

# martini tours

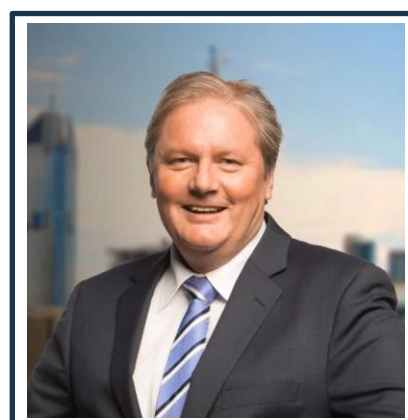
Classic Motoring & Historic Aviation Tours



*Planes, Trains, no Automobiles*  
**“Aviation Legends Tour”**  
to England

hosted by 3AW’s  
**Darren James**

19<sup>th</sup> July – 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2025



Document v0.01




## TOUR ITINERARY

Host:	Martini Tours
Tour:	Planes Trains <i>No Automobiles</i> - Aviation Legends 2025
Code:	Tour 9 - 2025
Date of travel:	18 <sup>th</sup> July – 2 <sup>nd</sup> August 2025
Preliminary Itinerary:	Draft V0.01

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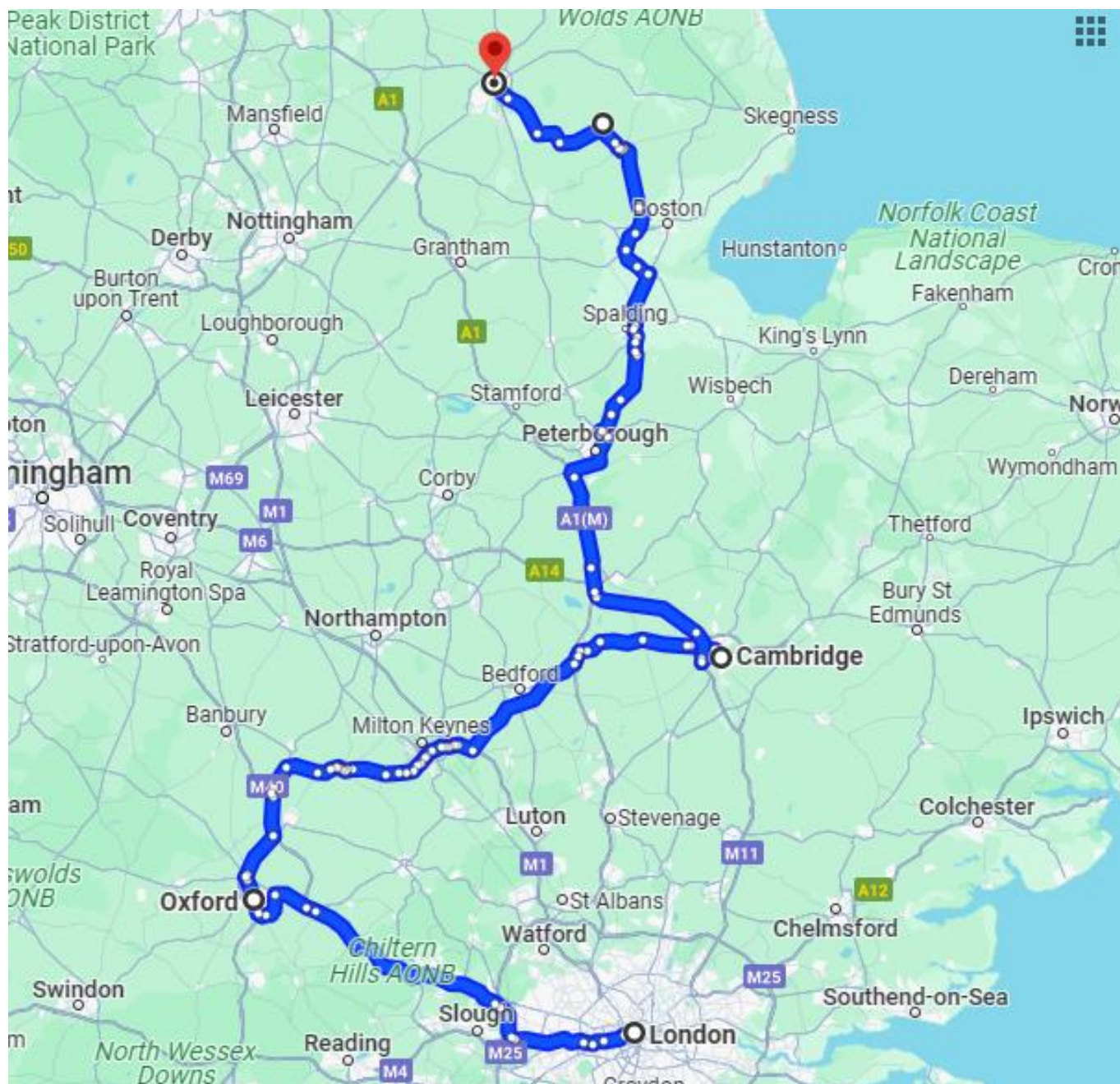
**Hosted** by aviation aficionado and **3AW** radio personality **Darren James**, this tour will deliver many special moments and create lasting memories. Transfer to **Oxford**. Wake up on day 2 and spend the day at the **Royal International Air Tattoo**. Enjoy the day in the fully catered **Cotswold Club Enclosure** on the flight-line. Visit **Kidlington Airport** and fly (optional) **ML407**, the **Grace Spitfire Mk9 dual-seat fighter**. Take a guided day tour of the **Cotswold Villages**. Step back to a period of cloak and dagger and discover **Enigma**. Break the code in **Bletchley Park**. Tour magnificent **Althorp House** and pay tribute to **Princess Diana**. Explore the **RAFs largest collections**. Be moved by 'Just Jane' at **RAF East Kirkby**. Witness a family's moving tribute to a lost brother at this **operational WW2 airfield**. . Have a cool beverage amongst the ghosts of the **Fighter Command** pilots in **Cambridge**. Stroll the hangers and workshops of **RAF Duxford**. Enjoy 'The Americans' Airshow. Explore an incredible collection of birds at the **Newark Aviation Museum**. Dress for a silver service dinner in the **Officers Mess** of **617 'Dambuster Squadron'** at **Petwood Hall**. Fall in love with **Lincoln**. Take in the wonders of the majestic and medieval **Lincoln Cathedral**. Pay your respects to the 55,000 Bomber crew who didn't return from their sorties at the **Bomber Command Memorial**. Explore **Kent** and the **Battle of Britain Museum** Memorial, overlooking the **English Channel**. Return to the birthplace of aviation, **Brooklands**. Climb aboard Concorde. Head deep underground via the secret stairway to the **WW2 Group 11 Battle of Britain Bunker**. Sit in **Sir Winston's** chair as you cast your gaze across the room that was once alive with action and tension through the summer of 1940 as Britain faced its **darkest hour**. Marvel at the collection at **Hendon**. Walk the Halls of the **Imperial War Museum London**. Visit the **Churchill War Rooms** and breath in the history. Travel in style by **luxury coach**, enjoy **great food** and **cultural experiences**, and rest comfortably each evening in **perfectly curated accommodation**. Return home having made new friends, having **fulfilled a dream**, and with a flying bag full of priceless stories and memories.



