

PROVISIONAL ITINERARY & GENERAL INFORMATION

Thursday, 23rd April – Tuesday, 5th May

This fabulous tour travels from the Atlantic Ocean westwards through the Dixie states of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi and Louisiana visiting aviation museums and collections, large and small, famous and not so famous; culminating in the annual US Air Force airshow on one of their two operational B-52 airbases: Barksdale! The itinerary includes:

- JRB Charleston Air Park
- Patriot's Point – USS Yorktown aircraft carrier +20 aircraft
- National Museum of the Mighty 8th Air Force
- Museum of Aviation, Warner Robins
- Tuskegee University (F-4 Phantom)
- Maxwell AFB Air Park
- US Army Aviation Museum, Fort Rucker
- National Naval Aviation Museum, NAS Pensacola plus storage and restoration sites
- Battleship USS Alabama +25 aircraft collection
- Keesler AFB Air Park
- Anglo-American Lightning Organisation, Kiln (T5 XS422)
- National WWII Museum, New Orleans
- JRB New Orleans Base Collection (tbc)
- USS Kidd, Baton Rouge (P-40N Warhawk & A-7E Corsair II)
- Global Power (ex-8th Air Force) Museum, Barksdale AFB
- 2 full days at Barksdale AFB's airshow, featuring the Blue Angels



Flights are from Terminal 2 at London's Heathrow Airport on the scheduled services of United Airlines; transport in-country is by specially chartered coach (*please read the appropriate paragraph on page 6 General Information*); and we stay each night in a comfortable hotel on a bed and breakfast basis.

PROVISIONAL ITINERARY (all times local & approximate)

DAY 1: THURSDAY, 23rd APRIL

Between 07:00hrs. and 08:05hrs. please check-in with United Airlines in Terminal 2 at London's Heathrow Airport. Then meet your Ian Allan Tour Manager and fellow enthusiasts who will be gathering in the check-in area. Latest check-in time advised by the airline is 2 hours prior to departure, i.e. 08:05hrs..

✈ Heathrow Airport, Terminal 5	Flight: UA 28	Departs: 10:05
✈ New York, Newark Airport		Arrives: 12:55

After Immigration Control we collect our luggage from Baggage Reclaim and proceed through Customs; we then hand our suitcase in at the airline's transfer desk and go along to the gate of our onward flight to Charleston.

✈ New York, Newark Airport	Flight: UA 4532	Departs: 16:17
✈ Charleston		Arrives: 18:17

In the Arrivals Hall we meet our driver, board our air-conditioned coach and check-in for 2 nights on a bed and breakfast basis at the nearby Holiday Inn Charleston Airport & Convention Centre; facilities include on-site restaurant and bar and free internet. Website: www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/gb/en/north-charleston/chsno/hoteldetail

DAY 2: FRIDAY, 24th APRIL

At 09:00 hrs. we depart for Joint Base Charleston air base, where our visit to their Air Park is confirmed. The collection includes a D-Day veteran C-47 Skytrain, C-121 Constellation, C-124C Globemaster II and a C-141B Starlifter.



Then to Charleston Harbour, to Patriots Point and the US Navy's famous 'flattop', the USS Yorktown: on board are more than 20 piston and jet warbirds.

There is also a retired US Navy destroyer and a submarine open for viewing.

Website: www.patriotspoint.org/explore_museum/aircraft/

At the end of the visits we enjoy some time at leisure in the historic area of Charleston, before arriving back at our hotel by 17:00 hrs..

DAY 3: SATURDAY, 25th APRIL

We leave the hotel at 09:00 hrs. for Pooler near Savannah in Georgia, arriving around midday at the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force. On display inside and outside the museum are several aircraft including a B-17 Flying Fortress, B-24 Liberator (cockpit), Stearman Kadet, B-47 Stratojet, F-4C Phantom and a MiG-17. Website: <http://mightyeighth.org/exhibits/#on-the-grounds>

In the afternoon we have time at leisure in beautiful, historic Savannah before checking in at our hotel at 17:00 hrs., the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Savannah Airport-Pooler; we stay one night on a bed and hot buffet breakfast basis. The hotel's facilities include on-site restaurant, lounge bar and free internet.

