

**UNITED STATES
AIR FORCE MUSEUM**

**READY FOR
TAKE-OFF!**



**SCHOOL AND YOUTH
GROUP VISITORS'
GUIDE**

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Welcome to the United States Air Force Museum. Prepare to have a high flying time at the world's largest and oldest military aviation museum! From the Wright brothers' 1909 Military Flyer to the F-117 "Stealth" fighter, there is something for everyone at the United States Air Force Museum.

The Education Division wants your visit to the Museum to be the best it can be. We encourage you to review this visitors' guide *before* your visit so as to familiarize yourself and your group or family with what the Museum has to offer. If you have any additional questions, feel free to ask any of our volunteers. Just look for their name badges! Have a great day at the United States Air Force Museum!

WHAT IS THERE TO SEE AND DO AT THE MUSEUM?

Of course, there are airplanes of all kinds spanning nearly a century of powered flight. But that's not all! We also have helicopters, balloons, gliders and aviation artifacts like an original Wright brothers' wind tunnel, items made by POWs and flight jackets from World War II pilots. Explore the story of the United States Air Force and learn about the development of aviation from the earliest balloons and biplanes to the most modern fighter aircraft.

The Air Force Museum consists of the main Museum and the Presidential and Research and Test Flight Development Hangars located about a mile away. The main Museum has four galleries arranged chronologically beginning with...

The Early Years Gallery. The Wright 1909 Military Flyer and wall exhibits about the Wright brothers are the first things you will see in the Early Years Gallery. The Museum's earliest aircraft are featured here and the Gallery explores the development of aviation through the beginning of World War II. Special features include the huge Caproni bomber, the Sopwith Camel, (made famous by Peanuts cartoon character *Snoopy*), the giant MB-2 bomber and the large Caquot balloon (that looks like a blimp).

The Air Power Gallery. The story of World War II is the focus in the Air Power Gallery. You'll see the familiar B-17 and B-24, the famous B-29 Superfortress, "Bockscar," as well as exhibits exploring the POW

experience. Please be advised that the Space Gallery, formerly located in the Air Power Gallery, has been dismantled. The three spacecraft, as well as other artifacts, have been relocated to various areas within the Museum.

The Modern Flight Gallery: The two primary focal points of the Modern Flight Gallery are the story of the Korean War and the war in Southeast Asia. We also have many other aircraft, old and new, showcased in the large center area of the gallery. These include the Wright brother's 1911 Modified Wright B Flyer and the Air Force's newest jet, the YF-22. You can also walk inside a huge C-124 cargo plane and practice your flying in an F-4 "sit-in" cockpit.

The Cold War Gallery: This is our newest addition and includes the gigantic B-36 bomber, a U-2 "Spy" aircraft, and the SR-71 "Blackbird." You will also see a famous F-117 "Stealth" fighter and other current Air Force aircraft including the F-15 "Eagle," the A-10 "Warthog" and the F-16 "Fighting Falcon."

WHAT ABOUT OTHER PARTS OF THE MUSEUM?

The Presidential Hangar features the Museum's presidential collection of aircraft, including SAM 26000, the Air Force One that served Presidents Kennedy through Clinton. The Presidential Hangar is located about one mile from the main Museum buildings on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Special Note: Since this portion of the Museum is on the base, access is subject to change based upon the daily security level. A teacher to student ratio may be required that is higher than the normal 1 to 10 ratio. Upon arrival, please check for current parameters at the Pass Desk. No privately-owned or commercial vehicles (including school buses) are permitted to drive onto the base. Visitors must ride the shuttle bus to and from the Presidential Hangar, and school and youth groups must wait in line with the general public. Shuttle buses run continuously from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The 8th Air Force Control Tower, Nissen Hut, Air Park and Memorial Park are all located on the grounds of the Museum. Our control tower is a careful reconstruction of an actual tower used by the 8th Air Force in Great Britain during World War II. The World War II Nissen Hut came from England and depicts a briefing room and a recreation area. The Air Park is comprised of

the aircraft on exhibit outside, on the north end of the Museum. Along the grounds just west of the Museum's main entrance is our Memorial Park. This tranquil and peaceful area is home to monuments and outdoor plaques that honor service people and their heroic contributions from World War I to the present.

