

## Highlights include:

- Climb on board the first and the last Concorde (the fastest passenger jet in the world)
- Visit a US Army Air Force and US Navy base, which unusually allowed photography giving us a unique insight into life for American air crew, and see the site from where 101st Airborne Division departed to Normandy, including the famous Easy company of “Band of Brothers” fame
- Experience an extraordinary range of original historic buildings, including control towers, Second World War airfield buildings and Cold War bunkers
- Discover the work of all three armed forces, including Europe's largest naval aviation museum, the Army Air Corps and numerous RAF bases
- Learn about the development of airborne radar at a top secret base in the grounds of a stately home
- Explore the world's largest collection of helicopters.



Use this map and guide to plan and record your visits to the rich variety of aviation heritage sites in the South West. More details on each site plus location and opening times can be found on the websites referenced in each entry. Please ensure you check opening times before leaving home.

For more information and to find trails for other regions see [www.mahn.org.uk/trails](http://www.mahn.org.uk/trails)

# EXPERIENCE AVIATION HISTORY!

## AVIATION HERITAGE IN THE SOUTH-WEST OF ENGLAND



This aviation heritage trail highlights fourteen locations in the South West of England that are open to the public. The region has a rich aviation history, from airfields used from the early days of flight through to military bases that are in operation today.

## 1 Aerospace Bristol



Aerospace Bristol houses a varied collection of exhibits from the earliest days of powered flight through to the modern day. Visitors are inspired by fun science interactives and amazing engineering achievements, including aeroplanes, helicopters, engines, missiles, satellites, and Concorde Alpha Foxtrot: the last Concorde ever to fly. [www.aerospacebristol.org](http://www.aerospacebristol.org)



## 2 Boscombe Down Aviation Collection



The Boscombe Down Aviation Collection (at Old Sarum Airfield) has dozens of aircraft, cockpits, replicas, models, weapons and trials equipment to show the story of flight and flight test in the UK. The cockpits are mostly open and you can sit in and use the controls. There are guides to answer questions and show you round. Exhibits of national importance including the unique Sea Harrier XZ 457 and the rare Comet C Mk 2 Sagittarius. [www.boscombedownaviationcollection.co.uk](http://www.boscombedownaviationcollection.co.uk)



## 3 Cornwall Aviation Heritage Centre



A superb and growing collection (20+) of post-Second World War military aircraft, both large and small, with unparalleled access to cockpits and crew stations, aviation and aerospace exhibits, artefacts and memorabilia, enormous model collections, simulator, with volunteer guides. Based in and around a fully equipped and functional Cold-War era Hardened-Aircraft-Shelter with a shop and cosy cafe. [www.cornwallaviationhc.co.uk](http://www.cornwallaviationhc.co.uk)



## 4 Davidstow Airfield & Cornwall at War Museum



We are a tri-service museum located on a Second World War RAF Station giving us a strong RAF representation. Some of our buildings are wartime originals with other buildings added by the museum. We provide an extensive range of displays from 1914 to the present. Artefacts are our main emphasis, real kit used by real people supported by film presentations and narrations. Allow 2.5 hrs for your visit. All ages, male and female and nationalities will appreciate their time spent with us. Check our website for details of our guided airfield tours in our vintage crewbus. [www.cornwallatwarmuseum.co.uk](http://www.cornwallatwarmuseum.co.uk)



## 5 Dunkeswell Airfield Heritage Centre



Dunkeswell Airfield was built between 1942 and 1943 and it was initially occupied by the USAAF 479th Anti-Submarine Squadron and then by the US Navy. It was the only US naval airbase in Europe that undertook U boat hunting in the Bay of Biscay. Unlike the British, the Americans had access to film and faced very little restriction on what they photographed. As a result we have over 400 photographs, and together with historical narratives, uniforms, dioramas, models and Second World War artefacts they tell the story of the men and women who served here. Find out how coastal command went about hunting German U boats and how Ford built a B24 Liberator in 55 minutes. [www.southwestairfields.co.uk/page6.html](http://www.southwestairfields.co.uk/page6.html)



## 6 Fleet Air Arm Museum



The Fleet Air Arm Museum tells the story of the Royal Navy In the Air. With four exhibition halls, over ninety aircraft and over two million records and 30,000 artefacts the Museum is Europe's largest naval aviation museum. In addition, it houses the first British Concorde which you can go on board, view the cockpit and visit the award-winning Aircraft Carrier Experience. The Museum is located at Royal Naval Air Station Yeovilton (also known as HMS Heron) in Somerset. With more flights in and out of RNAS Yeovilton than any other military air station in Europe, you are likely to see aircraft going through their rigorous training procedures. [www.fleetairarm.com](http://www.fleetairarm.com)



