



Tour Information



Magnificent Men Fly Again





The tour starts and finishes at the **Rose and Crown Hotel, Tonbridge**

125 High Street, Tonbridge

TN9 1DD

United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)3330 034292

Please note that transport to the hotel is not included in the price of the tour.



Transport

Driving directions to the hotel:

Take exit 2A from M26, A20 to A25/A227, and follow the A227 to Tonbridge High Street. At the roundabout, take the 1st exit onto London Road/A20 and then turn right onto Maidstone Road/A25. Continue to follow A25 for 2.5 miles and at the roundabout, take the 2nd exit onto Borough Green Road/A227, continue onto the High Street and the hotel will be on the left.

Travelling by train:

If you are travelling by train, Tonbridge railway station is the closest to the hotel, ½ mile away.



Accommodation

Rose and Crown Hotel, Tonbridge

The Best Western Rose & Crown Hotel in the heart of Tonbridge is full of old-world charm. Opposite Tonbridge Castle, it offers traditional hospitality, with the warmest of welcomes guaranteed. Retaining the unique feel of the original building, you'll be treated to oak beams and Jacobean panels, while all renovations and extensions have been sympathetic to its original design. Facilities include a bar and restaurant. Each of the bedrooms feature TV, radio, telephone and tea and coffee making facilities. There is free parking on-site.

Additional details can be found via the hotel website:

<https://www.bestwestern.co.uk/hotels/best-western-rose-and-crown-hotel-83792>

Check-in and departure from the hotel

On the day of arrival, you will be able to check-in at the hotel from 15.00, and the tour manager will meet you in the evening at the welcome reception.

On the last day of the tour, the tour will not finish until approximately 17.30 so you should check with your tour manager, or the hotel reception, where luggage may be stored until your departure.

Extra nights

If you have booked to stay an extra night at the hotel, this is on a bed and breakfast basis and check out from the hotel is at 11.00.

Special requests

If you haven't already done so, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.

Dining

On the first night of your stay, a private dinner with wine is provided. During the second evening of the tour, dinner is provided at the hotel restaurant. Breakfast on each day of your stay is included in the price. All other meals other than these stated are not included.



Places Visited

Biggin Hill Memorial Museum and St George's Chapel

Biggin Hill Memorial Museum tells the story of RAF Biggin Hill through the personal experiences of those who served there, and the community who supported them. The museum journey begins over 100 years ago when RAF Biggin Hill was just farmland. Its high altitude and strategically important location between London and continental Europe, destined it to become the most important airfield of the Battle of Britain, laying the foundation for the European landscape as we know it today. One of Britain's oldest aerodromes, RAF Biggin Hill is still internationally recognised as Sir Winston Churchill's 'strongest link'.

St George's RAF Chapel of Remembrance was built as a memorial to the aircrew who lost their lives flying from the Biggin Hill Sector during the Second World War. It was built in 1951 after a fundraising campaign led by Sir Winston Churchill. The chapel features a reredos, the Book of Remembrance, and 12 stained glass windows design by Sir Hugh Easton.

<https://bhmm.org.uk/>

RAF Kenley

It was in June 1917 when the area of a local golf course was commandeered for use by the RFC under the 'Defence of the Realm Act'. The first most people knew about it, and this included the Head Keeper, was when a gang of Canadian Forestry Corps started to clear the ground making way for airfield construction. The airfield was used as a base for various squadrons over the inter-war years and Empire Air Days were held annually from 1934 right the way through to 1939. These events drew tens of thousands of people to the airfield where they were also permitted access to the workshops, motor transport yards etc. With a watchful eye on the growing unrest in Europe the Air Days were a significant aid to recruitment as well as providing considerable reassurance to the public of RAF strength. Kenley's finest hour was the day of its greatest bombardment by the Luftwaffe on 18th August 1940. The 'early warning' radar had picked up a lot of enemy activity across the channel that sunny Sunday lunchtime and at about 12.45pm, the perceived threat resulted in 615 and 64 Squadrons being scrambled but targets were still unclear. At 1pm some sixty aircraft crossed the coast and all the local air raid sirens were sounded, fifteen minutes later the onslaught began; some pilots were still strapping themselves into their machines. Damage to the airfield and its facilities is well documented, three of the hangers were well alight, the equipment stores was a write off as were four Hurricanes and a Blenheim destroyed on the ground. Damage was sustained to another four parked aircraft and the station's medical facilities.