Our IMAX Theatre is located in the lobby area and features a rotating schedule of films throughout the day. Shows start on the hour, seven days a week. Advance reservations are available and recommended for large groups. For current prices, movie listings and reservations, stop by the box office in the Museum Lobby or call them at (937) 253-IMAX (253-4629). You can also inquire here about the Museum's flight simulator ride, "Morphis." Don't miss these awesome experiences! PLEASE NOTE: Reservations for IMAX movies and the Morphis simulator ride cannot be made through the Education Office.

ARE THERE PLACES ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN?

Special modified F-4 and F-16 cockpits are located in the Modern Flight Gallery and the Cold War Gallery, respectively. Children of *all* ages are invited to take turns sitting in them and to practice take-offs and landings. Our F-16 cockpit was originally used to train Air Force fighter pilots and still contains original control buttons and levers, as well as both front and rear radar screens.

Our C-124 cargo plane is also located inside the Modern Flight Gallery. It is large enough to hold tanks, bulldozers, or up to 200 fully-equipped soldiers. Take a walk through its fuselage and see what kind of cargo it's holding! We also have a *modified B-29 Superfortress fuselage* on exhibit that you can walk through!

PLEASE NOTE: The F-4, F-16, C-124 and B-29 fuselage are special planes that we invite you to touch. Please do not touch any of the other aircraft.

WHERE CAN WE EAT LUNCH?

The Museum's Café is located on the second floor. It features a wide selection of sandwiches, a small salad bar, soups and other items in a cafeteria style layout. Café food and drink may not be taken out of the Café and is strictly forbidden within the Museum.

Box lunches are available for groups visiting the Museum. This is a good lunch option if you have a group numbering more than 30, or if you are on a tight schedule. Please call (937) 255-2735 with any questions or to make reservations. Ask for Loma Rodriguez at extension 450 or Stefanie Adkins at extension 451. Box lunches must be planned with the Museum Café at least one week in advance of your visit. The Café asks that one person be designated to handle payment for your group's box lunches. Checks should be made payable to BASE RESTAURANT #5.

Several restaurants and fast food outlets are located near the Museum on Woodman Drive, Harshman Road/Wright Brothers' Parkway and Colonel Glenn Highway.

Picnicking at the Museum is welcome! Please feel free to bring picnic or sack lunches, and to use the Museum's outdoor picnic area at the far end of the main parking lot. Take advantage of our picnic tables and shelters, the many shade trees and lots of "room to roam." Perfect for stretching tired legs! Picnickers are *not* allowed in the adjacent Memorial Park and are asked not to use any of the monuments as tables, chairs, etc. And please remember to pick up trash!

If you bring a picnic, you must leave bags, coolers, etc. on your bus or in your vehicles. The Museum does not have a place to store picnic supplies nor is there an indoor picnic area in case of inclement weather. Reminder: outside food of any kind (including lunches, snacks, water bottles, etc.) may **not** be brought into the Museum.

HOW SHOULD I PREPARE FOR A MUSEUM VISIT?

The Museum's Education Division can help! All groups should visit our website at www.wpafb.af.mil/museum/edu/edu.htm to review our *new scheduling procedures* contained within the Education Services program booklet. Groups may make reservations for guided tours, self-guided tours, outreach programs, on own visits, etc. Find out about our free audio-visual loan program on this website as well. The Education Division can be reached at (937) 255-8048 extensions 461, 462 or 463.

Your group *MUST* have at least 1 adult chaperone for every 10 young people. *This is Museum and Air Force Base policy!* (adult chaperones must be at least 18 years of age). PLEASE NOTE: Large groups (100 or more) must divide up into halves or thirds and begin touring the Museum at different starting points. This eliminates "bottlenecking" and overcrowded conditions in some of the Museum's tight exhibit areas.

Preview *the Museum* by taking advantage of the Education Division's *free* audio-visual loan program. A variety of videos on topics ranging from the Wright brothers to rocketry and space flight may be borrowed free of charge. Policy information may be found in our online Education Services program booklet for 2003-2004. Please note: video requests will not be taken over the phone.

