

# VBC Masters of the Air Tour September 11-19, 2024 Itinerary

## Wednesday Sept 11 Depart USA

#### <u>Thursday Sept 12 Arrival – Uxbridge – Edgware – Milton Keynes</u>

Arrive LHR. Meet your Gate 1 Tour Manager in the arrival Hall. Depart via deluxe motorcoach to Uxbridge. Stop for a breakfast along the way.

Arrival at Uxbridge visit the Battle Of Britain Uxbridge Bunker with scheduled onsite tour. (The bunker is accessed via 76 steps and can be unsuitable to those with reduced mobility)

The Battle of Britain Bunker is an underground operations room at RAF Uxbridge, formerly used by No. 11 Group Fighter Command during the Second World War.

Fighter aircraft operations were controlled from there throughout the War but most notably during the Battle of Britain and on D-Day. Some time for lunch under own arrangements.

In the afternoon entry to Royal Airforce Museum - Northwest London location (3 specialty tours of 10 persons each - these are listed as "Experience Tours")

Travel toward Milton Keynes for Check in & Group Dinner

Overnight: Milton Keynes

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

<u>Friday Sept 13 Milton Keynes – Bletchley – Cambridge</u>

Depart to Bletchley Park, an English country house and estate in Bletchley, Milton Keynes that became the principal centre of Allied code-breaking during the Second World War.

Admission and tour with audio guide.

Enjoy an Afternoon Tea and then travel to Cambridge. The evening at leisure.

Overnight: Cambridge

Meals: Breakfast, Afternoon Tea

## <u>Saturday Sept 14 Cambridge – Duxford – Cambridge</u>

Today travel to Duxford. Gold passes at Duxford, Imperial War Museum - Battle of Britain Air Show. Gold Experience bookers - enjoy the day of action and activity from the comfort of our VIP hospitality enclosure:

- Entry to the exclusive Gold Marquee providing indoor and outdoor seating.
- Located in front of the Flightline providing the very best views on the day.
- A VIP parking permit.
- Talks relevant to the theme of the air show, exclusively from the comfort of the Gold Marquee.
- Pilot meet and greet opportunities, subject to pilot availability on the day.
- A complimentary air show programme.
- Access to exclusive toilets for Gold Experience guests.

In the afternoon return to Cambridge and visit the American Cemetery. Evening dinner at hotel.

Overnight: Cambridge

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

## <u>Sunday Sept 15 Cambridge – Duxford – Cambridge</u>

Return to Duxford with General Group Entry tickets.

In the mid-afternoon return to Cambridge. The remainder of the day and evening at leisure.

Return to Hotel. Dinner on own.

Overnight: Cambridge

Meals: Breakfast

#### <u>Monday Sept 16 Cambridge – Thorpe Abbotts – Denham – Ipswich</u>

Today we depart to the 100<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Museum at Thorpe Abbotts and the Red Feather Museum - Home of the 95th Bomb Group. The 95th Bomb Group Heritage Association operates a museum, known as the Red Feather Club, from a number of faithfully restored buildings on one of the communal sites of the 95th, to help keep their memory, and the vital contribution they made to the war effort, alive. The official UK home of the 95th is a living museum and monument to the only Eighth Air Force Bomb Group to receive the Distinguished Unit Citation three times.

Evening dinner at a local pub or restaurant in Ipswich.

Overnight: Ipswich

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

## Tuesday Sept 17 Ipswich - London

After breakfast depart to London. On arrival, meet your blue Badge Guide. Visit to St Paul's Cathedral, an Anglican cathedral in London, England, and is the seat of the Bishop of London. The cathedral serves as the mother church of the Diocese of London. Visit includes the Cathedral Floor, Crypt and the Dome Galleries. Admission also includes multimedia guides. Visit St. Clement Dane's. an Anglican church in the City of Westminster, London. RAF Chaplaincy Services at St Clement Danes complements RAF

Station Chaplaincy. In London District it works collaboratively with its sister services to provide whole force pastoral and spiritual care, irrespective of religious belief or status. For generations, members of the Royal Air Force family have enjoyed services of Holy Matrimony and Baptisms. Memorial and funeral serves have taken special place. These remain a strong feature today.

The church holds the Books of Remembrance to all those who have died in service in the Royal Air Force. It also displays unique RAF artefacts from its 100-year history and treasures from the old parish. It is situated outside the Royal Courts of Justice on the Strand. Although the first church on the site was reputedly founded in the 9th century by the Danes, the current building was completed in 1682 by Sir Christopher Wren. Our final visit today is the Churchill War Museum

Overnight: London

Meals: Breakfast

#### Wednesday Sept 18 Free Day

Today free at leisure.

Tonight farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight: London

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

## **Thursday Sept 19 Depart**

After morning breakfast, transfer to LHR for international flight back to USA

Meals: Breakfast