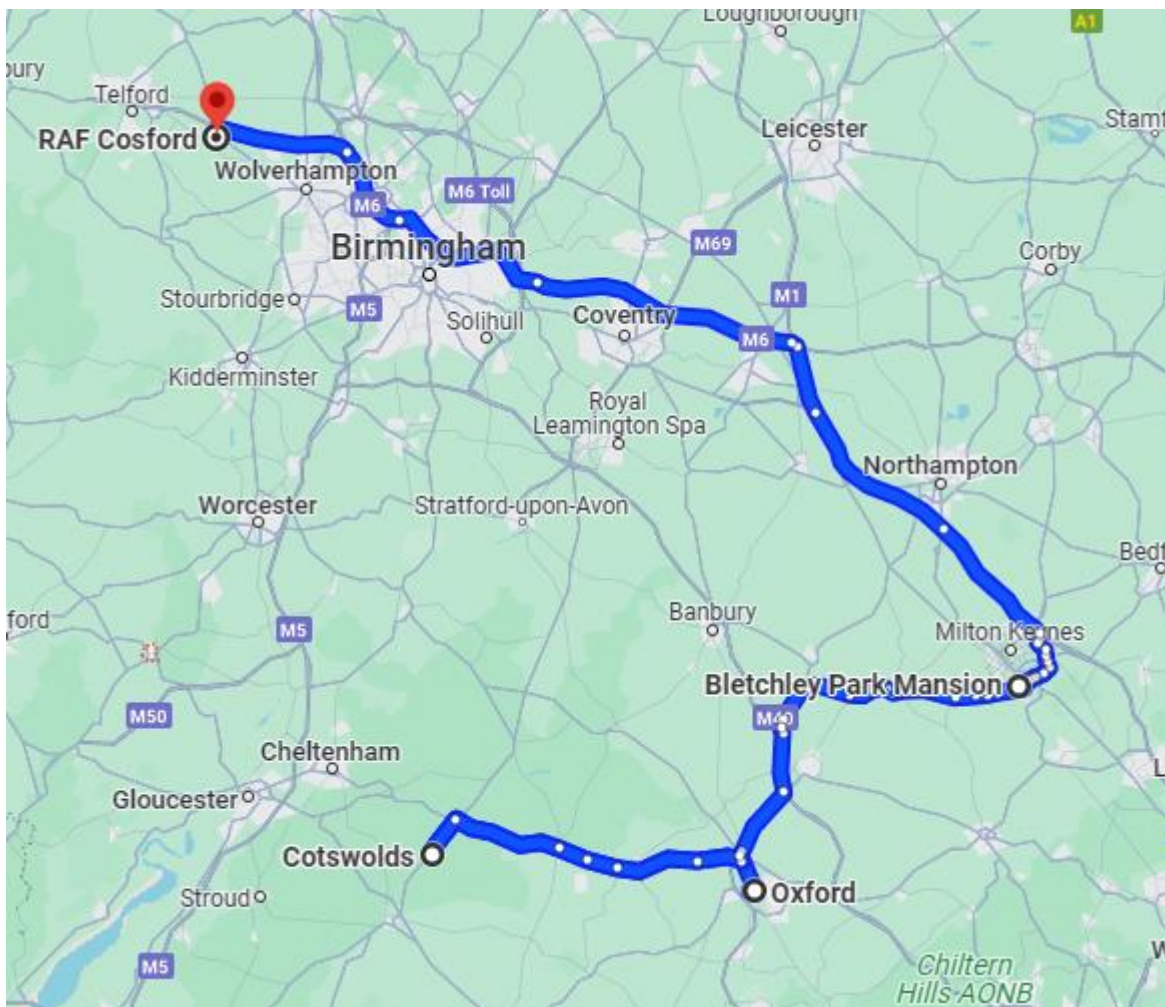
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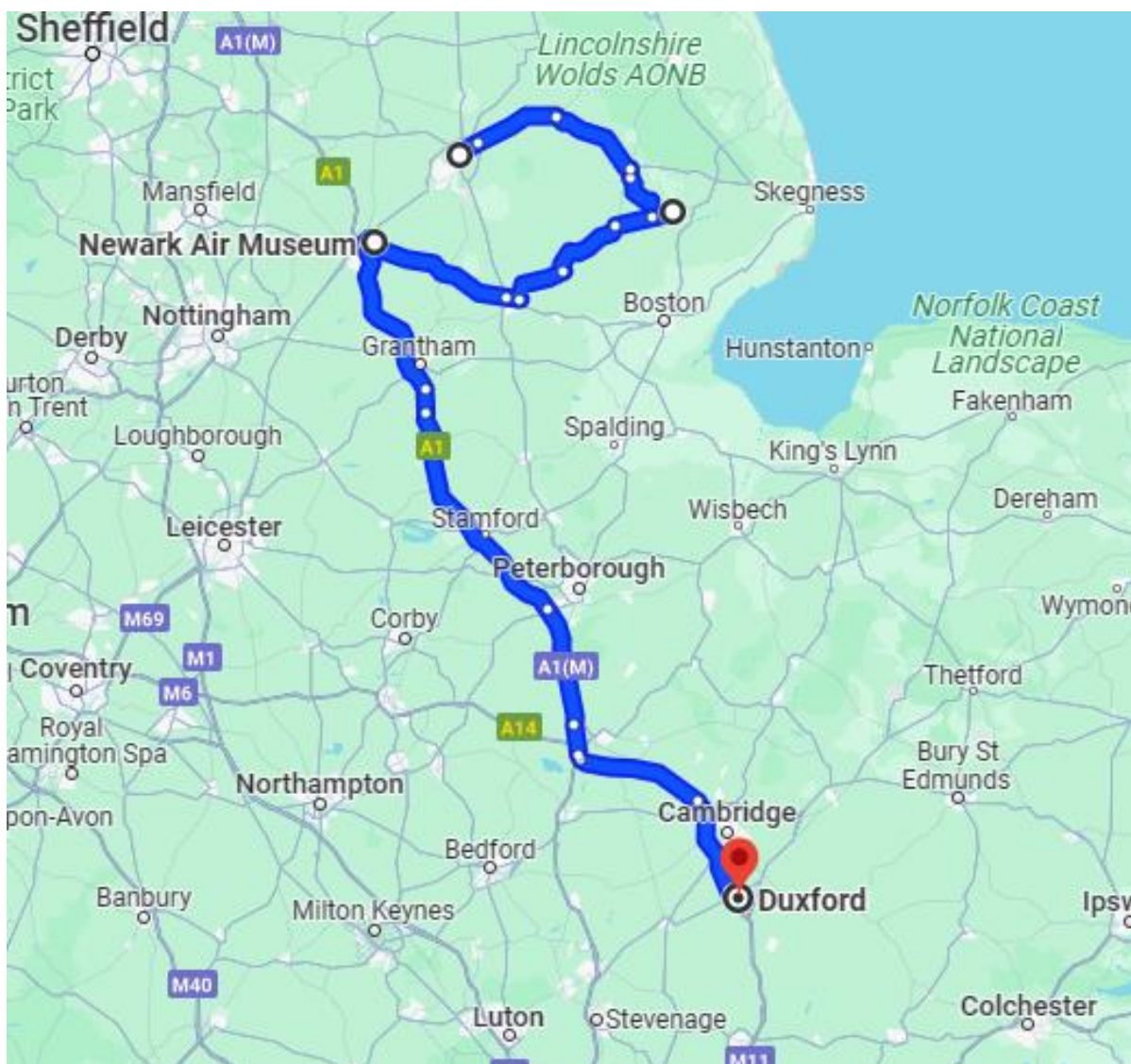
## The Tour Geography Overview



