



The Victory Tour

24-day tour departing **24th August 2025**, escorted from NZ by aviation enthusiasts Kevin & Melanie Salisbury.

Featuring main events

Best of British Airshow, Shuttleworth
The Victory Show
Battle of Britain Airshow, Duxford
Goodwood Revival

Also including –

Runnymede Air Force Memorial - de Havilland Aircraft Museum – Bentwaters Cold War Museum
Parham Airfield Museum – Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome
Kelvedon Hatch Secret Nuclear Bunker – Midland Air Museum – RAF Museum Cosford
National Memorial Arboretum – Armourgeddon Military Museum – Imperial War Museum Duxford
Fort Amherst – Spitfire & Hurricane Memorial Museum – RAF Manston History Museum
The WonderWorks - Kent Battle of Britain Museum – The Battle of Britain Memorial
Tangmere Military Aviation Museum - Wings Aviation Museum



Let us take you

Day 6 – Friday 29th August Stow Maries & Kelvedon Hatch Secret Bunker (B)

As the largest intact group of Royal Flying Corps (RFC) buildings from WWI, Stow Maries is a treasure trove of historical significance. Unlike other aerodromes, it was not adapted for further military use, preserving its original charm and character. The growing collection of artefacts and memorabilia directly relating to the site further highlights its unique heritage. We spend the morning enjoying the history here.

This afternoon, hidden in a bunker deep beneath the Essex countryside we discover the three lives of Kelvedon Hatch Secret Nuclear Bunker starting with its role as an RAF ROTOR Station, then a brief period as a civil defence centre through to its most recent life as a Regional Government HQ. Designed for up to 600 military and civilian personnel, possibly even the Prime Minister, their collective task being to organise the survival of the population in the awful aftermath of a nuclear war.

Hotel: [The Kingfisher, Bedford](#)

Day 7 – Saturday 30th August Shuttleworth Best of British Airshow (B)

With parades, thrilling air displays, and various interactive experiences, there's plenty to keep us entertained at The Shuttleworth Collection today. The collection is home to the oldest airworthy British aircraft, significant agricultural machinery, iconic motor vehicles and bikes, and depicts the history of flight from the early 1900s to the 1950s. It shows how the aeroplane operated in the pioneering years, was rapidly developed through necessity during World War I, was used for sport, pleasure, and business in the 1920s and 30s and once again became a fighting machine in World War II. We also have the beautiful Swiss Gardens and Shuttleworth House to explore.



Hotel: [Leonardo Hotel, Hinkley](#)

Day 8 – Sunday 31st August The Victory Show (B)

The Victory Show is celebrating its 20th year and has some exciting plans in the pipeline. There will be over 60 stalls, static WWII Aircraft and 1940's working and static Farming Machinery. There will be a huge Army Encampment and 50+ Re-enactment Groups, 200+ Vehicles including Heavy Armour, Paul Harper playing throughout the day in the Marquee and there will be an afternoon air display. We will have VIP tickets that include - entrance to the VIP enclosure, unlimited soft drink refreshments throughout the day, show brochure, flight line walk, meet the pilots, freshly prepared lunch, seating in the re-enactment battle viewing area and an unobstructed close view of the air display.

Hotel: [Leonardo Hotel, Hinkley](#)

Day 9 – Monday 1st Sept Midland Air Museum (B, D)

Today we enjoy this large, diverse collection including Vulcan XL360. Strongly featured are cold war aircraft, Coventry's local aviation history and the fascinating history of the jet age, in the Sir Frank Whittle Jet Heritage Centre which details the life and work of the UK's jet engine inventor.

Hotel: [Copthorne Merry Hill, Dudley](#)

Day 10 – Tuesday 2nd Sept At leisure in Dudley (B)

It's a day at leisure - you might like to rest, use the hotel leisure facilities, walk to the local shopping mall, take a stroll along the canal or venture further to Dudley Zoo and Castle, the Black Country Living Museum or take a boat ride through Dudley Canal & Caverns.

Hotel: [Copthorne Merry Hill, Dudley](#)

Day 11 – Wednesday 3rd Sept RAF Museum Midlands (B)

We'll spend the day at the vast and impressive RAF Museum, Cosford. There are over 75 historic aircraft ranging from WW1 era through to the Cold War including the world's oldest Spitfire, the unique TSR2, one of only 4 surviving Lincolns and the mighty Vulcan bomber to name but a few. All three British V Bombers are on display - Vulcan, Victor and Valiant and the English Electric Lightning is suspended vertically! The Test Flight hangar houses some extraordinary and exotic prototype aircraft, many having been produced in secrecy.

Hotel: [Copthorne Merry Hill, Dudley](#)

Day 12 – Thursday 4th Sept **National Memorial Arboretum & Armourgeddon** **(B)**

The National Memorial Arboretum was created in 1997 to be a place of joy where the lives of people would be remembered by trees that would grow and mature. Now this evolving, maturing woodland landscape has 25,000 trees and over 400 memorials for military, public service and civilian organisations and associations, along with tributes for individuals. It will be a serene and beautiful place to start our day.

