

GRAND TOUR OF ENGLAND: 4 AIR SHOW SPECTACULAR

**ROYAL INTERNATIONAL AIR TATTOO, FAIRFORD
FARNBOROUGH 2012 INTERNATIONAL AIRSHOW
“FLYING LEGENDS” AIRSHOW, DUXFORD
SHUTTLEWORTH COLLECTION “MILITARY PAGEANT” AIRSHOW,
MAJOR ENGLISH AVIATION MUSEUMS & COLLECTIONS
OPTIONAL LANCASTER TAXIING RIDES!
PERSONAL TOURS OF VULCAN XH588! & B-17 “SALLY B”
and much, much more!!**

*Stay and enjoy free time in the historic cities of London, Cambridge,
Stratford-upon-Avon & Warwick!
Including 2 nights in No 617 (Dam Busters) Squadron Officers’ Mess!!*

Thursday, 28th June – Friday, 13th July, 2012



Our tour features 4 of the UK’s, if not the world’s, best known and most famous airshows! Never before have all 4 been held over successive weekends – and it’s extremely unlikely ever to happen again!

The annual “Flying Legends Airshow” which is held at Duxford, the famous WW2 fighter station, is one of the largest, and arguably the best, warbird airshow in the world. Past ‘Legends’ have included a score or more of Spitfires(!); 4 Sea/Hurricane’s; 3 Lysander’s; plus other warbirds like Lightning, Wildcat, Mitchell etc; plus resident B-17 Flying Fortress “Sally B”, and many others. There is also, the prospect of seeing airborne, authentic, new-build German Focke-Wulf FW 190 and Messerschmitt Bf-109s!

During our visit to Duxford there is the opportunity to go inside B-17 Flying Fortress “Sally B”: see page 4 for details!

Deep in the quiet Bedfordshire countryside is the little grass airfield of Old Warden, home of the incomparable Shuttleworth Collection and its superb and rare collection of classic aeroplanes from the dawn of powered flight through to the 1950s; see them, smell them, touch them at their biggest airshow of the season, the Military Pageant. A truly memorable day out.

The Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT) – the world’s largest military airshow with a huge static display of several hundred aircraft and a flying display of over 6 hours each day! There is no other airshow like this in the world.

Pictured above, at Farnborough in 2008 is the beautiful, awesome beast that is the Avro Vulcan bomber, now a regular participant at major UK airshows!

We attend the Farnborough International Aviation Exhibition and Airshow (on a Trade Day), one of the most famous, and oldest, aviation events in the world. You have a full day to wander around the hundreds of trade stands, followed by an afternoon's flying programme. Although too early for confirmation, among the new aircraft expected to attend is Mr Boeing's new 787 Dreamliner and 747-8, and the Airbus A400 and A330 tanker.

During our day at Farnborough we will be given a ground tour of the Vulcan bomber by a member of the crew! One lucky member of the group will be picked to go inside the cockpit!

There are far too many fabulous aviation museums and aircraft collections to see on one visit to England, but this tour will take you to some of the largest and most well known of them; for example, the Fleet Air Arm Museum at RNAS Yeovilton, RAF Museum Hendon, RAF Museum Cosford, Brooklands, Farnborough Air Sciences Trust (FAST), de Havilland Aircraft Heritage Centre and Mosquito Museum, Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, the Shuttleworth Collection, and Duxford: home of several museums including the Imperial War Museum, the American Air Museum, Land Warfare Museum — and the famous warbird collections and restoration hangars!

In addition, we visit the Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Museum, whose Avro Lancaster — although it does not fly — provides superb taxiing rides along the runway! These are available for around £205.00 per person (2011 price).

We visit one of the UK's leading warbird and classic aeroplane restoration companies: Skysport Engineering. And at those museums which have aircraft undergoing restoration, we will ask to be shown them during our visit.

At RAF Uxbridge, we have a really unique and special visit: the underground bunker of RAF Fighter Command's World War II Operations Room which covered operations in the South of England including London (pictured right), it is preserved exactly as it was on the 15th September 1940: Battle of Britain Day!



Sit in the same chair as Sir Winston Churchill as he followed the battle's progress!

The RAF's famous No 617 (Dam Busters) Squadron now flies Tornados, however, their WW2 Officer's Mess at Woodhall Spa is still in use today ... as the Petwood Hotel where we stay there 2 nights! The bar has been preserved in full working order, with the walls decorated with the squadron's history and memorabilia.