Visit the Museum's award winning web site! Take a virtual tour through the exhibit galleries, preview your favorite aircraft or find out what's going on at the Museum. This is especially important as we undergo building expansion and renovation! Visit us at <http://www.wpafb.af.mil/museum/>

OTHER HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS

Nametags for each of your students or children are a great idea. In case of an emergency, it makes young people easily recognizable and helps to keep groups together, especially during the busy school visit months of April and May.

Have students or young people divided into groups of 10 before arriving at the Museum. This is also helpful if your group is doing a self-guided tour.

Designate one adult as the group leader. This person should know your visit details and be able to take care of registering your group, picking up tour materials or checking in with the IMAX Box Office or Café.

HOW DO I FIND THE MUSEUM?

If you are coming from the east: take I-70 West and exit at I-675 South (exit 44). Exit at Col. Glenn Hwy (exit 15) and stay in the right hand lane. Turn right onto Col. Glenn at the end of the exit ramp. Travel to the third traffic light (Wright Brother's Parkway) and turn right. Exit at Springfield Pike and turn right at the end of the exit ramp. The entrance to the Museum is on the right.

If you are coming from the west: take I-70 East and exit at I-675 South (exit 44). Exit at Col. Glenn Hwy (exit 15) and stay in the right hand lane. Turn right onto Col. Glenn at the end of the exit ramp. Travel to the third traffic light (Wright Brothers' Parkway) and turn right. Exit at Springfield Pike and turn right at the end of the exit ramp. The entrance to the Museum is on the right.

If you are coming from the north: take I-75 South and exit at I-70 East (exit 61A). Travel to I-675 South (exit 44). Exit at Col. Glenn Hwy (exit 15) and stay in the right hand lane. Turn right onto Col. Glenn at the end of the exit ramp. Travel to the third traffic light (Wright Brothers' Parkway) and turn right. Exit at Springfield Pike and turn right at the end of the exit ramp. The entrance to the Museum is on the right.

If you are coming from the south: take I-75 North and exit at I-675 North (exit 43). Travel to Col. Glenn Hwy (exit 15) and stay in the right hand lane as you exit. Turn right onto Col. Glenn at the end of the exit ramp. Travel to the third traffic light (Wright Brothers' Parkway) and turn right. Exit at Springfield Pike and turn right at the end of the exit ramp. The entrance to the Museum is on the right.

WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT THE MUSEUM ...

Before you unload your bus or vehicles in the Museum's unloading zone near the main entrance, the group leader should register the group at the Lobby Information Desk. Do not leave your vehicles or buses unattended or park here for longer than it takes to unload. Also, make sure that adult chaperones accompany young people as they enter the building. Weather permitting, many groups find it helpful to organize their young people outside, before entering the Museum.

Parking is available in the Museum's west lot, in front of the main entrance. Buses are asked to park at the far end of this lot. Please do not park in the lot reserved for staff and volunteers. If you would like to drive to the Museum's Air Park, or 8th Air Force Control Tower, please feel free to park in the adjacent lot.

Please keep in mind that you are visiting a *military reservation*. As such, your bags and packages are always subject to search. This is especially true during times of heightened alert. For your convenience, keep all large bags, large purses, large camera bags and backpacks locked in your vehicle.

The Museum Lobby is just inside the main entrance. The Information Desk, IMAX Box Office and theatre entrance are all located in the Lobby. There are also restrooms, drinking fountains and public telephones located to the left as you enter. *Special note:* there are many other restrooms and drinking fountains located throughout the Museum. Coat racks and wheelchairs are located on the right side of the Lobby. If your group has made arrangements to have a guided tour, your guides will be waiting for you in the Lobby.

Because of its size, activity level and wonderful acoustics, the Lobby can become quite crowded and noisy very quickly. Please remind your students or young people to be courteous to others, keep voices at a *conversational level* and stay with their group.

If you are with a group, you must register at the Information Desk when you arrive. Our registration book is one of the ways we keep track of all the

school groups and young people we serve. In addition, your registration information helps us should the need arise to have you or your group paged.

Pick up any pre-reserved education materials at the Information Desk. If you have advance reservations for one of our self-guided programs, your materials (tours, pencils, etc.) will be waiting for you in a box at the Information Desk. Please remember to return all pencils, cardboard, unused materials and the box to this desk. Feel free to pass out the materials right in the Lobby. If your group is a large one (more than 30 people) you must stagger their entry into the exhibit galleries by 3-4 minutes for each group of 10. Very large groups (more than 75) will receive special instructions when they make their tour reservations.