In contrast, Armourgeddon comprises of several weatherproof hangers jam-packed full of military vehicles, guns, cannons and military paraphernalia. The 'Inner Sanctum' has a variety of pieces telling of the human side of WWII and a few exhibits from WWI. There will be the opportunity to do a tank driving experience as an optional extra (limited places) if it's on your bucket list.

After our visit we head over to Cambridge.

Hotel: [The Gonville Hotel, Cambridge](#)

Day 13 – Friday 5th Sept **Imperial War Museum** **(B)**

Imperial War Museum. This is a pre-show opportunity for those who want maximum time to explore the hangars, as airshow day has limited time. Duxford played a vital part in the Battle of Britain, and you can stand in awe of the world's most famous aircraft at this historic museum. Be dwarfed by the B-52 and Concorde; get up close to famous Second World War classics including the Spitfire, Lancaster and Tiger Moth. There will be some activity at Duxford in readiness for the airshow tomorrow. If you prefer we can take you to Saffron Waldon to do the town trail and have lunch.

Or you can enjoy your day in Cambridge. All guests are entitled to a free tour of Cambridge in the hotel's Bentley.

Hotel: [The Gonville Hotel, Cambridge](#)

Day 14 – Saturday 6th Sept **Battle of Britain Airshow, Duxford** **(B)**

Duxford Battle of Britain Air Show is presented by IWM Duxford, the former RAF site that played a leading role in some of the most dramatic days in 20th century history - serving as a base for many of the Spitfire and Hurricane pilots during the Second World War. The full historic air show experience includes vintage entertainment throughout the day, culminating with our famous spectacular mass spitfire fly-past over the airfield. We will be part of a spectacular event commemorating the 85th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. Our Gold Pass includes use of a lined and carpeted marquee with luxury toilets, seated viewing enclosure, private access to the flight line walk, a souvenir programme, pilot meet & greet opportunities.



Hotel: [The Gonville Hotel, Cambridge](#)

Day 15 – Sunday 7th Sept **At Leisure in Cambridge** **(B)**

Today is a full day to explore Cambridge, take a punt ride down the backs of the University buildings, have a pint in the RAF bar at the famous Eagle Pub, enjoy the botanic Gardens, climb St Mary's church tower for breathtaking views of the city, hop on and off the bus for a tour and visit the American Cemetery. If you are a fan of the tv show Grantchester, you could pop out to the village as see where it was filmed or hop on a train to the amazing Ely Cathedral. There are free guided walking tours you can join too.

If you wish to return to Duxford for another day at the airshow at your own cost, you may do so using the public shuttle bus service which departs from the railway station behind the hotel.

Hotel: [The Gonville Hotel, Cambridge](#)

Day 16 – Monday 8th Sept **Fort Amherst or Chatham Docks** **(B)**

On the way to "Hellfire Corner" Kent, we stop at Chatham to explore the complex maze of tunnels hidden within Fort Amherst, built to protect and defend the Medway Towns for over 300 years, from Napoleonic to World War II.

If you prefer, you can visit the historic dockyard just next door, with HMS Gannet, HMS Cavalier, submarine HMS Ocelot, the Victorian Ropery and No1 Smithery. This option will incur an additional cost of GBP20.

On arrival in Ramsgate there will be some time to check out the Royal Ramsgate Marina area and if you haven't done the Fort Amhurst Tunnels you may like to take the Ramsgate Tunnels tour at 4pm (optional)

Hotel: [San Clu, Ramsgate](#)

Day 17 – Tuesday 9th Sept RAF Manston & Spitfire & Hurricane Memorial Museums & The Wonder Works (B)

The two aviation museums are side by side, giving us a great selection of aircraft and cockpits to explore. At the Spitfire & Hurricane Memorial Museum we see Spitfire Mk XVI - TB 752, one of the few surviving Spitfires with a wartime record and Hurricane LF751, both saved by the Medway Aircraft Preservation Society. RAF Manston History Museum has over 20 aircraft & cockpits and various other exhibitions. There is an option to fly their Lancaster or Spitfire simulator. We will finish our afternoon with a visit to The WonderWorks, based in the old factory which became home to Hornby Hobbies in 1954. If you are a fan of iconic brands Hornby, Scalextric, Airfix, CORGI and Pocher you will be in hobby heaven here.

If you prefer you can stay in Ramsgate for the day.

Hotel: [San Clu, Ramsgate](#)

Day 18 – Wednesday 10th Sept The Kent Battle of Britain Museum and Memorial (B)

This morning, we visit The Kent Battle of Britain Museum, Hawkinge, with the world's largest collection of Battle of Britain memorabilia including artefacts from over 700 crashed aircraft. Outside, the new Spirit of the Few Monument sits among the Hurricanes. Later we head to Capel-le-Ferne to the Battle of Britain Memorial and The Wing which houses The Scramble Experience, a hands-on attraction that uses audio-visual effects, a video wall and other special techniques to show something of what it was like for the Few in the summer and early autumn of 1940.