Calling in at RAF Wyton we visit the museum of World War II Bomber Command's "Path Finder Force" (not normally open to the public), which was commanded by Australian Air Vice Marshal Sir Don Bennett; we enjoy lunch in the Officer's Mess. It was from this airfield that the RAF's first offensive sortie was flown in 1939, by Blenheim bombers.

There is free time to enjoy the attractions of London, Cambridge, Stratford-upon-Avon and Warwick: no visit to England would be complete without having time to explore these historic and famous places! Also included is a half-day coach tour of the UK's capital with an official London Guide.

We stay at comfortable hotels on a bed and breakfast basis (either Continental or Full English, as included with the room), plus evening meal at the Petwood Hotel; travel in-country by air-conditioned deluxe coach; and you are accompanied at all times by a very experienced Ian Allan Tour Manager, himself a well-travelled aviation enthusiast.

Whether this is your first visit to the UK or just your latest, this itinerary combines the very best of England's aviation heritage — and for those non-aviation-minded persons accompanying you — an opportunity to visit and stay in some very famous, historic towns and cities.

This is an un-missable, never to be repeated, opportunity to visit these 4 major airshows, along with a tour of the major aviation museums and collections — plus some really special visits. Book now to avoid future disappointment!

PROVISIONAL ITINERARY (all times local)

DAY 1: THURSDAY, 28th JUNE

Own travel arrangements to the hotel. Or if arriving by air, own flight arrangements to London's Heathrow Airport. At the latter you will be met by your Ian Allan Aviation Tour Manager, from where we proceed by chartered coach to our hotel for tonight, ideally located in the centre of London.

The Ibis Hotel in Earls Court is situated between Kensington, Chelsea, Knightsbridge, Fulham and Hammersmith and features La Table Restaurant and the George & Dragon Pub (with many other restaurants and pubs in the area). The nearest Underground station is "West Brompton", on the District Line, only a 2-minutes walk away from where it's a short ride to the West End, famous for the theatre and shopping; Leicester Square, Piccadilly Circus, Trafalgar Square and then onwards via the Strand to the City, location of such recognisable attractions as St. Paul's Cathedral and the Tower of London. Stamford Bridge, home of Chelsea football club is a 10-minutes walk from the hotel.

Website: <http://www.ibishotel.com/gb/hotel-5623-ibis-london-earls-court/index.shtml>

DAY 2: FRIDAY, 29th JUNE

This morning we have our very own panoramic tour of the capital accompanied by an official London Guide.

Early afternoon we drive north, to Sandy in Bedfordshire for a privileged-access visit to Skysport Engineering, prolific restorers of many aircraft over the years, including the beautiful Hawker Demon K8203.

Website: www.skysportengineering.co.uk

A few miles away is Cambridge where stay 3 nights at the Royal Cambridge Hotel. One of the oldest hotels in the town, it is situated on the edge of the city centre yet within a short, easy walking distance from the famous colleges such as King's, Queen's, Corpus Christi and Magdalen. The narrow winding lanes in the centre of town are brimming with quaint boutiques, antique shops, bookshops, bars and street cafes, whilst the main 'boulevards' are lined with larger stores. www.theroyalcambridgehotel.co.uk/royal-cambridge-hotel.htm



DAY 3: SATURDAY, 30th JUNE

At 08:30 we make the short trip to Duxford airfield for a fabulous day at the classic "Flying Legends Airshow" – arguably the best warbird airshow of them all.

The finale 'Bolero', a tail-chase involving as many aircraft as possible, is a truly unforgettable sight. At 18.00 we return to our hotel. See details on their website: www.fighter-collection.com/pages/tfc/legends/index.php

DAY 4: SUNDAY, 1st JULY

This morning we drive the few miles to little Old Warden Aerodrome, nestling in the quiet Bedfordshire countryside, and home of the one and only Shuttleworth Aircraft Collection featuring fabulously rare and classic aeroplanes from a bygone age. In this idyllic setting they will be holding their major airshow of the year: the Military Pageant! The flying display comprises aeroplanes dating from the 1920's to the 1950's, possibly including the Comet racer (pictured), which is nearing its restoration to flying condition, plus one or two more modern 'heavy metal' types. Website: www.shuttleworth.org



DAY 5: MONDAY, 2nd JULY

This morning you are free to explore the beautiful city of Cambridge: walk around the famous streets with their shops, pop into some of the university colleges, like Kings, take a stroll – or even a punt! - along the River Cam.