OXFORD – COTSWOLDS - BLETCHELY PARK - RAF COSFORD



CAMBRIDGE – LINCOLN – WOODHALL SPA



## DRAFT DAILY ACTIVITY ITINERARY

Date	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> Jul 2025	Flight from Melbourne to London via Singapore			
Day 1 Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> Jul 2025	Arrive at London Heathrow Airport	Transfer to Oxford and enjoy the afternoon at leisure exploring Oxford	Group Dinner	Overnight Oxford (1)
Day 2 Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> Jul 2025	The Cotswold Enclosure at The Royal International Air Show (RIAT)			Overnight Oxford (2)
	Guided Tour of Sudeley Castle and Gardens			
Day 3 Mon 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2025	Fly The Grace Spitfire - Kidlington Airport Oxford (flights are an additional expense and optional – must be prebooked in Aust)			Overnight Oxford (3)
	Guided day tour of the Cotswold Villages			
Day 4 Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jul 2025	Bletchley Park – The Code Breakers		Group Dinner	Overnight Cambridge (1)
	Althorpe House – Princess Diana			
Day 5 Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jul 2025	RAF Cosford Museum		Group Dinner	Overnight Cambridge (2)
	Iron Bridge- Telford Shrewsbury Abbey			
Day 6 Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup> Jul 2025	East Kirkby Heritage Aviation Centre	Free time in Cambridge	Overnight Cambridge (3)	
Day 7 Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> Jul 2025	Imperial War Museum and The Americans Airshow - Duxford		Overnight Cambridge (4)	
Day 8 Sat 26 <sup>th</sup> Jul 2025	Newark Aviation Museum	617 Sqdn Dambusters Petwood Hall	Officers Mess Petwood Hotel	Overnight Petwood Hall (1)
Day 9 Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> Jul 2025	Lincoln Bomber Command Memorial Guided Tour		Group Dinner	Overnight Lincoln (1)
	Lincoln Castle; Magna Carta; Lincoln Cathedral			

Day 10 Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> Jul 2025	Transfer to London	'Blue Badge' Guided Tour of The City of London	Group Dinner	Overnight London (1)
Day 11 Tues 29 <sup>th</sup> Jul 2025	Brooklands Aviation and Motoring Museum Concorde Flight Simulation		Overnight London (2)	
Day 12 Wed 30 <sup>th</sup> Jul 2025	11 Group Battle of Britain Bunker Uxbridge	Free afternoon at leisure in London	Overnight London (3)	
Day 13 Thurs 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2025	RAF Hendon Museum	Free afternoon at leisure in London	Farewell Group Dinner	Overnight London (4)
Day 14 Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> Aug 2025	Imperial War Museum Churchill War Rooms Bentley Priory		Flight from Heathrow to Melbourne	
Day 15 Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aug 2025	Day In transit crossing the international date line			
Day 16 Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> Aug 2025	Arrive home in Melbourne			

**DAY 1 AUSTRALIA – LONDON****Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

Arrive at Melbourne International airport, meet your Tour Host 3AW's **Darren James** and fellow travellers. Complete your check in and prepare for your flight to London Heathrow

Board your flight, arriving in the UK early morning the next day (local time)

FLIGHT	DATE	ORIGIN/DESTINATION	DEP/ARR	COMPANY
SQ	14JUL 2025	MEL/SIN	TBA	SINGAPORE AIRLINES
SQ	15JUL2025	SIN/LHR	TBA	

**DAY 1 LONDON TO OXFORD****Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

**Morning** Your flight arrives at London Heathrow Airport in the morning local time.

Upon arrival, pass through Customs and Passport Control. Meet your **Tour Director**, before boarding your coach and travelling into the City of London

**Coach transfer to Oxford**

Take today to stretch your legs, or relax before you freshen up for our 'Welcome to England' group dinner at our accommodation

**Evening** Group "Welcome" dinner is included this evening.

Overnight in Oxford (1)  
**Hampton Hilton Oxford Hotel**

**DAY 2 ROYAL INTERNATIONAL AIR TATTOO****Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

**Morning** Breakfast at your accommodation

Board your coach as we head to RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire for the first highlight of the trip



## Main Group THE ROYAL INTERNATIONAL AIR TATTOO - @ THE COTSWOLD CLUB

Enjoy a delightful Cotswold experience in the summer garden directly on the crowd line. The Air Tattoo's 'Cotswolds Garden' where you can dine alfresco and be quintessentially British drinking tea (and coffee) all day, while enjoying the thrills of the airshow! Few events can rival the intensity, drama and spectacle on offer at the world's greatest air show. The Air Tattoo, one of the UK's premier outdoor events, returns with an extravaganza of entertainment for all the family. Alongside the thrilling flying action, visitors will be treated to non-stop



entertainment on the ground - so whether a wide-eyed first timer or a seasoned air show veteran, the experience is breathtaking. During the thrilling 7.5 hour flying display visitors will get to see fast jets, giant transporters, historic aircraft and much more.

There will be a chance to meet the crews, get close to the aircraft and enjoy a feast of first-class entertainment including the Techno Zone, an interactive showcase, the Adrenalin Zone and the Vintage Village

Enjoy special access to the Cotswold Club Enclosure for the day, where you will not only have the best viewing of the aircraft and air show, but you will enjoy a catered lunch and afternoon tea, plus availability of a cash bar.

### PARTNER PROGRAM OPTION

After we have dropped off the MAIN GROUP at the Royal International Airshow, travel 40 minutes by coach to **Sudeley Castle** for the day.

#### SUDELEY CASTLE

Situated in the Cotswold countryside, Sudeley Castle & Gardens offers 1000 years of royal history and is now home to Lady Ashcombe and her family.



On your visit, your group will have access to:

- The exhibition rooms, which were completely redesigned and refurbished in 2018
- The Castle rooms, which are still lived in by the family but open daily to visitors
- Ten award winning gardens
- St Mary's Church, restored by the Dent family in the Victorian times and which includes the magnificent tomb of **Queen Katherine Parr**
- The Pheasantry, which houses the Castle's collection of rare breed pheasants

We will also organise for you the following extra activities:

- Bespoke Private Tour for 1 ½ hrs of both external and internal areas of the Castle. Visitors can pick the tour focus and the specific inclusions such as specific themes and periods of history. There is also the opportunity to ask questions. Latitude Group Travel will assist you with narrowing down the possibilities through a survey of all those going.
- The Art Tour, for 1 ½ hours, which includes a tour of the exclusive private rooms of the Castle, still lived in by the Dent-Brocklehurst family, and the impressive private art collection on display there. Featuring work by van Dyck, Teniers and Rubens.
- Both Lunch and Afternoon or Morning Tea (whichever you prefer, but which must be decided prior to departure.) Lunch consists of soup and sandwiches and Afternoon Tea is a Cream tea with coffee or tea, scones, strawberry jam and clotted cream

Other activities are optional and can be organised if you wish, however you will need to let us know well prior to departure. These include:

- The History of Sudeley Talk (seated) for 35mins can be included as an extra chance to hear more about the history of Sudeley or ask more questions and can, if you wish, occur while you are having lunch or morning or afternoon tea



**Evening** You are free at your leisure this evening

**Overnight in Oxford (2)**  
Hampton Hilton Oxford Hotel

## DAY 3 SPITFIRE FLIGHTS or COTSWOLD VILLAGES TOUR **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025**

**Morning** Breakfast at your accommodation

Board your coach for the short journey to historic Kidlington Oxford Airport

### KIDLINGTON OXFORD AIRPORT

Board your coach for the trip to Kidlington Oxford aerodrome where we will encounter the Grace Spitfire, owned by Australian family, Carolyn Grace. Passenger flights are offered in this mk9 Spitfire. Prior bookings are required.

