 7th October

In the morning we visit the excellent San Diego Aerospace Museum in Balboa Park. Website: www.sandiegoairandspace.org

We then drive out to Gillespie Field to look around the Museum’s restoration hangar.

DAY 6: Thursday, 8th October

Transferring to San Diego Airport, we check-in with Southwest Airlines and fly to Oakland in northern California. Latest recommended check-in time is 09:35.

✈ San Diego
✈ Oakland

Flight: WN 185

Departs: 10:35
Arrives: 12:10

We first go see the small, but interesting, number of aircraft in the Oakland Aviation Museum, adjacent to the airport. See the photo of their Shorts Sandringham on page 1. Website: www.oaklandaviationmuseum.org

We then go on to nearby Alameda, home of the aircraft carrier “USS Hornet” and its collection of aircraft. Website: www.uss-hornet.org

Before driving across San Francisco Bay to our downtown hotel, if the weather is clear we will stop by the excellent viewing area with panoramic views overlooking the city and the famous Golden Gate Bridge.

In ‘Frisco we stay 3-nights on a room only basis at the excellently located Handlery Hotel Union Square, a favourite with all our previous groups. There are many restaurants in the surrounding streets and Union Square. Website: www.handlery.com/sf

The hotel is only a couple of hundred yards walk away from the tram terminus; from here you can go to/from the tourist areas of Fisherman’s Wharf and the waterfront. Various sightseeing tours and cruises, including to the famous Alcatraz jail, depart from the latter.

DAYS 7 - 8: Friday, 9th – Saturday, 10th October

Two free days to enjoy the many attractions of San Francisco – take the famous tram to Fisherman’s Wharf! Visit Alcatraz!

Friday afternoon and it is practice time for the weekend’s airshow.

Saturday is when the various warships attending the 2009 “US Navy Fleet Week” parade off the waterfront, including the USS Bonhomme Richard (pictured). And in the afternoon it’s the Fleet Week Airshow. Among those participating will be the US Navy’s Blue Angels and Canadian Air Force Snowbirds aerobatic teams, and the US Air Force F-16 Demonstration Team. Website: www.fleetweek.us/fleetweek



DAY 9: Sunday, 11th October

In the morning we transfer to San Francisco Airport and check-in with American Airlines for our flights back to London, via New York’s Kennedy Airport. Latest recommended check-in time is 11:30.

✈ San Francisco Flight: AA 016 Departs: 11:35
✈ New York, JFK Airport Arrives: 20:20

On our arrival we make our way to the departure gate of our connecting flight to Heathrow.

✈ New York, JFK Airport Flight: AA 132 Departs: 21:15

DAY 10: Monday, 12th October

✈ Heathrow, Terminal 3 Arrives: 09:25

Whilst waiting for our luggage in Baggage Reclaim we take the opportunity to bid each other farewell – until the next time.

COST PER PERSON	TOUR: 227926
£ 1,549.00	Based on sharing a twin bedded room on a part bed and breakfast and room only basis
£ 448.00	Single room supplement
On request	Land only (please speak with one of our consultants before booking)

TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- ✈ Economy class ticket on scheduled services of American Airlines from London’s Heathrow Airport
- ✈ Economy class ticket on scheduled services of Southwest Airlines
- ✈ UK and US Airport Taxes and UK Passenger Service Charge
- ✈ All transfers and touring by air-conditioned charter coach
- ✈ 8-night’s accommodation in rooms with private facilities
- ✈ Breakfast in San Diego only
- ✈ Admission to the MCAS Miramar Airshow
- ✈ Admission to all aviation museums as stated
- ✈ Services of an Ian Allan Tour Manager
- ✈ Gratuity for coach drivers

NOT INCLUDED

- Meals, except as stated above
- Grandstand seating at the US Navy Fleet Week Airshow
- Optional pleasure flights
- Travel insurance – see General Information
- Visas: not required by UK Passport holders – see General Information for details
- Personal expenditure, e.g. telephone calls, laundry, drinks, etc
- Additional tips and gratuities

Your attention is drawn to the General Information and Booking Terms and Conditions which are available in our 2009 brochure and on our website: www.ianallantravel.com/aviationtours

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 January, 2010

Anyone seeking entry to the USA must have an "Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA)", which has been introduced by the US 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 are on a voluntary basis will be mandatory from January 2010 (not January 2009 as previously announced), and will affect all passport holders from 34 countries currently participating in the Visa Waiver Scheme, including UK passport holders.

Although it is not mandatory that you have an ESTA for travel this year, we do recommend that you apply prior to you departing on this tour. You can only apply online at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov> There is NO CHARGE WHATSOEVER for this service but be warned, there are several unofficial websites that offer you this service but will make a charge.

The application process will take up to approximately 15 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

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. The address of where you will stay the first night, and every night on the tour will be included with the final itinerary.

Baggage Regulations – American Airlines - Departing London's Heathrow Airport

Checked Baggage: American Airlines will accept up to 2 pieces of 'checked' baggage per person, the total 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 45 inches or 114cm linear, including handles and wheels, and weighing no more than 18kg (40lb). 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 American Continental Breakfast is included at the San Diego hotel only.

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 low to mid 70°sF.

When visiting military units, like the NAF El Centro, dress is to be smart but casual. No shorts, t-shirts flip-flops. Open-neck, short or long sleeved shirts with slacks is fine. Anyone dressed inappropriately will not be allowed on the visit.

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 first hotel – in San Diego, California – 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.