Early afternoon we return to a more peaceful RAF Duxford as the airfield returns to normal after the huge crowds attending the airshow; time to enjoy looking around the various museums: IWM Duxford, 8th US Air Force Museum, the Land Warfare Museum (tanks AFVs etc), Airborne Museum, the various civil airliners belonging to the Duxford Aviation Society, and warbird restoration hangars, etc.

We have arranged for tours inside the B-17 Flying Fortress "Sally B". However, as this fabulous opportunity is only available to members of the Sally B Supporters Club, you will first need to go to their website and 'sign up': http://www.sallyb.org.uk/index.php?_a=viewDoc&docId=26 . A 12-months subscription costs £30.00. Please note that tours are usually only given to a small number of members at a time, not groups. If you have problems getting your membership, e.g., you do not have internet access, please contact us for assistance.

Alternatively you may enjoy the whole day in Cambridge.

At 17:00 we depart for Stratford-upon-Avon, birthplace of the great Bard himself, Sir William Shakespeare, staying the night at The Falcon Hotel which is ideally located in the centre of the town. Website: <http://www.legacy-hotels.co.uk/legacy-thefalcon/index.php>

DAY 6: TUESDAY, 3rd JULY

The morning is free to wander the ancient streets, the park and along the riverbank.

At 13:00 we drive to Warwick, 10 miles away. This beautiful and historic city dates back to medieval times, and Warwick Castle, one of the most intact examples of its kind, can trace its history back to 914 AD and the daughter of Alfred The Great! Among the events held during the summer, in and around the castle, are pitched battles between knights and peasants, jousting tournaments with knights on horseback, archery, musketry and falconry!

Late afternoon we set off for Shropshire, staying the night at Holiday Inn Telford Ironbridge; nearby is the first iron bridge ever constructed.

DAY 7: WEDNESDAY, 4th JULY

The morning is spent at the RAF's 'other' museum: the RAF Cosford Collection. A couple of years ago a landmark new National Cold War Exhibition building was added. Lunch, at your own expense, can be taken in the museum's restaurant.



We then drive to Woodhall Spa in Lincolnshire, staying the next 2 nights in a very historic building: originally built as the home of an Edwardian baroness, this country house (pictured left) was requisitioned by the RAF in the Second World War for use as the Officer's Mess for No 617 Squadron – the Dam Busters! Now the Petwood Hotel, the Squadron Bar, with its many items of memorabilia, is dedicated to this group of men and women, and their achievements.

One evening we will be given a very interesting talk by Jim Shortland, 617 Squadron's historian.

DAY 8: THURSDAY, 5th JULY

We begin today at the RAF's Battle of Britain Memorial Flight (BBMF) at RAF Coningsby; at 10:30 we start our tour of the BBMF's hangar with its Spitfires, Hurricane, DC-3 and Avro Lancaster — one of only two still flying in the world. Website: www.raf.mod.uk/bbmf/visitorscentre

Next stop is East Kirkby, home of the Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre (LAHC). The LAHC is the only airfield museum in the UK recreated to its original design sited on an original WW2 airfield. Here you get the atmosphere of what it would have been like. Based here is an Avro Lancaster Bomber NX611 "Just Jane" (pictured), which frequently performs four-engine taxi runs along the runway (the only place in the world you can see this performed on an original Lancaster airfield). This is unique to the LAHC. Each ride costs £205.00 per person (2011 price), based on a full "crew" of 10; please annotate your booking form if you are interested.

Website: <http://www.lincsaviation.co.uk/museum/>



DAY 9: FRIDAY, 6th JULY

Today we drive down the old Roman road (the Great North Road) to Huntingdon, to RAF Wyton: it was from here that the first offensive sortie of the Second World War was flown (by a Blenheim bomber). Later Wyton became the headquarters of, and home to some of the squadrons, of the famous "Path Finder Force (PFF)". We visit the PFF Museum which proudly displays one of the largest unpublished collections of Path Finder Force photographs in existence, together with many items of memorabilia associated with these elite airmen. In addition, many aviation items are on display, not only equipment but also items recovered from the crash sites of many World War II aircraft. Where possible, these are displayed together with photographs of the crew concerned and details of the aircraft loss.

Following in the footsteps of Air Vice Marshal Sir Don Bennett, an Australian, we take lunch in the Officer's Mess.