## 7 Greenham Control Tower



RAF Greenham Common was an RAF and US Air Force base. Opened in 1942 through World War Two, the Cold War and later with the 501st Tactical Missile Wing with 96 ground launched cruise missiles. The base closed in 1992 but its history lives on... [www.greenhamtower.org.uk](http://www.greenhamtower.org.uk)



## 8 RAF Defford Museum



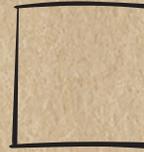
During the Second World War and the Cold War Years that followed RAF Defford was one of the most secret places in the country. For it was at Defford that Airborne Radar was developed, tested and proven. Various communal and domestic sites, including the Station Sick Quarters were built in Croome Park and around Croome Court, the ancestral home of the Earls of Coventry. The Museum tells the story of Defford Airfield, especially the work of the Telecommunications Flying Unit and its role in the development of airborne radar during the Second World War and the Cold War that followed. Exhibits include the cockpit and forward fuselage of Canberra WD956, a ground training simulator and an exhibition telling the story of Defford's role during the Cold War years. The museum is located within Croome Park, now owned by the National Trust. There is no additional charge for admission to the Museum for visitors to Croome. [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/croome/features/raf-defford](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/croome/features/raf-defford)



## 9 REME Museum



The REME Museum is located in what was the Officer's Mess of former RAF Lyneham. REME is responsible for recovering, maintaining and repairing all of the Army's equipment including the Army Air Corps helicopters. Our Museum tells the story of REME and the collection includes a Scout helicopter suspended from the ceiling and a Lynx helicopter in an outside display in the grounds. The display also explains the role REME Aircraft and Avionic Technicians play in supporting the Army Air Corps. [www.rememuseum.org.uk](http://www.rememuseum.org.uk)



## 10 The Army Flying Museum



The Museum holds an extensive collection charting over 100 years of the British Army in the air. With over 35 fixed wing and rotary aircraft on display, the Museum is the perfect place to explore the fascinating history of army aviation. If you pay once you can visit all year! You can also visit our Apache Café which overlooks an active airfield and is a great spot to enjoy a bite to eat and enjoy the view. It's open daily with no need for museum admission. The museum also holds a regular programme of events throughout the year. [www.armyflying.com](http://www.armyflying.com)



## 11 The Helicopter Museum



The Helicopter Museum houses the world's largest collection of helicopters including the world speed record holder, two aircraft of the Queen's Royal Flight, a Russian anti-tank gunship and numerous rotorcraft that hold top benchmark status on the National Aviation Heritage Register. The Museum is also home to the Weston Aviation Exhibition which showcases the remarkable aviation history of the local area. Themed events, open cockpit days and helicopter flight days take place throughout the year. Shop, cafe and film theatre are also on site. [www.helicoptermuseum.co.uk](http://www.helicoptermuseum.co.uk)



## 12 Upton Airfield Heritage Centre



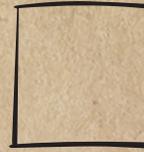
Upton was the last wartime airfield to be built on the Blackdown Hills. In April 1944, the USAAF 439th Troop Carrier Group arrived with 80 C-47 transport planes in preparation for the invasion of Normandy. In late May American paratroopers from the 1st & 2nd Battalions of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division arrived, including the famous Easy company of "Band of Brothers" fame. The exhibition in our Heritage Centre features a unique collection of photographs, of Aircraft and Personnel preparing for the invasion and film of their take-off. We also provide airfield tours by arrangement. [www.southwestairfields.co.uk/page5.html](http://www.southwestairfields.co.uk/page5.html)



## 13 Wellesbourne Wartime Museum



The Wellesbourne Wartime Museum displays a vast array of artefacts from local aircraft digs and military and civilian items from the wartime era and the post war period, along with a D H Vampire T11, Piston Provost, Yak 52, Sea Vixen Cockpit. The museum is located by the control tower and is usually open on Sundays and Bank holiday Mondays. [www.facebook.com/22otu](http://www.facebook.com/22otu)



## 14 Jet Age Museum



The museum celebrates Gloucestershire's rich aviation heritage from the early days of flight, through the birth of the Jet Age to the present day. It is staffed by volunteers, some of whom flew in aircraft we have on display. There is a wide range of aircraft, engines and restoration projects on display. There are usually timed guided tours of an Avro Vulcan bomber cockpit and Hawker Siddeley Trident airliner. No entry fee, donations welcome. [www.jetagemuseum.org](http://www.jetagemuseum.org)