Website: www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/pooler/pxpga/hoteldetail

DAY 4: SUNDAY, 26th APRIL

Departing the hotel at 09:00 hrs. we head northwest for Warner Robins, and after a stop for lunch (at your own expense), we arrive at one of America's finest aviation collections: the Museum of Aviation.

It is the second-largest aerospace museum of the United States Air Force. The museum is located just outside Warner Robins, Georgia, and near Robins Air Force Base. It has a total of 80+ aircraft on display, located around the grounds and in five different buildings.

The SR-71A Blackbird on display is the current record holder for flight airspeed. Serial number 61-7958 set an absolute speed record of 1,905.81 knots (2,193.2 mph; 3,529.6 km/h) on 28th July, 1976, which still stands today.

Website: www.museumofaviation.org/



This evening we stay in nearby Macon at the Hilton Garden Inn Macon/Mercer University Hotel; a full buffet breakfast is included. Along with complimentary wi-fi there is a restaurant and lounge on-site. Website: <http://hiltongardeninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/georgia/hilton-garden-inn-macon-merc-university-MCNGAGI/index.html>

DAY 5: MONDAY, 27th APRIL

At 09:00 hrs. we set off for Montgomery in Alabama. En-route we come to the town of Tuskegee and stop by the University's General Daniel "Chappie" James Centre to view a F-4 Phantom on a pole.

After a break for lunch (at your own expense), we arrive early afternoon at Maxwell Air Force Base to visit the Air Park: its display of 12 aircraft range from a giant B-52 Stratofortress to a Cessna 0-1A Bird Dog. Website: www.maxwell.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123314563

This evening we stay on a bed and hot continental breakfast basis at the Fairfield Inn, Dothan in Alabama. In front of the hotel is an "Applebee's" restaurant and lounge (this chain is popular with our groups). Internet is free. Website: www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/dhnal-fairfield-inn-dothan/

DAY 6: TUESDAY, 28th APRIL

Fort Rucker is a 30-minutes drive away, and at 09:00 hrs. we arrive at the fabulous US Army Aviation Museum which has the largest collection of helicopters held by a museum in the world among the 50 fixed and rotary wing aircraft on display; like previous visits we will ask to see any aircraft currently undergoing restoration or in storage – is the Chinook with wings still there?! Website: www.armyaviationmuseum.org/index.php/museum/aircraft-collection



At midday we depart for Pensacola, making a short stop for lunch en-route (at your own expense); arriving mid-afternoon at Naval Air Station Pensacola we look around the fabulous collection in the National Naval Aviation Museum (pictured left). We will ask to see their storage area and any ongoing aircraft restoration work. Website: www.navalaviationmuseum.org/

This evening we stay at the Holiday Inn Mobile Airport on a bed and hot and cold breakfast basis. The hotel has a restaurant and lounge on-site, and free internet is available in all rooms. Website: www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/mobile/mobar/hoteldetail?cm_mmc=GoogleMaps_-hi_-USEN_-mobar

DAY 7: WEDNESDAY, 29th APRIL

Departing the hotel at 08:00 hrs. we head for Mobile Bay and stop by the US Navy's battleship the USS Alabama; its collection of over 25 aircraft include ex-CIA Blackbird (A-12), prototype of the YF-17 (P/F-18), a Presidential Fleet Huey and various fighters and bombers from WWII, Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, up to the present. Website: www.ussalabama.com/aircraft.php

Next stop is Biloxi and Keesler Air Force Base; we have confirmation of our visit to their Air Park.

En-route to Stennis International Airport near Kiln, we make a short lunch break (at your own expense), before arriving at the Anglo American Lightning Organisation: here we take a look at the ongoing restoration to flying status of the ex-RAF Lightning T5 XS422! Website: www.lightning422supporters.co.uk/

Arriving in Harvey, New Orleans we check-in to the Best Western Plus Westbank Hotel for a 2-night stay on a bed and hot breakfast basis. There is a restaurant and lounge on-site, and internet access. Website: <http://bestwesternlouisiana.com/hotels/best-western-plus-westbank>

DAY 8: THURSDAY, 30th APRIL

At 09:00 hrs. we leave for Magazine Street in central New Orleans, and the National WWII Museum (pictured right); this impressive museum highlights all the aspects of the conflict, and includes 3 aircraft: a Douglas C-47, TBM-3 Avenger and a Spitfire LF-Vb. Website: www.nationalww2museum.org/visit/exhibits/index.html



We then drive to the Joint Reserve Base New Orleans which has 7 aircraft on display in their Base Collection (this visit is to be confirmed).

