



# Tour Information



# Spies in the Sky

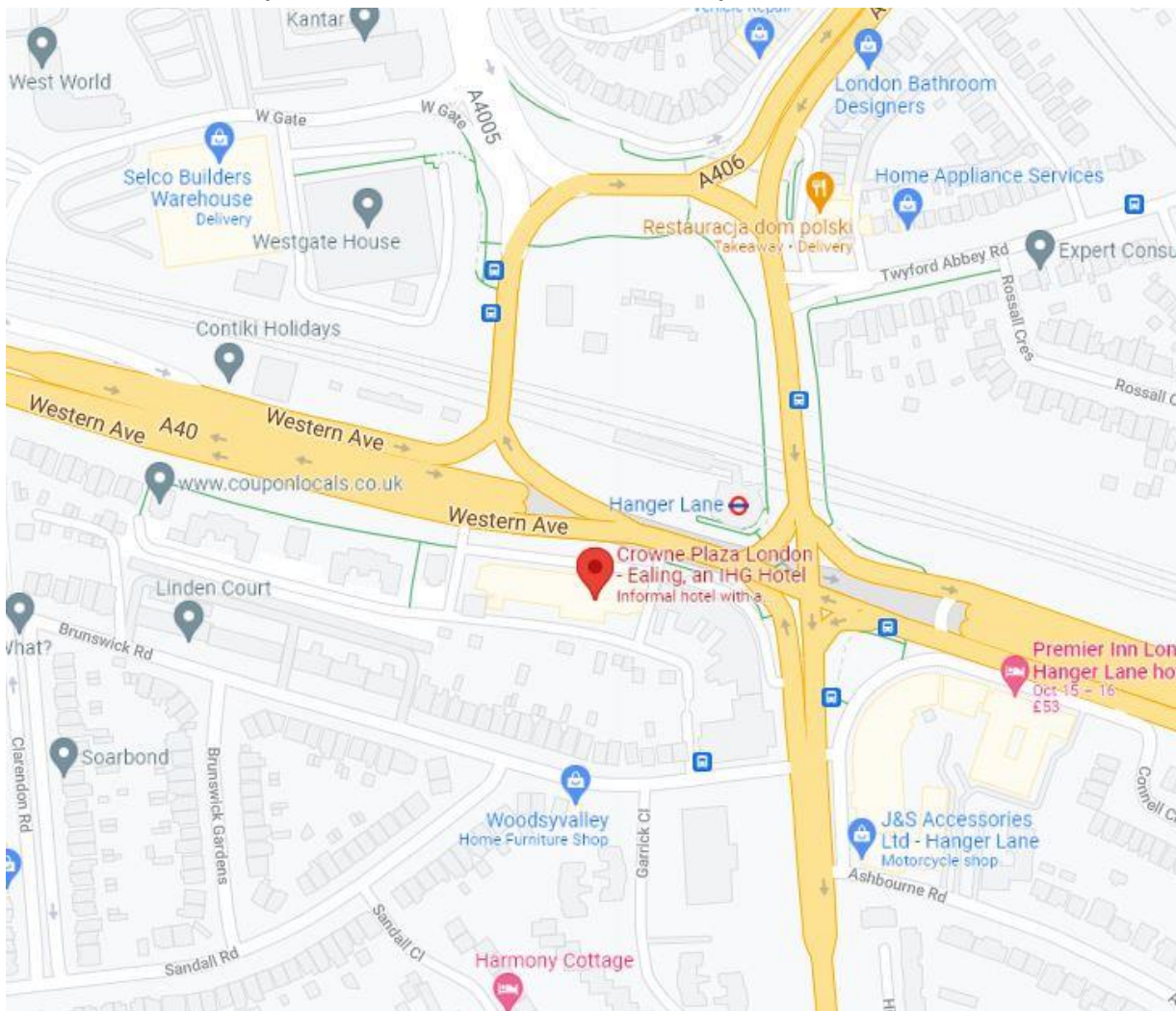




The tour starts and finishes at the **Crowne Plaza Hotel, Ealing**.

Western Avenue  
Hanger Lane  
Ealing  
West London  
W5 1HG  
Tel: 020 8233 3200

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



## Transport

**Travelling by car:** Exit the M25 at junction 16 onto M40 towards London(W)/London (C)/Uxbridge. Continue onto Western Ave/A40. Keep left to continue on Greystoke Park Terrace/Western Avenue, continue to follow Western Avenue. At Hanger Lane Gyratory, take the 5<sup>th</sup> exit and turn right and your destination will be on the right.