Check on any IMAX Theatre reservations at the IMAX Box Office, located across from the Information Desk in the Museum's Lobby. All questions regarding IMAX movies should be directed to the box office.

Students should keep all gift shop purchases in the bag and keep the sales receipt while on Museum grounds.

THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE MUSEUM "CODE OF PLANE BEHAVIOR"

We are delighted you have chosen to visit the United States Air Force Museum. We hope you have an enjoyable experience and that you come back and visit us again. In order to insure you have a safe and fun visit, we ask that your group agree to the following "Code of Plane Behavior." Those not following these guidelines may be asked to leave the Museum.

Always walk and never run inside the Museum. The galleries are often crowded and if you run, you will bump into someone. Also, when you run you don't see what's in front of you and you may accidentally bump into an airplane wing or exhibit case.

Remember to keep voices at a conversational level. Please do not yell or talk loudly inside the Museum. The aircraft hangars are very large and voices travel far. No loud or abusive language or gestures are permitted.

Always stay with your parent, group leader or chaperone. We do not want anyone to become separated from their group and risk missing the bus home. The U. S. Air Force Museum requires that visiting groups bring at least one chaperone per 10 young people. Large groups (more than 50) will benefit from an even smaller ratio (1 per 8).

Stay outside of roped off areas and metal rails. Most of the ropes and rails you see protect our aircraft and keep our visitors from hurting themselves by getting too close. Sometimes areas are roped off because people are working on exhibits and aircraft. Please do not lean or sit on metal rails.

Do not climb on or enter any of the aircraft or machinery in the Museum. We would like you to remain "grounded" while touring and only "fly" the planes that are specially marked. Please see the previous section entitled "Are There Places Especially For Children?"

Chaperones are reminded that they must stay with young people at all times and that they will be held responsible for the conduct of their group!

WHY WE ASK YOU NOT TO TOUCH:

Did you know that something as big and strong as a World War II cargo plane or a supersonic jet fighter could be damaged by a lot of hands touching it?

Tiny traces of moisture, dirt and oil live on your hands, even after you've washed them. These things are then transferred to the wings, propeller blades, fuselages and engines that you might casually touch as you tour the Museum. The moisture, dirt and oil then begin to break down the protective coatings on an airplane's aluminum skin and start the rusting process even on the strongest metals.

You may think it doesn't matter if you just touch an airplane wing or body once. But you aren't the only one! Lots of others will touch it, too. In one day, 5,000 people might touch one airplane. That can't be good for the airplane! We want our airplanes to last for hundreds of years into the

future. Please help us keep our airplanes safe by keeping hands to yourselves and by not touching!

ARE THERE OTHER EDUCATION SERVICES AVAILABLE?

The Museum's Education Division offers a variety of special tours and programs for school groups, youth groups, families and teachers. All of our Museum's education programs require advance reservations, so please make your plans early! All groups should visit our website to review our *new scheduling procedures* or to find out more about our education programs. All information is contained within our Education Services program booklet which can be found at www.wpafb.af.mil/museum/edu/edu.htm

FAMILY DAY AT THE U.S. AIR FORCE MUSEUM:

The Museum's Family Day program is for families with elementary aged children and is typically offered the third Saturday of each month (exception - December 13, 2003). Each Family Day features programs throughout the day, including a special tour, a storytelling time, demo stations throughout the Museum, and a workshop for older children (grades 4 - 7). And most activities are free! Family Day is designed for parent participation, so please plan to join us! Call (937) 255-8048 x463, 462 or 461 for more information.

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE MUSEUM!

The United States Air Force Museum

is located at

1100 Spaatz St.

Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433-7102

(937) 255-3286 (Museum switchboard)



To reach the Education Division please call
(937) 255-8048 x461, 462 or 463



You may also visit the Museum at our
award winning web site:
<http://www.wpafb.af.mil/museum/>



The Museum is open seven days a week,
9:00 am to 5:00 pm
and admission is free.

We are closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas
and New Year's Day.

Flash photography is welcome inside the Museum.