This will be followed by free time in New Orleans' tourist area before returning to our hotel by 17:00 hrs.

DAY 9: FRIDAY, 1st MAY

At 08:00 hrs. we head north for Baton Rouge, making a stop in the centre of the city at the US Navy destroyer USS Kidd which has a P-40N Warhawk and a A-7E Corsair II on display.



Continuing north towards Shreveport we make a brief stop en-route for lunch (at your own expense), arriving during the first half of the afternoon at the Global Power (ex-8th Air Force) Museum – pictured left - which is located on the perimeter of Barksdale AFB. As the museum closes at 16:00 hrs. we will have a second, longer visit on Monday morning.

There are over 20 aircraft on display in the grounds, and we will also ask to be shown any of the museum's aircraft undergoing restoration or in storage. Website: http://barksdaleglobalpowermuseum.com/?page_id=6

We stay the next 3 nights at the Hilton Hotel Shreveport, on a bed and breakfast buffet basis – each person will receive a voucher for each breakfast, paying in part or full depending on what you have. On-site facilities include 3 restaurants, lounge, rooftop swimming pool and free wi-fi. Located downtown it is also just minutes from the airport, and in the heart of the shopping and entertainment area. There is a free shuttle to the airport. Website: www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/louisiana/hilton-shreveport-SHVSPHF/index.html

DAYS 10 & 11: SATURDAY, 2nd & SUNDAY, 3rd MAY

We depart each morning at 08:00 hrs. for 2 full days at the Barksdale Air Force Base Airshow. Included in the flying programme is the US Navy's Blue Angels aerobatic team.

DAY 12: MONDAY, 4th MAY

At 09:15 hrs. we depart for a second visit to the Global Power Museum which opens at 09:30 hrs. – today will also be “Departures Day” for airshow participants and it may be possible to photograph them from outside the base: see Scramble Aviation's website: www.scramble.nl/airfield-guide/barksdale-afb-la

At approximately 12:30 hrs. we leave the museum and transfer the 12 miles (25 minutes) to Shreveport Regional Airport where we check-in with United Airlines for our flights to London, via Houston; latest check-in time is 13:20 hrs..

✈ Shreveport	Flight: UA 5798	Departs: 15:20
✈ Houston		Arrives: 16:22

On arrival we follow the signs to the departure gate of our onward flight to London, and relax. Boarding should commence at around 17:30 hrs..

✈ Houston	Flight: UA 097	Departs: 18:20
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DAY 13: TUESDAY, 5th MAY

✈ Heathrow Airport, Terminal 2		Arrives: 09:40
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Whilst waiting for our luggage in Baggage Reclaim we take the opportunity to bid each other farewell – until the next time!

TOUR PRICE PER PERSON	TOUR: 227516
From: £ 2,249.00	Based on sharing a twin bedded room with private facilities on a bed and breakfast basis
From £ 559.00	Single room supplement
On request	Land only (please speak with one of our consultants before booking)

TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- Flights on the scheduled services of a major airline (currently United) from London's Heathrow Airport
- UK and US Airport Taxes, and UK Passenger Service Charge: currently £370.00 but subject to change
- All transfers by air-conditioned coach
- 11-night's accommodation in rooms with private facilities
- American style continental or hot breakfast each morning, as stated
- Admission to all aviation museums and collections as stated
- 2 days admission to the Barksdale AFB Airshow
- Services of an Ian Allan Tour Manager
- Coach driver's gratuity

NOT INCLUDED

- Meals, except as stated above
- Any optional excursions or pleasure flights offered during the tour
- Travel insurance – see General Information
- ESTA: required by UK Passport holders entering the USA under the visa waiver scheme – see General Information for details
- Personal expenditure, e.g. telephone calls, laundry, drinks, etc
- Additional tips and gratuities

Payment for Ian Allan Aviation Tours

A deposit of £300.00 per person should accompany your Booking Form, with the balance due 10 weeks prior to the tour's departure. Please see your Booking Confirmation/ Invoice for the exact date. Please note that a reminder of the payment date will not be sent.