**Travelling by train:** The closest London Underground station is Hanger Lane, on the West Ruislip branch of the Central Line, and a 2-minute walk from the hotel.



# Accommodation

## **Crowne Plaza Hotel, Ealing**

Located on the outskirts of Central London, the four-star Crowne Plaza Ealing Hotel offers a restaurant, bar, gym and comfortable, contemporary designed bedrooms with private bath/shower, air-conditioning, TV and telephone.

Car parking is available at the hotel costing £15 per night, payable directly to the hotel.

More information can be found via the hotel's website:

<http://www.cp-londonealing.co.uk/index.asp>

## **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 18.15 - 18.30 so you should check with your tour manager, or the hotel reception, where luggage should 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 12.00.

## **Dining**

On the first night of your stay, a three-course dinner with wine is provided in the hotel restaurant. During the second evening of the tour, dinner with wine is provided at the hotel restaurant. Breakfast on both days of your stay is included in the price of the holiday but meals other than these are not included.

## **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.

# Places Visited

## **Churchill War Bunker**

During the Second World War, a group of basement offices in Whitehall served as the centre of Britain's war effort. The complex, known as the Cabinet War Rooms, was occupied by leading government ministers, military strategists and Prime Minister Winston Churchill. Following the devastation of the First World War, military planners feared up to 200,000 casualties from bombing in the first week of a future war. Plans to evacuate the prime minister, cabinet and essential staff from London were drawn up as early as the 1920s but concern that Londoners would feel abandoned if the prime minister and government were in a safe place, and issues about the speed of evacuation, led to a search for an emergency shelter in central London. In June 1938 the New Public Offices building was selected. It was near Parliament, with a strong steel frame and a large basement. The basement was adapted to provide meeting places for the War Cabinet during air raids and also housed a military information centre based around a 'Map Room'. Here, vital information for King George VI, Prime Minister Churchill and the armed forces was collected. The Cabinet War Rooms became fully operational on 27 August 1939, a week before Britain declared war on Germany. Churchill's War Cabinet met here 115 times, most often during the Blitz and the later German V-weapon offensive. The Cabinet War Rooms were in use 24 hours a day until 16 August 1945, when the lights were turned off in the Map Room for the first time in six years.

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/visits/churchill-war-rooms>

## **RAF Museum Hendon**

The Royal Air Force Museum London is located on the former Hendon Aerodrome. It includes five buildings and hangars showing the history of aviation and the Royal Air Force. It is part of the Royal Air Force Museum. The Museum site at Colindale was once part of the RAF Hendon station and prior to that, one of the first civilian airfields, acquired by Claude Grahame-White in 1911. In 1914, the aerodrome was requisitioned for Home Defense during the First World War. Hendon became a Royal Naval Air Station, training new pilots in the flying schools on site. Operations ceased after the end of the Great War. From 1927 to 1939 Hendon housed No. 601 Squadron, nicknamed the 'Millionaires' Squadron' due to the wealth and upper social class of its volunteers. In 1939, the outbreak of war saw Hendon once again become an operational RAF station, home to No. 24 Transport and Communications Squadron. RAF Hendon also served briefly as a fighter station during the Battle of Britain. The last flight to Hendon by a fixed-wing aircraft took place on 19 June 1968, when the last operational Blackburn Beverley was delivered to the Museum prior to its royal opening in 1972. Soon afterwards, the runways were removed to make way for the Grahame Park Housing Estate. The official closure of RAF Hendon took place on 1 April 1987.

<https://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/london/>

## **Battle of Britain Bunker**

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. The Bunker tour takes you down 76 steps to see the original 1940s Bunker and new soundscape, followed by a visit to the exhibition. The Battle of Britain Bunker Exhibition and Visitor Centre is a 2,000 square metre complex on two levels. Its design embraces the central themes of flight and aeroplanes. The Battle of Britain Bunker Exhibition and Visitor Centre includes a state-of-the-art exhibition detailing the development of the UK's air defence system from the First World War to the end of the Second World War. Visitors learn the key moments of history that shaped Britain's air defence and led to the construction of the Bunker and can listen to first-hand accounts from people that worked in the Bunker during its finest hour in 1940. You can see real artefacts including aircraft wreckage, uniforms, and telecommunications equipment used by the RAF to defend the nation. And you can experience for yourself the pressures, complexity and fun of working in the bunker with the hands-on, audio-visual interactives. The exhibition provides insight into how the Bunker worked, inside and out, featuring a replica of the original 1940 plotting map and a 360-degree

touch screen experience for those unable to go underground to visit the Bunker and the original Operations Room.