Continuing south to London Colney we arrive at Salisbury Hall, now the home of the de Havilland Aircraft Heritage Centre incorporating the Mosquito Museum. Among the many fascinating aircraft on display is the world famous "Jack of all trades – and master of them all!" – W4050, the D.H.98 Mosquito I prototype, built here in total secrecy during WW2. The museum has kindly agreed to open especially for us. Website: www.dehavillandmuseum.co.uk

Early evening we arrive at the Holiday Inn Express located in the centre of Swindon for a stay of 2 nights.

DAY 10: SATURDAY, 7th JULY

A full day at the Royal International Air Tattoo on RAF Fairford; with up to 400 aircraft attending this is the largest military airshow anywhere in the world, and has the reputation for attracting very special aircraft from unusual countries. You are sure of a seeing a tremendous show!

Transfers to/from the show are by the dedicated RIAT shuttle coach which operates from the bus station, a few minutes walk from our hotel; a huge fleet of coaches use a special 'shuttle coaches only' road system to drop off and pick-up on the airfield, and operate from 07:00 until 19:00, so you are free to go and come at a time of your choosing. Note: cars and charter coaches are not allowed to park on RAF Fairford, so this is the quickest and easiest way to attend the show. Cost of shuttle coach not included.

DAY 11: SUNDAY, 8th JULY

This morning we drive to Somerset and in the afternoon, visit the Fleet Air Arm Museum, whose excellent collection includes a Concorde as well as a comprehensive collection of British naval aviation aircraft. Aircraft in the Restoration Workshops can be seen through the glass wall.

Lunch or snacks can be taken at the appropriately named Swordfish Restaurant (at your own expense). Pictured right is a very rare 'bird', a Fairey Albacore. Website: www.fleetairarm.com



After the museum closes we drive the few miles to the small country town of Yeovil where we stay the night at The Manor Hotel. This historical building was built in 1735 by local glover and merchant banker John Daniel. http://www.oldenglishinns.co.uk/yeovil/?gclid=CM_60ZbXiKsCFYELfAodHyhI2g

DAY 12: MONDAY, 9th JULY

Mid-day we arrive in Farnborough where, in 1909, Mr Cody made the first powered flight in the UK. We visit the excellent Farnborough Air Sciences Trust (FAST) which has a small collection of aircraft; the building was originally the home of Lord Trenchard, founder of the Royal Air Force, and we take lunch (sandwiches) in his sitting room/office!

Time permitting, we later take a short walking tour of part of the historic Royal Aircraft Establishment (now consigned to history) site including the famous wind-tunnel buildings (view from outside only). Website: www.airsciences.org.uk



Then to Brooklands, location of the world’s first purpose-built motor racing circuit, constructed at Weybridge in 1907. More than a great sporting arena, Brooklands was the birthplace of British motorsport and one of the UK’s earliest aviation centres, home of Concorde and the site of many engineering and technological achievements throughout eight decades of the 20th Century.

As well as military aircraft there are famous British civil airliners like the Viking (pictured), Viscount, BAC One-Eleven, VC10, and a Concorde: the latter gives virtual “flights”! Website: www.brooklandsmuseum.com

This evening we check-in at the Premier Inn London Wembley Stadium for a stay of 4 nights. Its facilities include on-site restaurant and bar, with others in the local area. The nearest Underground station is only 20-yards away: the centre of London is just a 12-minutes ride. www.premierinn.com/en/hotel/WEMPTI/london-wembley-stadium

DAY 13: TUESDAY 10th JULY

Departing the hotel at 07:30 we return to the famous and historic airfield of Farnborough for a full day at the 2012 International Aviation Exhibition and Airshow. Today is a Trade Day with a full flying programme.

DAY 14: WEDNESDAY, 11th JULY

A free day in London to enjoy as you wish: the London Eye, Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly Circus, The Strand, Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, cruise down the Thames to the Tower of London, St Pauls — where do you start?

DAY 15: THURSDAY, 12th JULY

We start today at RAF Uxbridge for a unique visit: Fighter Command’s Operations Room for Southern England, including London. It was from here, during World War 2, that the Battle of Britain was controlled. Uxbridge was the RAF station where Thomas Edward Lawrence — Lawrence of Arabia! — served.

