

THE  
NATIONAL  
MUSEUM



Information for organisers of group parties numbering 15 or more

**Fleet Air Arm Museum** RNAS Yeovilton, Somerset BA22 8HT

**Tel: 01935 842633** [www.fleetairarm.com](http://www.fleetairarm.com)





## Welcome

The Fleet Air Arm Museum welcomes numerous group visits every year. We offer a dedicated group bookings service to assist organisers plan an excellent day out for their guests.

We recognise that some groups have special interests and requirements and we will do all we can to meet them, from guided tours to wheelchair access.

To arrange your group visit, plan your programme and pre-book our group rates, please contact Hilary Harper in the Visitor Services Department on 01935 842633.

### Opening times

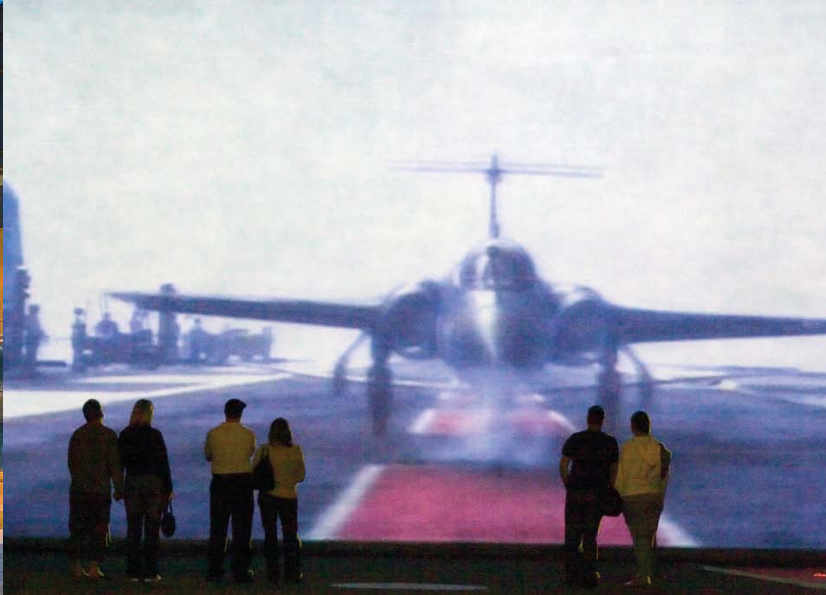
April – October: Open daily 10.00am – 5.30pm

November - March: Open Wed – Sun 10.00am – 4.30pm

Open all public and Somerset school holidays / half terms

Closed 24th, 25th & 26th December





## What will we see?

The Museum has the largest collection of naval aircraft anywhere in Europe. There is a minimum of 45 aircraft on display at any one time in four large, themed halls, including the first British built Concorde. You can go on board, see the cockpit and marvel at the technology which enabled this remarkable aircraft to fly at more than twice the speed of sound.

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of aviation in the Royal Navy we have transformed one of our four exhibition halls to house a major new permanent exhibition. The 'Celebrating 100 Years of Naval Aviation' exhibition dramatically presents the development of naval aviation from the first Royal Naval airship and early bi-planes, to today's formidable air power from the sea.

In the award winning Aircraft Carrier Experience, museum meets theatre. Here you will 'fly' by helicopter and 'land' on the replica flight deck of the aircraft carrier HMS ARK ROYAL in the 1970s.

On board the ARK ROYAL you will see ten complete aircraft and two enormous projection screens showing a Phantom strike fighter take off and a Buccaneer strike bomber landing. You will be in the heart of the action as powerful jets take off and land around you.

Inside ARK ROYAL you will see the Royal Navy in action as you walk through a series of faithfully reconstructed cabins and operational areas from the Bridge to the 'Goofers Deck', which looks down onto the flight deck below. You will almost feel the wind in your hair as you experience the thrills and sounds of a working flight deck. You will even see a nuclear bomb which makes this a truly unforgettable experience.

The Museum is situated alongside Royal Navy Air Station Yeovilton: Europe's busiest military air station and dependent upon operational demands, you may also see military aircraft going through their rigorous training procedures.