<http://battleofbritainbunker.co.uk/>

## **Danesfield House**

Originally some 4,000 years ago, the site was reputed to have been a resting place of nomadic tribes who paused to hunt nearby land and fish in the then untamed river. If you stand on the crest of the bank between the present house and the river and look west there is a steep ravine directly in front of you which is the remnant of the ramparts of a prehistoric fortification. Because of the ample game and the discovery of flint within the chalk-based cliffs, the site became a settlement throughout the ages and although not named "Danesfield" until many years later, this name originated from the Danish adventurers who made an encampment here. The next recollection of the estate is the transfer of land ownership in 1664 to an Edmund and Margaret Medlycott, they built what is assumed to be the first property on the site, known at that time as "Medlycotts" and there they lived with son James for over 60 years. Very little is known about the family and their name seldom occurs in any local record. In 1725 James Medlycott, or his executors, rented "Medlycotts" to a Mrs Morton, whose son John was to be the creator of the first Danesfield House. John Morton purchased the estate freehold in 1750 completely rebuilding the house and naming it Danesfield. After his death, his widow continued to live at Danesfield for some years, but eventually sold the estate in 1787 because of financial difficulties. The new owner, Robert Scott- Murray of Wimpole Street, London rebuilt the house erecting a roomy building of the classical Georgian type, which remained standing for more than a century. The property remained with his descendants – most notably his nephew, Charles Robert Scott-Murray, whose conversion to the Catholic faith in 1845 saw the erection of a Roman Catholic Church at Marlow and subsequently, a domestic Chapel at Danesfield. With the value of land on the wane, the house was let to successive tenants, who came principally for shooting and was eventually sold in 1897 to Mr Robert William Hudson who upon completion of the new mansion in 1901 demolished the old house and chapel. Robert William Hudson's work was scarcely completed when he decided to sell. Following Hudson's sale of the house it was then owned for a short time by a property speculator, Mr Hossack who passed it on a couple of years later to Mrs Arthur Hornby Lewis, who made many changes to the interior of the building and the layout of the gardens. Following her death in 1930, a period of financial depression led the trustees to seek permission to sell the estate. It passed to Mr Stanley Garton, who made preparations to take up residence, renovating the house and improving the amenities. They had hardly settled in before war clouds began to gather. When trouble was imminent, Colet Court School was evacuated from Hammersmith to Danesfield with an influx of approximately 80 boys. As war proceeded Danesfield was requisitioned as a base to develop the intelligence Section of the Royal Air Force (Reconnaissance and Photography Section) in 1941, Mr Garton moved to Kingswood and Colet Court School departed. The property remained in the hands of the RAF until 1977 when it was sold to Carnation Foods to be used as their Corporate Headquarters. Danesfield House Hotel opened on the 1st July 1991 as a luxury country house hotel.

<https://danesfieldhouse.co.uk/>

## Your Speaker

**The Guest Speaker will be Taylor Downing.**

Taylor Downing is a historian, a bestselling author and an award-winning television producer. He worked at the Imperial War Museum and Thames Television before establishing his own independent television production company, Flashback Television, which he ran for twenty-five years producing more than 200 historical documentaries for broadcasters around the world. He has written many books to accompany television series including Cold War (with Sir Jeremy Isaacs). His book *'Spies in the Sky'* was acclaimed as a fresh and vital contribution to understanding the work of RAF Medmenham and photo-intelligence in WWII. His other books include *'Churchill's War Lab'*, *'The World at War'*, *'Breakdown'*, *'1983 – The World at the Brink'* and most recently *'1942 – Britain at the Brink'*. He regularly gives talks and lectures and has contributed to many radio programmes and appeared in several television documentaries. He is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

Taylor Downing will give the following two lectures during your tour:

***'Churchill and the Boffins'***


***'Spies in the Sky'***

## 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.

**Walking Content** – This tour has been graded a 4 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 0900-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

07841 023807

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

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