Tours Affected by World Events or Unforeseen/Unplanned Circumstances

In an ever-changing world, events may occur immediately before or during a tour that result in cancellations or changes to the tour itinerary. For example, an increase in security may result in an approved visit being cancelled by the host, etc.. Ian Allan Aviation Tours cannot be held responsible for any tour being cancelled, or itineraries affected, due to world events or circumstances beyond our control.

Coach Travel

Ian Allan Aviation Tours only use coaches chartered from reputable companies, with a driver. Where we have had to cancel a tour, due to the small number of bookings, we have looked at the possibility of renting a 9-18 seater mini-van, with our tour manager driving. However, without exception, the hiring of such a vehicle is illegal if any of the occupants make any payment towards the rental price, fuel and/or other expenses - known as "for hire or reward". Any such rental, made without these facts being made known to the rental company at the time of booking, also invalidates all insurance covering the vehicle, contents and persons. The DVLA has also confirmed that any "for hire or reward" rental could breach the normal driving classification of a standard UK driver's license. Therefore, we do not undertake any tours using 9-18 seater mini-vans from a rental company; either with our tour manager, or a member of the group, driving.

Passports and Visas

Citizens of the UK are required to be in possession of a Full UK Passport, which must be valid for at least 6 months from the date of your return. You may also refer to the World Travel Guide: www.worldtravelguide.net for general information on passports, visas and health requirements.

FCO Consular Advice

The FCO's consular service is a major operation. Every hour of every day consular staff around the world are advising and helping British nationals. We suggest you visit www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice for up-to-date passport, visa and security information on the destination you intend visiting.

In addition, the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) provides both a web site <http://abta.com/go-travel> and an Information Line, telephone: 020 3117 0599. This line is open between the hours 10:00–16:00 hrs., Monday-Friday (excluding bank holidays).

IMPORTANT – MANDATORY REGULATIONS FOR ENTRY TO THE USA

- Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA)

Anyone seeking entry to the USA must have an "Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA)", which was introduced by the US government in January 2010 for all persons flying into the United States under the Visa Waiver Scheme. This includes all UK passport holders.

This means that all travellers are required to apply for authorisation to travel under the scheme before arriving at their departure airport. The changes affect all passport holders from 34 countries currently participating in the Visa Waiver Scheme (includes the UK).

You must apply prior to departing on this tour. You can only apply online at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov> From September 2010 a charge of \$14.00 was introduced for all new ESTA applications. If you apply on the above website there are NO OTHER CHARGES WHATSOEVER for this service - but be warned, there are several unofficial websites that offer you this service but will charge a higher amount.

The application process will take approximately 15 minutes and authorisation is normally granted immediately but may take up to 72 hours. We recommend that you apply for authorisation at the time of booking your place on our tour - or at very latest 72 hours before the tour departs, to ensure you are able to travel.

If your application for an ESTA is unsuccessful you must apply for a US visa from the US Embassy in London.

Once granted, your ESTA is valid for two years, during which time you need not re-apply however you are required to update your ESTA each time you visit the USA. After 2 years you will have to apply for another ESTA.

We have heard of instances where an ESTA has been cancelled by the US authorities without prior warning or notification to the holder! Therefore, we recommend you check your ESTA when planning your travel to the USA.

We also strongly recommend that you keep a photocopy of the ESTA with your passport.

For more information, please go to <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>, or www.visitusa.org.uk

The responsibility for acquiring an ESTA lies with each individual (and not Ian Allan Aviation Tours). If you arrive at check-in without an ESTA (or a US Visa if you were refused an ESTA), you will not be allowed to travel to the USA. No refund of the tour price whatsoever will be possible from Ian Allan Aviation Tours. It is also extremely unlikely that any travel insurance company would agree any subsequent claim therefore it is important that you act upon this information NOW.