Then to another historic airfield of early British aviation: Hendon (venue of the equally famous “Hendon Pageants”). Sadly most of the site has now been redeveloped for housing; however, it is the home of the RAF Museum, one of the largest and greatest collections of aircraft in the world. We spend 4 hours at leisure in the museum. Lunch may be taken in the museum’s restaurant (at your own expense). Website: www.rafmuseum.org.

DAY 16: FRIDAY, 13th JULY

This morning we transfer by private coach the few miles to London’s Heathrow Airport for your flight home.

| TOUR PRICE PER PERSON | TOUR: 227225 |
|-----------------------|--|
| On request | Package price based on sharing a twin bedded room on a bed and breakfast basis (and including 2 evening meals – see below) |
| On request | Single room supplement |

TOUR PRICE WILL INCLUDE

- 15 nights hotel accommodation sharing a twin-bedded room with private facilities
- Continental or Full English Breakfast each morning, as included in the room rate
- Evening meal at the Petwood Hotel, Woodhall Spa (2 nights)
- Return coach transfers between London Heathrow Airport only, and the hotel on Days 1 and 16
- Coach transportation throughout the itinerary as indicated
- Half Day panoramic sightseeing tour of London by coach, with official London Guide
- Admission to all aviation museums and collections as stated in the itinerary
- Admission to the Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT) Airshow
- Admission to the Farnborough International Airshow
- Admission to the "Flying Legends Airshow"
- Admission to the Shuttleworth Collection's "Military Pageant Airshow"
- Talk by No 617 Squadron Historian
- Services of an Ian Allan Tour Manager throughout
- Gratuity for the coach driver

NOT INCLUDED

- Travel by land, sea or air to/from London
- Return shuttle coach transfers Swindon to/from RIAT Airshow, RAF Fairford
- Meals (except as stated above)
- Travel insurance
- Visa to enter the United Kingdom - if necessary
- Personal expenditure, for example, telephone calls, laundry, drinks, etc.
- Tour of interior of B-17 Flying Fortress "Sally B"
- Optional excursions or pleasure flights
- Tips and gratuities (except for the coach driver)
- Porterage

CHANGES TO THE FINAL ITINERARY

Unforeseen World events, changes in the geo/political situation, no-notice or minimum notice changes due to operational reasons may result in the itinerary being amended. Whilst we will keep you fully informed, Ian Allan Travel Ltd cannot be held responsible for any visit or tour being cancelled due to world events, or circumstances, beyond our control.

PAYMENT FOR IAN ALLAN AVIATION TOUR

A deposit of UK£250.00 per person per tour should accompany your Booking Form, with any cheque being made payable to "Ian Allan Travel Ltd". The balance is 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.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Please contact your local British Embassy or Consulate Office for details on who does and who does not require a tourist visa to enter the United Kingdom (UK).

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Currently there are no known compulsory health requirements for visiting the UK; however, for the latest information we recommend you consult your doctor or local health centre.

BAGGAGE REGULATIONS

Please check with the airline with whom you are flying.

The carriage of liquids may differ, depending on where you depart, however, in general hand baggage may not contain liquids such as 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.

Please be advised that the carrying of liquids in your hand-baggage is prohibited when departing from all UK and European airports.

Cigarette lighters are NOT permitted in hold baggage or through the security search. These may be purchased airside. Hand baggage can also include electronic equipment such as 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 can also be included.

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.

BAGGAGE WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS – UK Airports

Since 2004, any single piece of checked baggage weighing more than 70lbs (32kgs) has not been handled at most UK airports (including London's Heathrow and Gatwick Airports); nor accepted at check-in on leaving the UK in an attempt to reduce manual handling injuries amongst airport staff. Please bear this in mind when packing your suitcase.

CLIMATE AND DRESS

A warm and sunny summer in England is something that cannot be guaranteed. We recommend clothing for both hot and cool temperatures (it should be in low to mid 70°F), and waterproofs for any wayward shower.

MEALS

Meals are included in the price only when they are part of the room rate, giving you the option to either eat in the hotel (all have on-site restaurants and bars), or locally in the town/city. Please see itinerary inclusions for specific details.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

You are strongly advised to ensure you have adequate travel insurance. Unfortunately we can only provide a quotation and issue policies to residents of the UK.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography and video is allowed at all the airshows, aviation museums and collections we are visiting. Special permission is not required.

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, and no responsibility can be accepted by Ian Allan Travel Ltd for any missed departure nor the consequences of any action where independent arrangements are made.

OPTIONAL PLEASURE/SIGHTSEEING 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.

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