If you have prebooked your flight in the “Grace Spitfire” Mk9 Spitfire ML407, today will be one of the most memorable days of your aviation lives. This is an optional extra and must be booked well ahead of our journey. Seats are limited. You may choose to spend the day with us in the pilots lounge to soak up the experience.



### PARTNERS PROGRAM

You may choose to join a private group for the day, departing from **Moreton-in-Marsh** village to begin your day tour of the beautiful Cotswolds

## THE COTSWOLDS

This region of outstanding natural beauty is characterised by attractive small towns and thatched villages of yellow Cotswold stone, made prosperous by the historic wool trade. With a variety of different villages there is something to see around every corner of the Cotswolds. Today the group will visit some of the Cotswolds most charming and picturesque villages and towns, **Moreton-in-Marsh, Stow on the Wold, Bourton-on-the-Water** and **the Slaughters**

### MORETON-IN-MARSH

**Moreton-in-Marsh** is a thriving market town, dating back 1000 years to the Saxon era. Its broad High Street is lined with elegant 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century buildings, among them the White Hart Royal, a former manor house in which King Charles I sheltered during the Civil War. The Redesdale Market Hall dominates the main thoroughfare and is still used today for antique fairs and flea markets with its steeply pitched roof and attractive and distinctive clock turret. The Curfew Tower is one of the few surviving in Britain and at its base is housed of this tower is the old town lock-up



### STOW ON THE WOLD

**Stow on the Wold** is a beautiful town and one the busiest of all the cotswold towns. Standing 800 feet above sea level, it is also the highest of the Cotswold towns. Many years ago when the cotswold wool industry was at it's height, Stow on the Wold was famous for it's huge annual fairs where as many as 20,000 sheep were sold at a time at the busy market square. The square is now mainly used for parking, as Stow on the Wold has become a favourite destination for many a visitor to the Cotswolds.



Depart the Cotswolds, rejoining the main tour group, and return to your Oxford accommodation.

**Evening** You are free at your leisure this evening

**Overnight in Oxford (3)**  
**Hampton Hilton Oxford Hotel**

**DAY 4 BLETCHLEY PARK MANSION**

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025**

**Morning** Breakfast at your accommodation

Check out of your accommodation and board your coach for our journey to Bletchley Park and Althorp House

## BLETCHLEY PARK

Once Britain's best kept secret, today Bletchley Park is a heritage site and vibrant tourist attraction. You can explore some of the iconic World War 2 Codebreaking Huts and Blocks and marvel at the astonishing achievements of the Codebreakers whose work is said to have shortened the war by two years. Bletchley Park is a place of exceptional historical importance. It remains highly relevant to our lives today and for the future. It is the home of British codebreaking and a birthplace of modern information technology. It played a major role in World War II, producing secret intelligence which had a direct and profound influence



on the outcome of the conflict. Over the past twenty years Bletchley Park has become an internationally renowned heritage attraction, visited by people from around the world, which acknowledges the successes from the War and the people responsible for them. It celebrates their values: broad-minded patriotism; commitment; discipline; technological excellence.

By presenting and explaining these achievements and these values, in the very place where they occurred, Bletchley Park brings together the dramatic history of the twentieth century, with the challenges we face in the twenty first, in our rapidly changing and technologically complex society. Public interest in Bletchley Park has grown enormously over the past few years and the number of visitors to Bletchley Park in 2016 was over 250,000

## THE VISITOR CENTRE IN BLOCK C

Newly opened in 2014 by HRH The Duchess of Cambridge, the Visitor Centre in Block C offers a welcoming entry into Bletchley Park with a coffee shop, gift shop and an engaging multimedia, interactive introductory exhibition

## CODEBREAKING HUTS

Visit the restored Codebreaking Huts 3 and 6, where Enigma messages sent by the German Army and Air Force were decrypted, translated and analysed for vital intelligence. In these iconic huts, the atmosphere is recreated with rooms dressed to resemble what they once were when Codebreakers worked there. Light-touch, interpretive exhibits allow visitors to experience how it was to work in wartime Bletchley Park. Plus "meet" some of the Codebreakers and listen to the men and women tell the stories of what happened inside them using interactive exhibits, including sounds, projected images and authentic set dressing.



The machine contained a series of interchangeable rotors, which rotated every time a key was pressed to keep the cipher changing continuously. This was combined with a plug board on the front of the machine where pairs of letters were transposed.

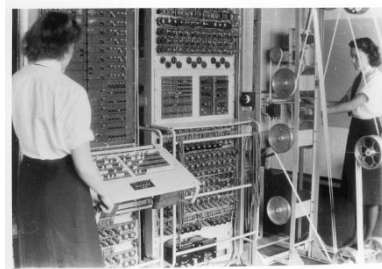


These two systems combined offered 103 sextillion possible settings from which to choose, which the Germans believed made Enigma unbreakable. The Poles had broken Enigma in as early as 1932, but in 1939, with the prospect of war, the Poles decided to inform the British of their successes.

Dilly Knox, one of the former British World War I Codebreakers, was convinced he could break the system and set up an Enigma Research Section, comprised of himself and Tony Kendrick, later joined by Peter Twinn, Alan Turing and Gordon Welchman. They worked in the stable yard at Bletchley Park and that is where the first wartime Enigma messages were broken, in January 1940. Enigma traffic continued to be broken routinely at Bletchley Park for the remainder of the war.

### THE NATIONAL RADIO CENTRE

The National Radio Centre is a showcase for radio communications technology. Operated by the Radio Society of Great Britain, in partnership with the Bletchley Park Trust, this is a fascinating exhibition.



### HUT 8

Formerly the Codebreaking Hut, leading the breaking of German Naval Enigma messages, today Hut 8 houses exciting interactive exhibitions helping adults and children alike to understand the different methods the Codebreakers used to help them with their work. In addition, this hut also houses:

- The real Office of Alan Turing, Head of Hut 8, recreated to how it would have looked in World War II, complete with the mug chained to the radiator.
- Royal Pigeon Racing Association exhibition, explaining the use of pigeons in WW2

### THE MANSION

The Mansion at Bletchley Park houses a few temporary and permanent exhibitions including:

- The Office of Alastair Denniston, Head of the Government Code and Cypher School and the room where the US "Special Relationship" was born
- The Library, atmospherically dressed as it would have looked during WW2, as a Naval Intelligence Office
- Wartime Garages, complete with WW2 vehicles



### COLLECTIONS

Object holdings focus on wartime machines, equipment and social history.