Examination of Flight Bookings by US Customs – APIS Information

All airlines flying to the United States are obliged to provide information about US-bound passengers, under an agreement reached between the United States and the European Commission on the 18th February 2003.

Under the agreement, as of 5th March 2003, US customs officials have discretionary power to examine passenger booking information held on computer reservation systems relating to flights beginning, ending, or stopping over in the United States. The European Commission has received guarantees from the United States that this information will be used appropriately.

This requirement, based on the US Air Safety and Transportation law of November 2001, is intended to increase air safety and is in addition to the information supplied when applying for your ESTA (see above paragraph).

Inspection of Luggage by US Transport Security Administration

Items of luggage going into the hold of the aircraft may be opened by US Transport Security Administration (TSA) officials without you being present. In some instances locked suitcases have been forced open, their contents checked, and then re-sealed with tape and a note left inside by the TSA. Most airlines and insurance companies insist that your unaccompanied luggage be locked at all times; the TSA prefer they are left unlocked! The only advice we (and ABTA) can give at this time is that it is your choice whether you leave your suitcases locked or unlocked. You may wish to consult your travel insurance company before making a decision. Or you may purchase a "TSA Approved Lock", available at various local retail shops (and airports); these locks can be opened by the TSA, thereby, avoiding damage to your luggage.

First Nights Stay in the USA

Airlines flying into the USA are required to provide the American authorities with the full postal address of where each passenger will stay on their first night. The address of where you will stay will be included with the final itinerary.

Baggage Regulations – United Airlines – Departing from London's Heathrow Airport

Checked Baggage: United Airlines will transport 1 piece of 'checked' baggage per person free of charge, the total dimensions of which must not exceed 62ins (158cms), including the handle, pockets and wheels. Maximum weight is 23kg (50lb).

Cabin Baggage: for travel out of London's Heathrow Airport you may take 1 carry-on bag (and 1 personal item). Your main piece of hand baggage can be up to the dimensions of 9ins x 14ins x 22 ins (22cms x 35cms x 56cms), including handles and wheels. You must be able to lift the bag into the overhead locker unaided. Carry-on baggage must be stowed in carry-on compartments of the aircraft, under a seat, or in an overhead locker. Your bag must also fit into the bag gauge, available at the check-in area. All larger-sized items must go in the aircraft's hold.

The maximum dimensions for your personal item, such as a shoulder bag, backpack, laptop bag or other small item, are 9ins x 10ins x 17ins (22 cms x 25 cms x 43s cm).

Limited quantities of liquids are allowed as hand baggage but must be carried separately through security in a clear plastic, zip-top or re-sealable bag that does not exceed 20cm x 20cm (8 inches x 8 inches), or quart size. Individual containers must not exceed 90ml or 3 American ounces, and items must fit in the bag comfortably and the bag must be completely closed. The bag can only contain: Shampoo, suntan lotions, creams, toothpaste, hair gel and hair spray, perfumes, cosmetics such as mascara and lip gloss, water and other drinks, soups and syrups and other items of a similar consistency.

Hand baggage can include: Electronic equipment including mobile phones, digital cameras and MP3 players (such as i-Pods). Laptops must be removed from the bag for x-ray. Prescription medicines in liquid form, e.g. diabetic kit.

All electrical devices, e.g. cameras, laptops, i-pads, mobile phones etc, must be fully charged. If not they, and you, may have to undergo additional security checks which could result in you missing your flight; in which case – depending on the co-operation of the airline - you may have to purchase new tickets (if you do not board your first flight then all other flights are automatically cancelled).

At security all remaining items should be placed in the tray provided for screening, e.g. car keys and fobs, cash, solid food, books, newspapers, cigarettes and tobacco, belts and shoes. Pushchairs and walking aids are permitted but must be x-ray screened. All wheelchairs will be subject to search. Please note, you may be subject to a hand search by the security team and required to remove footwear to be x-ray screened.