<https://kafg.org.uk/>

St Luke's Church, Whyteleafe

On 13th August 1940 St Luke's became the first Church to be damaged by enemy action when a bomb landed outside the Church in Whyteleafe Hill. In the Sanctuary on the left hand side of the church there is a 'Book of Remembrance' recording the names of the R.A.F. personnel of the Battle of Britain who served at nearby R.A.F. Kenley. Either side of the high altar are Memorial Boards dedicated to those who lost their lives while serving at RAF Kenley. St Luke's still has strong links with R.A.F.A. The War Graves Commission look after the graves in the churchyard of those killed in action during the last war.

<https://www.stlukeswhyteleafe.co.uk/>

Chartwell

Chartwell was the much-loved Churchill family home from 1922 and the place from which Sir Winston drew inspiration until the end of his life. The rooms remain much as they were when he lived here, with pictures, books and personal mementoes evoking the career and wide-ranging interests of a great statesman, writer,

painter and family man. The studio is home to the largest collection of Churchill's paintings that have been saved for the nation to see and enjoy. With his paints still laid out and a canvas waiting for completion, it looks like Winston has just stepped out the room for a moment. The hillside gardens reflect Sir Winston's love of the landscape and nature. They include the lakes he created, the kitchen garden and the Marycot, a playhouse designed for his youngest daughter Mary.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/chartwell>

Headcorn Aerodrome and Lashenden Air Warfare Museum

The Lashenden Air Warfare Museum, at Headcorn Aerodrome is one of the longest established aviation museums in the country, having been formed in 1970. The museum collection was started by members of the Maidstone branch of Royal Air Forces Association in the late 1960's. The museum itself came into being when the airfield owner, Mr Freeman, offered the Maidstone branch of the Royal Air Forces Association a building for use as a museum in early 1970. The museum opened to the public Easter 1970 taking on the name of Lashenden Air Warfare Museum (Lashenden being the wartime name of the airfield). The museum's first aircraft arrived just before Easter 1970, this being the very rare Fieseler Fi 103R-4 Reichenberg piloted V1 flying bomb.

During the visit you will be taken for the exclusive flight on either the Tiger Moth or Jackaroo bi-plane, which will take you up and over the aerodrome for approximately 20 minutes.

<https://www.lashendenairwarfaremuseum.co.uk/2.html>

National Memorial to the Few

The National Memorial to the Few is a peaceful space, ideal for quiet reflection, atop the famous White Cliffs and offering superb views across the Channel to France. The central statue of a lone pilot is complemented by the Christopher Foxley-Norris Memorial Wall, two replica aircraft and other items of interest. The Wing, open to the public since 2015, an eye-catching building was designed in the shape of a Spitfire wing, complete with its famous uplift, 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.

<https://www.battleofbritainmemorial.org>

Your Guide

Your guide, **David W Lee**. following a career with Rolls-Royce David joined the Imperial War Museum at Duxford and became the Deputy Director. During his tenure, there were many exciting developments on site including the impressive AirSpace. Acknowledged as an expert in his field, David is a Past Chairman of the Transport Trust and served on the National Executive of the British Aircraft Preservation Council. His most recent published work is '*Action Stations Revisited: Airfields of the South East*'.

Practical Information





Tour manager - Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operates according to plan. If you have any problems or questions please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.

Tipping – To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.

Walking Content – This tour has been graded a 3 out of 5 for walking difficulty.

Walking difficulty: 

Please see the key below for an explanation of the footprint symbols:

Very little walking involved	
Relaxed easy pace, mainly walking from coach to site	
Some walking between sites, good, flat walking surfaces	
Walking between sites, lots of standing for viewings	
On your feet all day, uneven terrain (cobblestones etc)	

Insurance

Although this is a UK holiday please note that, should you cancel your holiday, the amount paid is non-refundable. For this reason you may wish to take out insurance just in case an unforeseen event caused you to have to cancel the tour. As well as covering cancellations, your travel insurance will also cover your baggage and personal belongings in case they are lost or stolen.

Emergencies

Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:

020 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 1000-1600), telephone our emergency staff on:

07841 023807

PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.

Travel Editions

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