The Object collections include circa 10,000 items, from cipher machines to radio equipment and personal memorabilia. Significant holdings include:

- Two hundred encoding and other machines relevant to the activities of Bletchley Park and its Outstations, including a rare example of a Lorenz SZ42 encoding machine, used by the German High Command, the largest UK display of Enigma machines and the first Typex machine created
- Rare surviving fragments from Colossus machines (no original Colossus machines survive)
- Wartime uniforms and radio equipment
- Items related to the social history of wartime Bletchley Park
- Personal items relating to individuals who served at Bletchley Park, such as Alan Turing and Gordon Welchman, including Porgy, Turing's teddy bear



### ON SITE EXHIBITIONS

While the exhibitions will likely have changed by the time that you visit, we have listed here what's on now, to give you an idea of the sorts of exhibitions you may see in 2022:

- Hut 11A: The Bombe Breakthrough
- 80 years of the ATS - pop up display
- Veterans' Stories exhibition
- Bill Tutte: Mathematician + Codebreaker
- Off Duty: High Spirits in Low Times
- Secrecy and Security - Keeping Safe Online
- The Road to Bletchley Park



### AFTERNOON

#### ALTHORP HOUSE

Charles, Ninth Earl Spencer has been in charge for 29 of the House's 500-year history but has striven in that time to make a positive difference, by taking an uncompromising approach to the continuing wellbeing of Althorp. Showcasing one of Europe's finest private collections of furniture, paintings and ceramics, each intriguing room of this magnificent family home has a fascinating story of its own.



Diana, Princess of Wales was interred on a small island in the middle of the ornamental Round Oval Lake, which was created by Teulon in 1868. The island was decided as the best place to lay her to rest because the water would, according to Spencer, "act as a buffer against the interventions of the insane and ghoulish, the thick mud presenting a further line of defence. We all agreed that, with its beauty and tranquillity, this was the place for Diana to be". The ground was consecrated by the Bishop of Peterborough prior to the burial. Her burial place is

marked with a white memorial plinth and urn.

A Doric-style temple with Diana's name inscribed on top is situated across from the lake, as a place where visitors can lay down their floral tributes to the princess. It contains a black silhouette of her in the middle, set in white marble, evocative of the Henry Holland's material preference, with a tablet on either side. One tablet displays a quote from Diana about her love of charitable work, and the other holds Charles Spencer's concluding tribute given at her funeral in Westminster Abbey.

Following the death of Diana on 31 August 1997 and the subsequent decision to create a memorial and open the house and estate to the public, the garden designer Dan Pearson was commissioned to update the park and gardens, to accommodate for visitors. A series of 36 oak trees was planted along the access road, symbolic of the years of Diana's life. Thousands of plants were planted, including 100 white rambling roses on the island and 1000 white water lilies, donated by Stowe School, in the water around it



### **COTON MANOR GARDENS**

Originally laid out in the 1920's by the grandparents of the present owner, the garden has been developed and extended by successive generations capitalising on its natural setting, attractive views and abundant water. The 17th century manor house acts as a central focus for the garden, its walls supporting many roses and shrubs, while the surrounding terraces are populated by numerous colourful pots and containers.



The widely respected Good Gardens Guide says of Coton *'This is a beautifully maintained garden of exceptional charm with unexpected vistas at every turn ... there is something for everyone here'*.



**Evening**

**Group Dinner is included this evening**

**Overnight in Cambridge (1)**

**DAY 5****RAF COSFORD****Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2025****Morning Breakfast at your accommodation**

Board your coach for the journey to the Royal Airforce Midland Museum

**Main Group RAF COSFORD MIDLAND MUSEUM**

The Royal Air Force Museum Cosford, is in the County of Shropshire. The museum is dedicated to the history of aviation and the Royal Air Force in particular.

The National Cold War Exhibition opened at Cosford in February 2007. The exhibition houses the museum's V bombers and other Cold War aircraft in a newly constructed 8,000m<sup>2</sup> exhibition building designed by architects Fielden Clegg Bradley. The exhibition concept and design were developed by Neal Potter and includes 'silo theatres' which depict, in a variety of media, the key tensions of the Cold War period. The Cosford museum houses a large collection of aero engines with the majority of these located in Hangar 1. A small side room of this hangar contains a display of rocket engines. The museum holds a large collection of missiles and rocket-powered weapons, including several rare German World War II types. The majority are in the National Cold War Exhibition, with the German collection on display in Hangar 1. You will also find on the museum site the Michael Beetham Conservation Centre. The centre restores aircraft and artefacts for display at both Cosford and London. It is named in honour of Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Michael James Beetham and it was opened by him on 13 May 2002.

**PARTNER PROGRAM****IRON BRIDGE TELFORD**

The world's first iron bridge was erected over the River Severn in Shropshire in 1779. This pioneering structure marked a turning point in English design and engineering. After it was built, cast iron came to be widely used in the construction of bridges, aqueducts, and buildings. The Iron Bridge's story began in the early 18th century, in the nearby village of Coalbrookdale. Abraham Darby pioneered the smelting of iron using coke, a process that was a catalyst for the Industrial Revolution. It was Abraham Darby III who cast the ironwork for the bridge that still stands today, using the same techniques developed by his grandfather. The bridge was so successful that it gave its name to the spectacular wooded valley which surrounds it, now recognised as the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site. Telford is an ever evolving and developing town in the West Midlands which continues to make its mark as a place of innovation, invention and technology harking back to its industrial heritage and significant history.



Telford has drive, ambition and energy - it is a great place to live, work in or to visit. Named after the famous civil engineer Thomas Telford, Telford is often called the "birthplace of industry" due to places in the borough such as the Ironbridge Gorge that are internationally recognised for their key role in the industrial revolution



**SHREWSBURY ABBEY**

There has been a place of worship on this site since Anglo-Saxon times. The Abbey was founded as a Benedictine Monastery by Roger de Montgomery in 1083 on the site of an existing Saxon church. After the dissolution of the monasteries in the reign of King Henry VIII the part of the Abbey building which survived continued as a Parish Church – as it is to this day.



**Board your coach** for the return journey to Cambridge

**Evening**      **Group dinner is included this evening**

**Overnight Cambridge (2)**

**DAY 6      LINCOLNSHIRE HERITAGE AVIATION CENTRE**
**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

**Morning**      **Breakfast at your accommodation**

Board the coach for the short journey to East Kirkby

**Main Group**      Today you will visit the Lincolnshire Heritage Aviation Centre, home of Lancaster “Just Jane”

**EAST KIRKBY RAF WW2 BOMER BASE**

The Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre is a family run museum and was set up in 1989. It is now widely seen as a living memorial to the 55,573 men of Bomber Command who lost their lives during WW2. It holds two of the rarest aircraft, an Avro Lancaster Bomber MKVII and DH Mosquito NFII in its collection along with many wartime vehicles including a Ford WOT1 Crew Bus, the only one of its kind in existence. The site was formerly known as RAF East Kirkby. Today it retains the original 1940's Control Tower, and the Hangar is built on the original wartime hangar base



The Museum is built up entirely around RAF Bomber Command but the exhibits and displays span many areas such 'The Home Front' and 'Escape and Evasion' giving you a wide perspective on wartime Britain and the trials and tribulation of the Second World War

**AFTERNOON**      Free time in Cambridge

**Evening**      You are free at your leisure this evening

**Overnight**      **Overnight in Cambridge (3)**

**DAY 7 THE AMERICAN'S AIRSHOW - DUXFORD****Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025****Morning Breakfast at your accommodation**

Board your coach for the journey to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford

**Main Group DUXFORD - IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM**

Take the day to explore atmospheric exhibitions and discover historic objects in Britain's largest aviation museum. Duxford houses nearly 200 aircraft, military vehicles and more, spread across 7 large hangars. The museum is set within a historic WW2 RAF site where you can learn about Duxford's role in the First World War, Second World War and the Cold War. IWM Duxford is nearly a mile long with seven impressive exhibition spaces, including contemporary award-winning exhibitions which will take you on an unforgettable journey through times of war and peace. Take time to explore the historic site and stroll amongst the well-preserved hangars and buildings. Visit the workshops and witness the meticulous craftsmanship involved in restoring Spitfire and Hurricane. Wander through the American Hanger and touch a century of American military flight.