Once in the departure lounge passengers may purchase certain items in any shop and take it onto the aircraft as normal. Passengers may be subject to a secondary search at the departure gate before boarding. Any items not on the approved list will be removed.

As baggage regulations can change with little warning, due to security requirements, you are strongly advised to contact the airline for the latest information nearer to the time of your departure.

Meals

Meals are not normally included in the price of our tours unless they are included within the room rate as we realise that not everyone wants three meals a day, especially in the USA where dinner tends to be quite large. Furthermore, hotel meals can be expensive and in general, we have found it is better to allow each person to decide for themselves. On this tour either hot buffet and/or cold continental breakfast is included, as stated.

In-flight meals when included within the cost of the air ticket form part of the tour price, however some airlines (primarily European carriers) now only serve refreshments for which they charge accordingly.

Health Requirements

There are currently no known mandatory or recommended precautions required for travel to the USA. However, we strongly recommend that you consult your local doctor or health centre for the latest information.

Climate and Dress

The weather should be warm and sunny during our visit with temperatures in the low 80° sF.

Travel Insurance

For citizens of the United Kingdom, Ian Allan Aviation Tours can provide competitive and comprehensive insurance cover for the duration of your tour. However, if you do not wish to take out our insurance, you must ensure that comparable or greater cover is taken. The number of your Insurance Policy should be written, if known, on your Booking Form at the time of making the reservation, but no later than the date when final payment is due. A copy of the policy must be forwarded to Ian Allan Aviation Tours.

Individual insurance policies are arranged through CoverMore Insurance Services Limited; the premiums for which will vary according to your circumstances. Full details are available on request.

The Policies for the USA also include cover for non-scheduled flights, i.e. pleasure flights, where the aircraft is licensed and insured to undertake such flights, and where a payment is made.

Wheelchair Assistance at Airports

Anyone requiring wheelchair assistance at airports must have this service requested and confirmed in advance. Airlines and/or airports can no longer provide this service without prior confirmation, therefore, please annotate your booking form accordingly.

Flexible Itinerary

We are very happy for enthusiasts to take time away from the printed itinerary to pursue their own interests during multi-day stays in the same place, so long as they inform the Tour Manager. It will be the individual's responsibility to ensure that they re-join the group in the hotel at the stated time on the day of departure.

Land Only Price

For enthusiasts who would prefer to join the tour in the USA (instead of flying from the UK with the main group), we would be pleased to quote a 'Land Only' price. This price *does not* include any flights whatsoever and you are strongly advised to contact us before making your own flight arrangements in the event that there has been a change to the published itinerary. This is particularly relevant where travel on domestic flights forms part of your individual itinerary.

Please note that the 'Land Only' price is based on you meeting the tour at the first hotel, the Holiday Inn-Charleston Airport, which offers a free airport transfer service.

Flight Timings & Connecting Travel Arrangements to Departure Airport

All flight departure and arrival times are correct at the time of preparing each itinerary, however, airlines may change these times with little or no prior warning. In practice such changes are only a few minutes either way and the final itinerary will show the actual times. Clients making their own arrangements to get to the departure airport by air, rail, coach etc., should bare the above in mind if purchasing non-refundable or non-changeable tickets. Ian Allan Aviation Tours cannot be held responsible for any changes to flight times, and any privately arranged travel tickets to the airport becoming invalid.

Pre-departure

For connecting flights from UK regional airports - please call Ian Allan Aviation Tours on 01932 255625 for the latest special offers available.

Airport Hotel and/or Car Parking - we can offer special rates for the above at most UK airports, please ask for details.

“Purple” Meet & Greet Car Parking at London’s Heathrow Airport, Terminal 2: from your home or overnight hotel, simply drive to Terminal 2, to the Short Stay Car Park, Zone A, and hand your car over to the waiting driver who will then take it to an off-airport, secure, car park. On your return, the driver and your car will be waiting for you in the same location. Simple and very convenient. Recommended by our Tour Managers. Please call for details.

Pleasure Flights – Disclaimer

Should you decide to undertake any pleasure/sightseeing flights which have not been offered or sanctioned by us, Ian Allan Aviation Tours will not be held liable for any injuries or death resulting thereon.

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