## How long will our visit last?

We recommend allowing around four hours for your visit (33% of our visitors spend in excess of four hours in the Museum). Why not see a couple of Exhibition Halls in the morning, have some lunch in our Swordfish Restaurant followed by the remaining two halls in the afternoon?

## Do I need to pre-book?

To qualify for group rate admission organisers should pre-book.

Group rate admissions apply to groups of 15 or more. If your numbers fall below 15 then normal admission rates apply.

We request that all groups pre-book. Hilary Harper the Group Bookings Administrator and the Visitor Services team will advise and assist you to plan your visit. Booking is particularly important if your group is intending to use the restaurant facilities. Catering packages only apply to groups of 15 or more.

## What is access like for those with limited mobility or specific needs?

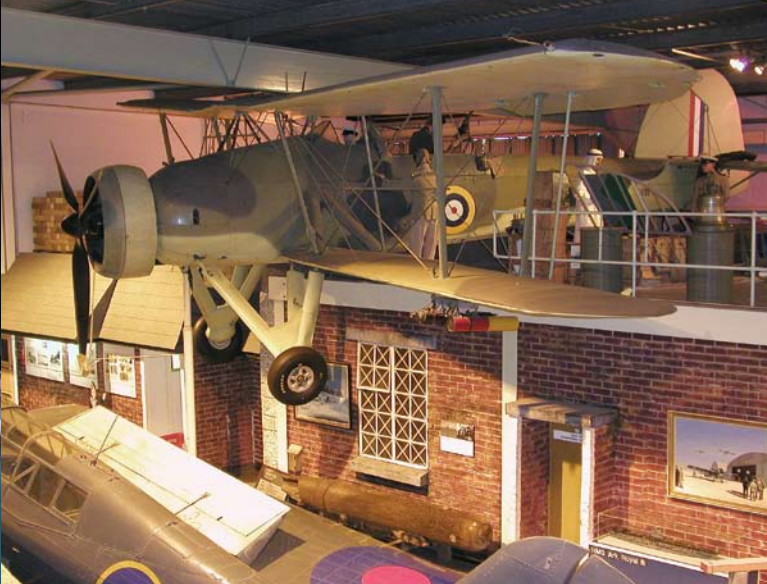
The main entrance to the museum is via a flight of stairs. For those with limited mobility or specific access needs (e.g. pushchairs) there is a clearly signposted ground level entrance.

Once inside, 95% of the Museum is accessible to visitors in wheelchairs. The exceptions being the interior of Concorde, the 'Brush with War' art exhibition and the Merlin helicopter exhibit. **The Museum has a number of wheelchairs available to use free of charge. If required, please contact the Information Desk in Hall 1 on arrival or prior to your visit contact Visitor Services on 01935 842633.**

Visitors with visual, hearing or other specific requirements should contact us for specific advice.

It may be possible, with adequate notice, to organise assistance or advice during your visit. For special interest talks there is a hearing loop in the Westland Conference Centre.





## Guided tours and Special Interest Talks

We offer pre-booked groups a range of talks and tours. The booking of these is entirely dependent on the availability of staff, volunteers and accommodation so early booking is advisable. Please see enclosed sheet for prices.

### 1. Meet and Greet:

A ten minute introduction to the Museum's facilities on your arrival. Depending on the availability of staff every effort will be made to meet your group at the beginning of your visit.

### 2. Guided Tours:

A two hour walking tour of the Museum's halls with the Museum's Volunteer Guide team. This service is dependent upon Guide availability on the day.

### 3. Cobham Hall:

The Museum's Reserve Collection is a short distance from the main Museum. There are two Public Open Days per year (see website for details) and we offer a restricted number of opportunities to groups wishing to make private guided visits, dependent on curatorial staff availability.

### 4. Special Interest Talks:

- 🎯 **Aircrew Equipment** - Our most popular presentation, Aircrew Equipment tells the story of the aircrew and aircraft of 100 years of naval aviation.
- 🎯 **Naval Aviation** - The First Hundred Years of Naval Airpower
- 🎯 **Concorde** - The Development of Supersonic Flight
- 🎯 **Airpower from the Sea** - The History of the Aircraft Carrier
- 🎯 **Rotating Wings** - Helicopters of the Royal Navy
- 🎯 **Who Needs a Runway?** - The Harrier Story
- 🎯 **Fleet Air Arm in Action** - Conflicts since 1945
- 🎯 **The Power to Fly** - The Development of Military Aero Engines

The above are all 45 minute presentations on some of the most interesting aspects of the Museum's Collections. The maximum group size is 50, minimum group size 15. Talks are subject to staff and room availability.