**"THE AMERICANS" - DUXFORD FLYING DAYS AIRSHOW 10am to 6pm**

One of Duxford's annual 'Flying Days' this airshow pays tribute to the Americans. Witness a variety of American military aircraft from WW2 though to the current day fighters.

**Evening** You are free at your leisure this evening**Overnight Overnight in Cambridge (4)****DAY 8 NEWARK AVIATION CENTRE – 617 SQUADRON****Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2025****Morning Breakfast at your accommodation**

Board your coach for the journey to the Newark Air Museum

## NEWARK AVIATION MUSEUM

The air museum is located on part of the former World War Two airfield of RAF Winthorpe, close to the Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire border. Aviation heritage has been at the centre of this historical site for more than forty-five years. Very little remains of the original wartime buildings and what remains of the original runways are no longer fit for use.



A diverse collection of aircraft and cockpit sections covers the history of aviation; the aircraft on display include 13 National Benchmark aircraft; 34 significant aircraft and 21 noteworthy aircraft as listed in the National Aviation Heritage Register.

## Afternoon

### THE PETWOOD HOTEL

The hotel building served as a military hospital for injured soldiers during the Great War complete with wards and an operating theatre, but it is as the home of the legendary 617 "Dambusters" Squadron in WW2 that the Petwood is best known. Occupied from 1942, it was originally home to officers of both 97 and 619 squadrons, but when 619 squadron moved to RAF Coningsby and 617 squadron moved to RAF Woodhall Spa the officers of 617 made the Petwood their home. Composed of



Canadian, New Zealand and Australian as well as British Royal Air Force personnel, 617 Squadron were a top-secret squadron entrusted with the specific task of crippling three key German Dams. Carried out on the night of May 17th, 1943, this crucial attack was called "Operation Chastise" and utilised an ingenious "Bouncing Bomb" designed by engineer Sir Barnes Wallis.

The bouncing explosive was a stroke of genius, able to be launched directly at targets before it detonated underwater, creating a "bubble pulse" effect capable of causing huge damage to enemy targets. The Squadrons badge, picturing a breached wall, and motto "Après moi, le deluge" ("After me, the flood") pay homage to the effectiveness of the mission. Today, the Squadron Bar hosts a range of memorabilia and tributes to Wing Commander Guy Gibson VC, Group Captain Leonard Cheshire VC and their Officers.



The Petwood was a scene of some jubilant celebrations with the breakthroughs made by 617 Squadron, as well as soul searching after tragic losses. We can only imagine the sheer bravery of the Squadron and the huge risks they took in enemy territory, facing death time and again. Guy Gibson alone, the squadron's heroic young Wing Commander, carried out over 170 raids by the age of 24. Just two years later he was killed in action. The squadron's feats live on at the Petwood, which remains a fascinating testament to the Dambusters as well as all the squadrons and RAF personnel who visited or stayed over the years.

**Evening** A very special **Group Dinner** is included this evening in the Officers Mess, where the Officers of 617 "Dambuster" Squadron gathered each evening during WW2



**Overnight** **Petwood Hall (1)**

**DAY 9 LINCOLN BOMBER COMMAND MEMORIAL Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

**Morning** **Breakfast at your accommodation**

Board your coach for the journey to the Lincoln IBC Memorial

**Main Group** **INTERNATIONAL BOMBER COMMAND MEMORIAL** The International Bomber Command Centre provides a world-class facility acknowledging the efforts, sacrifices and commitment of the men and women, from 62 different nations, who came together in Bomber Command during WWII. The project also covers the stories of those who suffered because of the bombing campaigns and those whose survival was guaranteed by the humanitarian operations of Bomber Command. During WWII over a million men and women served or supported Bomber Command. They came from nations across the world and were united in their efforts to protect freedom. Every member of Bomber Command aircrew was a volunteer.



**Afternoon****LINCOLN CATHEDRAL**

Dominating the Lincoln skyline for over 900 years, Lincoln Cathedral is one of the most beautiful cathedrals in the United Kingdom. It is one of Lincolnshire's most iconic landmarks. Stroll around the outside and see for yourself what an impressive feat of engineering, this combination of Norman and Gothic architecture is. Once you enter Lincoln Cathedral, take a few moments to absorb the tranquillity, beauty and size that surrounds you.



Take a guided tour to learn more about the cathedral's chequered history. Watch the sun stream through the Bishop's Eye and the Dean's Eye - the two stunning, circular stained-glass windows facing each other in the North and South Transepts. Spot the famous Lincoln Imp or where the filming of *The DaVinci Code* took place. Visit the Cathedral's two libraries – a Medieval Library dating from 1422 which contains beautifully illuminated manuscripts and some of the earliest books ever printed; and the elegant Sir Christopher Wren Library, designed by the great man himself.

**LINCOLN CASTLE**

Lincoln Castle is a major medieval castle constructed in Lincoln, England, during the late 11th century by William the Conqueror on the site of a pre-existing Roman fortress. The castle is unusual in that it has two mottes.<sup>1</sup> It is one of only two such castles in the country, the other being at Lewes in East Sussex. Lincoln Castle remained in use as a prison and court into modern times and is one of the better preserved castles in England; the Crown Courts continue to this day. It is open to the public and you may like to walk around the walls from which there are views of the castle complex, the cathedral, the city, and surrounding countryside.

**MAGNA CARTA**

On 15 June 1215 it is said that King John and the barons met at Runnymede and agreed a charter of liberties that would change the course of history. Magna Carta enshrined the principle that the king had to act within the rule of law and became one of the most celebrated documents in history with enduring worldwide influence. In 1217 Magna Carta was re-issued with some of the original clauses incorporated into a second charter, Charter of the Forest. It was at this point that the original charter assumed the name of Magna Carta, meaning Great Charter, to distinguish it from the second, smaller charter.



Lincoln Castle is now the only place in the world where an original 1215 Magna Carta and 1217 Charter of the Forest can be seen side by side, on permanent loan from Lincoln Cathedral. Alongside the vault is an underground widescreen cinema with 210-degree wraparound screen and 3D sound. Immerse yourself in the story of King John, the barons and the birth of the Great Charter. Today Magna Carta is regarded as an international icon of liberty and freedom. It is on UNESCO’s Memory of the World Register, which recognises important documentary heritage worldwide.

**ROMAN RUINS**

Lincoln flourished from its Roman foundations, becoming the third-largest city in the country during medieval times. Much of the magnificent Roman architecture either fell into decay or was subsumed into the foundations of new buildings. Lincoln Castle, for example, was built in the 11th century on the site of the old Roman legionary fortress. Plenty of evidence of the Roman era in Lincoln survived, however. Sections of the old city walls and gates still stand proudly today, while the traces of old Roman roads and foundations of original buildings are visible around modern Lincoln.