Hotel: [River Haven, Rye](#)

Day 19 – Thursday 11th Sept Rye at leisure & Middle Farn Cider Barn (B)

We have time this morning to explore historic Rye, the most famous pirate port in the 13th Century with its cobbles streets medieval houses and maybe pop into the Mermaid Inn first built in 1156.

Then heading West towards Brighton, we'll stop at Middle Farm for refreshments including sampling and comparing from a range of over 100 different draught ciders and perries. It's a 625-acre working family farm with a farm shop, cider barn, tearooms, butchery, bakery, plants & gifts.

Hotel: [DoubleTree by Hilton Metropole, Brighton](#)

Day 20 – Friday 12th Sept At Leisure in Brighton (B)

You can choose your activities today. For a relaxing day you can wander along the seafront to the pier, stroll through the famous "Lanes" and independent shopping streets, go up the i360 tower for a birds eye view, hop on the Volk's Electric Railway from the Sea Life Centre along to the vibrant Brighton Marina or visit The Royal Pavilion - Brighton's most popular attraction. You could just take the bus up to Devils Dyke for a scenic pub lunch.

Hotel: [DoubleTree by Hilton Metropole, Brighton](#)

Day 21 – Saturday 13th Sept Goodwood Revival (B)

We step back in time and spend the day at the world's greatest historic motor race meeting, the only sporting event of its kind to be staged entirely in a period theme with a legacy of treasured cars and vintage fashion that have survived across the generations. The festival is a showcase for wheel-to-wheel racing around a classic circuit, untouched by more modern developments, and relives the glory days of the Goodwood Circuit, which ranked alongside Silverstone as Britain's leading racing venue throughout its active years 1948 to 1966. There will be a display of static aircraft. Also based here at Goodwood is the Silver Spitfire.

Hotel: [DoubleTree by Hilton Metropole, Brighton](#)

Day 22 – Sunday 14th Sept Tangmere & Wings Aviation Museums (B, L, D in flight)

This morning is our visit to Tangmere Military Aviation Museum, situated on the old RAF Tangmere airfield. From its beginnings in 1916, through its illustrious service as one of Britain's front line fighter bases during WW2 and on to its key role as home to the world speed record breaking aircraft of the High-Speed Flight in the post war years, it has occupied a unique place in aviation history. Here you can see priceless historic aircraft such as Neville Duke's world record breaking Hawker Hunter, actual equipment used by the brave SOE agents who were carried into occupied France on 'black Lysander' flights from Tangmere, flight simulators where you can try your hand at flying, and a full-sized replica of the very first Spitfire prototype. We will have our farewell lunch at a pub on the way to Wings Aviation Museum.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Tour costs - Tour costs are based on specially negotiated airfares on which special conditions apply, and on double/twin share accommodation. Costs are based on a minimum number of 14 passengers. For passengers travelling alone, a single supplement is payable, or there is the possibility of a same sex room share. If you cannot be matched, the single supplement is payable. Single occupancy rooms will be double or twin bedding.

Fitness - A reasonable level of fitness is required to make the most of the museums and sightseeing. Due to the nature of some of our hotels you may be expected to manage a set of stairs; however, we will help manage your luggage on these occasions. Some hotels have showers over the bath as is common in the UK.

Reservations and Payment - Your reservation will be confirmed on receipt of a non-refundable deposit of \$500. Final balance is due by 24th May or immediately, if booked after 24th May.

Changes to Tour Costs - Tour costs are based on exchange rates as at December 2024, and are subject to change. Airfares are based on group departures and taxes correct as of December 2024. Should these costs change, it may be necessary to make a surcharge on the tour. Once full payment has been received, no surcharge will be made in respect of currency or fuel surcharges. However, changes imposed by governments, or their agencies are not covered by this guarantee.

Changes to Itinerary - If improvements can be made to the itinerary or circumstances beyond our control make it necessary to make changes, we reserve the right to do so. Goodwood Revival may be on Friday or Saturday.

Cancellation refunds and flight changes - Notice of cancellation must be in writing. Changes to flights once ticketed will incur charges. After the final balance has been paid, the following scale of charges will apply.

Cancellation period	Fees as a percentage of tour price
Up to 24 th May	Loss of deposit
25 th May – 24 th June	50%
25 th June onwards	100%

Insurance - For cancellations, we regret that we are not able to make refunds against any unused part of the tour. It is therefore essential that you have sufficient insurance to cover your loss. We strongly recommend a complete and comprehensive travel insurance policy. We accept no responsibility for any loss caused by insufficient or lack of insurance cover.

Optional Return Dates - The international airfare on which this tour is based allows individual passengers to return independently on a space available basis, subject to costs at the time.

Passports and Visas - A current passport 6 months validity is essential. NZ & Australian passport holders do not require visas however from 8th Jan 2024 an online ETA will need to be applied for to enter the UK. Non-NZ passport holders must be in possession of a re-entry permit. Passports and visa are not the tour operator's responsibility.

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