There is an additional charge for these special interest talks. Please see enclosed sheet for details.



## What catering facilities does the Museum have?

In the interest of preserving our Collection we ask that no food or drink is brought into the Museum.

The Museum has two serviced catering areas, the Swordfish Restaurant and the Warneford V.C. Restaurant (limited opening) plus a designated picnic area, with benches, in front of the Museum.

### The Swordfish Restaurant

The 120 seat Swordfish Restaurant is licensed and open from 10.00am – 5.00pm in the summer and 10.00am – 4.00pm in the winter. The restaurant is self-service. Hot food is available from 12 noon until 3.00pm in the summer and 2.00pm in the winter.

Please let us know in advance if you will be using the restaurant. However we are unable to reserve tables specifically for your group.

### Warneford V.C. Restaurant

The Warnefords V.C restaurant is a small 80 seat (max) catering area inside the Museum. The facility is open to the general public during the main summer holiday period and outside this period it can be available for private groups who book an exclusive Museum visit option.

## Exclusive Museum Visit Options

Please see enclosed sheet for prices.

For groups of 15 and above the Museum is pleased to offer two special Museum Visit packages.

### *These are:*

Option 1: All day admission to the Museum, exclusive use of the Warneford V.C. Room with a finger buffet lunch and the on hand expertise of a Museum Explainer.

Option 2: (Not available during July and August) All day admission to the Museum, afternoon cream tea in the Warneford V.C. Room and the on hand expertise of a Museum Explainer.

For extra interest and a full day why not add on a full guided tour or a special interest talk? (Additional charges may apply).

## Does the Museum have a gift shop?

The Museum's gift shop is a must for all visitors. It is one of the most extensive aviation book, kit and model stockists in the West Country. It also stocks a wide range of aviation related items including DVDs, souvenirs, clothing and toys.



## Facilities for children

The Museum is a child friendly visitor attraction. There are interactives, displays and trails for children to do in the Museum. To the side of the Swordfish Restaurant there is a children's mini-marine playground. Grown-ups can relax nearby with a leisurely bite and a coffee while the children can let off steam on the play equipment.

Please ask for advice about the facilities and activities on offer if you have children in your group.

## Parking

We have a large free car park with dedicated parking bays for coaches. Disabled parking spaces are available.

## How much does it cost?

Please see the enclosed booking form, the website [www.fleetairarm.com](http://www.fleetairarm.com) or call the Museum's Visitor Services department on 01935 842633 for the latest prices.

## Payment

Payment is made on the day by the Group Organiser. You only pay for the number of visitors you bring on the day but if your numbers drop below 15 then normal admission charges apply. Cash, cheque or credit cards are all acceptable.

## Security

The Museum is situated alongside an operational Naval Air Station. All bags and coats etc. should remain with the individual at all times. Alternatively, we recommend leaving bags and coats etc. on board your vehicle.



## How to book

- 📍 on line [www.fleetairarm.com](http://www.fleetairarm.com) look for the Groups page
- 📞 by telephone 01935 842633
- ✉ by email [visitorservices@fleetairarm.com](mailto:visitorservices@fleetairarm.com)
- 📧 by post: The Visitor Services Department, The Fleet Air Arm Museum, RNAS Yeovilton Ilchester, Somerset BA22 8HT

Your booking will usually be dealt with by Hilary Harper or Julia Hodson.



## Location

The museum is situated on the B3151 which is close to the junction of the A303 and A37. Yeovilton is situated approximately 25 miles East of Junc' 25 (Taunton) of the M5. 7 miles North of Yeovil, 40 miles South of Bristol, 30 miles North of Weymouth. See Sat nav ref BA22 8HW.

# FLEET AIR ARM MUSEUM



Supported by the  
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