Check into your Lincoln accommodation.

**Evening**      **Group dinner is included this evening**

**Overnight**    **Lincoln (1)**

**DAY 10**      **LONDON CITY**      **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

**Morning**      **Breakfast at your accommodation**

Transfer to London

**London City**

Enjoy a two hour fully guided coach tour of London with our Blue Badge accredited local tour guide Kevin as we visit all the major sights of London in comfort.

**Afternoon**      Free leisure time to explore London

Book into your London accommodation  
**Crowne Plaza London Kings Cross**

**Evening**      **Group dinner is included this evening**



DAY 11

BROOKLANDS

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2025**Morning** Breakfast at your accommodation**Main Group** **BROOKLANDS MUSEUM**

Spend a day exploring the Brooklands Museum. Brooklands Museum is a motoring and aviation museum occupying part of the former historic Brooklands motor-racing circuit in Weybridge, Surrey, England. Brooklands was the birthplace of British motorsport and aviation and the site of many engineering and technological achievements throughout eight decades of the 20th century.



The racing circuit was constructed by local landowner Hugh F. Locke King in 1907 and was the first purpose-built racing circuit in the world. Many records were set there. Many aviation firsts are also associated with Brooklands, which soon became one of Britain's first aerodromes. It attracted many aviation pioneers prior to World War I, and was also a leading aircraft design and manufacturing centre in the 20th century, producing a remarkable total of some 18,600 new aircraft of nearly 260 types between 1908 and 1987. Brooklands-based aircraft companies such as

Bleriot, Hawker, Sopwith, Martinsyde, and Vickers were key players in the early years of aviation and were crucial to its early development. The 'Daily Mail Round Britain Air Race' of 1911 started and finished at Brooklands, and both the event and the location later influenced the theme of the classic 1965 Twentieth Century Fox British film comedy 'Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines' (based at the fictitious but remarkably similar 'Brookley'). Flying training was an important function of the aerodrome both before World War I and between the wars.

We can see many displays and exhibits portraying the contribution made by Brooklands to the British aircraft industry in both world wars, and also in the post-war years with Vickers and later the British Aircraft Corporation and British Aerospace.

Vickers purchased the site in 1946 for £330,000, which allowed them to produce civilian aircraft. The most notable of these was the Vickers Viscount, of which 444 were built between Brooklands and Bournemouth. In 1959 the Vanguard was test flown from Brooklands. In 1962 the test flight for the prototype VC10 also took place at Brooklands, and subsequently all 53 production VC10s were flown out as well before being completed and test flown at Wisley.



**Afternoon**      **LONDON BUS MUSEUM**  
 The World's largest collection of working, historic London buses covering 100 years from an 1870s horsebus to a 1970s Leyland Titan and including early open-top motor-buses, streamlined 1930s designs, WW2 austerity, the standard 1950s types and the famous Routemasters. During school half-term holidays and some summer weekends, classic bus rides are available for a small additional charge



**Evening**            You are free at your leisure this evening

**Overnight in London (2)**  
**Crowne Plaza Kings Cross London**

**DAY 12**      **LONDON - UXBRIDGE**      **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

**Morning**            **Breakfast at your accommodation**

Enjoy breakfast then board your coach for approximately ½ an hour's drive to the 11 Group Battle of Britain bunker at Uxbridge

**Main Group**      **BATTLE OF BRITAIN BUNKER**



The Battle of Britain Bunker is the Royal Air Force's primary Force Development and Public Engagement asset. The Bunker housed the Fighter Command No.11 Group Operations Room throughout the Second World War, the room from which most of the RAF's side of the Battle of Britain was coordinated. Key decisions that would decide the fate of the nation were taken in the Bunker throughout 1940 and it was thanks to the tireless work of the plotters and controllers that the RAF's fighter pilots managed to keep the Luftwaffe at bay

**Afternoon**            The afternoon is free at your leisure

**Evening**            You are free at your leisure this evening

**Overnight in London (3)**  
**Crowne Plaza Kings Cross London**



**DAY 13 LONDON – HENDON RAF MUSEUM****Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025****Morning** Breakfast at your accommodation before boarding your coach to RAF Hendon**Main Group HENDON – RAF AVIATION MUSEUM**

The museum was officially opened on 15 November 1972 by Queen Elizabeth II. The hangars housed 36 aircraft at opening. Over the years, the collection has increased in size substantially, and aircraft not on display at Hendon were stored or displayed at smaller local RAF station museums.



The Battle of Britain Museum Hall was opened by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother in November 1978. The London site has been regularly expanded. In recent years landscaping has taken place to illustrate what the former Hendon airfield was like, in what has become a heavily urbanised area. As of 2012, it had over 100 aircraft, including the Avro Lancaster S-Sugar, which flew 137 night sorties. It also includes the only complete Hawker Typhoon. Added in 2018, as part of the RAF Centenary exhibitions, were a Westland Sea King helicopter (once flown by Prince William, Prince of Wales), a Gnat jet trainer of the Red Arrows, and a full-scale mock-up of the F-35 Lightning II stealth fighter.

**Afternoon** The afternoon is free at your leisure**Evening** Group Farewell Dinner and Awards Evening – something special**DAY 14 IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM LONDON****Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025****Morning** Breakfast at your accommodation

Check out of your accommodation for the final time before boarding our coach once more.

**IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM LONDON**

IWM London is the world's leading museum of war. Founded during the First World War, it gives voice to the extraordinary experiences of ordinary people forced to live their lives in a world torn apart by conflict.

Displayed across six floors, the museum's vast collections encompass a wealth of objects - from uniforms to photographs, vehicles to films, weapons to works of art - each with a story to tell.



Step into the world-famous atrium and experience the continuing influence of war on the world, from the First World War to present day in the award-winning galleries, all filled with the power to move, inspire and transform.

**Afternoon****BENTLEY PRIORY**

Bentley Priory is best known for its pivotal role as Headquarters Fighter Command during the Battle of Britain in 1940. Before the Air Ministry bought Bentley Priory in 1926, it had been a private home, hotel and girls' school. Bentley Priory was once a Priory, home to a cell of Augustinian Friars. It is



believed that the Priory was founded in 1170 by Ranulf de Glanville, who became Chief Justiciary of England. During the dissolution of the monasteries in the 1500s, Bentley Priory ceased to be a priory and the land changed hands on numerous occasions, including brief ownership by King Henry VIII. In 1766 the estate was sold to James Duberly. Duberly pulled down the original Priory and built the first part of the present Bentley Priory, on the highest point on the ridge some distance from the original site.

Dowager Queen Adelaide, the aunt of Queen Victoria, lived at Bentley Priory during the last year of her life, 1848-1849. The spectacular ceiling in the 'Queen Adelaide' room at Bentley Priory was restored as part of the creation of the Museum. In 1926, the Priory estate was split up and one lot comprising of the Priory itself and around 40 acres was sold to the Air Ministry, for a sum believed to be £25,000. In May 1926, Inland Area (Training Command), part of the Air Defence of Great Britain (ADGB) moved into the Priory. As the RAF grew, the ADGB was dissolved and Bomber, Coastal, Fighter and Training Commands were created.

In July 1936, RAF Fighter Command was created and moved into Bentley Priory. Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding became its first Commander-in-Chief. Fighter Command amalgamated with Bomber Command in 1968, to form Strike Command and Bentley Priory became an administrative and training unit. The RAF were Bentley Priory's longest serving residents, occupying the Mansion House and grounds until they departed in 2008.

**PARTNERS PROGRAM**

Free time or today you may choose to take a self-guided tour of the Museum of Natural History

## NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM LONDON

The Natural History Museum (NHM) is home to life and earth science specimens comprising some 70 million items within 5 main collections: Botany, Entomology, Mineralogy, Palaeontology and Zoology. The museum is a world-renowned centre of research, specialising in taxonomy, identification, and conservation. Given the age of the institution, many of the collections have great historical as well as scientific value, such as specimens collected by Darwin. The Natural History Museum Library contains extensive books, journals, manuscripts, and artwork collections linked to the work and research of the scientific departments.



**Afternoon** Transfer to Heathrow Airport, London for your **flight home**

Board your flight home to Australia

FLIGHT	DATE	ORIGIN/DESTINATION	DEP/ARR	COMPANY
SQ	TBA	LHR/SIN	TBA	SINGAPORE AIRLINES
SQ	TBA	SIN/MEL	TBA	

**DAY 15** IN TRANSIT

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2025**

**ARRIVE HOME TO AUSTRALIA**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2025**

Arrive at Tullamarine International Airport; proceed through immigration and collect your bags from the baggage hall and then clear Customs

## END OF FORMAL TOUR ARRANGEMENTS

### COLOUR KEY INDICATORS

**Black:** Main Group Program activities in the Tour Overview

**Purple:** PARTNER PROGRAM activities in the Tour Overview

**Aqua:** ENTRY TICKETS

**Green:** GUIDED TOURS

## GUIDES/TOUR DIRECTOR

- Dedicated Tour Director for duration of tour
- 3AW celebrity Tour Host and aviation enthusiast Darren James
- Specialist local tour guides at venues or activities specified in the itinerary
- Gratuities, fees and tips for the specialist guides, coach driver and tour guides plus for all included meals

## TRANSPORTATION

- International flights (additional cost)
- Melbourne / London return
- Coaches and ground transport as indicated in the itinerary
- All airport transfers

## INCLUSIONS

### MEALS

- 13 breakfasts
- 6 Group Dinners
- 617 Squadron Officers Mess Dinner
- 1 Farewell Group Dinner

### ACCOMMODATION

- 3 nights accommodation in Oxford
- 4 nights accommodation in Cambridge
- 1 night accommodation in Petwood House
- 3 nights accommodation in Lincoln
- 4 nights accommodation in London

## ACTIVITIES

- Royal International Air Tattoo [entry tickets](#)
- [Entry to the](#) fully catered Cotswolds Enclosure at The Royal International Air Tattoo
- [Entry to](#) Bletchley Park
- **Guided tour of the Cotswolds including Moreton-In-Marsh, Stow on the Wold**
- [Entry to](#) Althorp House
- [Entry to](#) RAF Cosford Aviation Museum
- [Entry and guided tour of](#) International Bomber Command Memorial
- [Entry to](#) Newark Aviation Museum
- [Entry and guided tour of](#) Lincoln Cathedral
- [Entry and guided tour of](#) Lincoln Castle
- [Viewing of](#) Magna Carta
- **Guided walking tour of** Roman Ruins
- [Entry to](#) Lincolnshire Aviation Museum and Memorial – home of Lancaster ‘Just Jane’
- [Entry to](#) IWM Duxford airfield and hangers
- [Entry to](#) The Americans Airshow
- [Entry to](#) Kent Battle of Britain Museum
- [Entry and guided tour of](#) Cambridge Cathedral
- [Entry to](#) Brooklands Aviation and Motoring Museum

- London 'BLUE BADGE' guided tour
- Guided on-board Concorde Experience Tour
- Entrance and guided tour of the Group 11 Battle of Britain Bunker
- Entry to RAF Hendon Museum

## OPTIONS

- Fly a Spitfire ML-407 Grace Mk9 Spitfire twin seat (at additional cost)

## IMPORTANT NOTES

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

- Travel insurance is required for travel with Martini Tours and Latitude Group Travel
- We **strongly advise all passengers** to have insurance. Some age conditions may apply.
- If you incur medical expenses while overseas and you do not have travel insurance, you are personally liable for covering these costs. The Government cannot pay for medical expenses overseas, nor will your domestic private health insurance
- ***Travel insurance is as essential as your passport, regardless of your travel destination. If you can't afford travel insurance, you can't afford to travel!***

### VISAS, PASSPORTS AND ALL TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION

- You are responsible for understanding which visas are required for this tour. You are also responsible for ensuring that your passport has a minimum of six months validity from the date of your return from this tour, or you may not be permitted return travel from England
- Australian citizens do not require a visa to enter **England**
- You must supply a photocopy of your passport photo page to Latitude Group Travel. If you are applying for a new passport, please ensure that you do so immediately and that you supply a copy of the photo page as soon as your new passport arrives. Please advise Latitude Group Travel that you are applying for a new passport
- We require a copy of the photo page of the passport merely to check that name in your passport matches the name on your airline ticket. All other passport related issues, including date of expiry, citizenship or residency are your responsibility
- If you are not an Australian citizen, we will endeavour to assist with visa advice; however, since this information changes regularly and often rapidly, it is up to you to remain up to date on what visas are required by you

If you are NOT an Australian citizen or you are NOT travelling on an Australian passport, you will also need to ensure that you have the correct documentation to allow you to re-enter Australia. This is usually in your passport. Please check the dates on this documentation and ensure that it covers your return to Australia. If there is no information in your passport, or the dates are incorrect, you will need to contact Immigration. If you are not sure about this, please contact Latitude Group Travel and we will try to assist you

- If you are not travelling on an Australian passport and you need to renew your passport, you must ensure that you contact Australian Immigration after you have received your new passport from your country of citizenship, to have the correct re-entry to Australia documentation entered into this passport

- If you are not travelling on an Australian passport and Australian Immigration gives you documentation that is not in the passport you have from your country of citizenship, please make sure that you take the original documentation with you, but also leave a copy of this at home, in case it gets lost. This is important information, and you must take excellent care of it
- We also advise you to take a full photocopy of your passport and leave it with someone you trust at home in case your passport gets lost. Replacing your passport while away takes time, but it will take less time if you can produce a copy

### PERSONAL SPENDING MONEY

- You are responsible for having enough money to cover meals that are not included in this tour (see 'Inclusions, Meals'). You are also responsible for having enough money to make phone calls home and for any sundry expenses such as drinks, snacks, laundry and souvenirs, gifts etc. If you are not sure what you may need extra money for, please ask
- We advise you to take a small amount of money in cash and some money in an overseas debit/ATM card from your bank or similar

### MEALS EXCEPT WHERE SPECIFIED

- Whilst some meals are included. we advise you to have enough cash or money to cover those meals/snacks not included in your tour

### MOBILE TRAVEL PLANS

- Most mobile service providers have special passes or plans for international travel. Please contact them prior to your departure
- Latitude Group Travel advises you to turn off your mobile data usage prior to leaving Australia unless you have a travel plan

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