

Press Kit

100 years of the International Air and Space Show

Paris Le Bourget - 15 to 21 June 2009



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« **T**o change society, you have to

change man. To change man, you have to make him want to » said Einstein. That's precisely what we've tried to do with the museum: tempt, surprise, entertain. We have the richest collection in the world in an extraordinary playground. Free entry has enabled us to

double visitor numbers (300,000 visitors expected in 2009). For most young people, it's the first time they've been into a museum! We are a passageway to culture. My dream? To make a « living » museum: First Flights will soon take place at the weekends when we will have gliders and planes from the collection flying. Simulators allow the public to experience sensations while having fun and in the end communities form around aircraft (Friends of the Jaguar, the Concorde, the Mirage...). They are going to start up their planes for a journey through the past. Taxiing a Concorde will be a bit like bringing it back to life!

Gérard FELDZER

Director of the Air and Space Museum

A Museum that is unique in the world

Founded in 1919 and inaugurated at Le Bourget in 1975, the French Air and Space Museum is one of the leading aviation museums in the world both in age and in the richness of its collections: there are over 350 aircraft, all of them authentic.

Lightning tour of the halls, retracing the whole era of aviation and space:

The adventure begins in the Grand Gallery, set up in the former air terminal. Here we find the beginnings of aviation, the first flying machines—a century old or even more for the first balloons. Magnificently restored, these exceptional aircraft have all flown: the Santos-Dumont Demoiselle, the Antoinette, the Farman Voisin—the airplane that flew the first closed kilometre circuit—a Blériot XI, identical to the one that crossed the Channel in 1909, a monocoque Deperdussin—the first airplane to reach 200 kph in 1913—a nacelle from the Zeppelin airship...

The Grand Gallery also displays the key airplanes from the First World War, which will soon be the centrepiece for the new permanent interactive exhibition called: "The Aces of 14-18" (*see page 6*).

Straight on to our next destination... the universe. The décor of the Space Hall transports the visitor to the stars. Here we find the first French rockets, the Soviet Soyuz T6 spaceship, moon lander vehicles, missiles, satellites et a plethora of objects that belonged to cosmonauts from all over the world. Opposite the Space Hall on the tarmac, a strange pentagonal building houses the Planetarium.

The Between-the-Wars and Light Aviation Hall gathers together an impressive collection of touring and aerobatic aircraft as well as airplanes from the great period of discovery and the first commercial air routes: the Farman Goliath that flew the first commercial link from Paris to London in 1919—the Museum owns the only surviving fuselage—the landing gear of the Oiseau Blanc, the only vestiges of the lost aviators Nungesser and Coli who tried to cross the Atlantic 15 days before Lindbergh, the Oiseau Canari, the Point d'Interrogation flown by Costes and Bellonte on the first non-stop Paris-New York flight in 1930, a Caudron, a postal service airplane belonging to Air Bleu...

The Rosette Hall is the nation's pride and joy. Here the French Air Force's aircraft from the 1950s to today are displayed: the Vautour, the Dassault Ouragan, Mystère IV, Mirage III as well as an animated learning model of a Mirage F1.

The Prototype Hall shows all the aeronautical projects that have given French aviation its distinguished name today: the Triton SO6000, the first French jet aircraft, designed in 1943, the prototype of the Mystère IV that broke the sound barrier in descent in 1953, the Leduc 010, the first plane in the world to fly with a ramjet, the Griffon, the first French aircraft to reach Mach 2 in 1958, the vertical takeoff Mirage III Balzac, the Trident, an airplane that combined the standard jet engine and a rocket .

The Concorde Hall only has three planes, but what a trio! The French Air and Space Museum is the only one in the world to display two examples of the famous supersonic: the Concorde 001 prototype that is celebrating the 40th anniversary of its maiden flight in 2009, and the Air France Sierra Delta. The cabins of both Concordes are open to visitors. Under their wings you will discover the Mirage IV n°9.

Finally, the outside exhibition gathers together, on the tarmac used by so many famous names in aviation, full-scale models of the Ariane 1 and the Ariane 5 rockets, the Russian Mig21 et Mig23, a DC8, a Mirage, an Air Provence Caravelle, an Air Inter Mercure, and a Boeing 747. The Jumbo Jet has been specially fitted out for an educational tour, and reveals even the most obscure corners of an airplane from the cockpit to the hold. Soon the new Museum restaurant will offer a panoramic view of this part of the exhibition.

The most recent halls, open since 2005, attract more and more visitors:

The Warbird Hall displays the legendary aircraft of the Second World War. A sound and video animation inside a Dakota simulates a parachute drop.

The Rotary Wing Hall, inaugurated in 2007 for the centenary of the helicopter, brings to life the whole adventure of vertical flight—from Leonardo da Vinci's designs to the Alouette III from the Emergency Services Gendarmerie that has saved thousands of lives.

The Voisin Brothers' Workshop, inaugurated in 2008 for the centenary of the first closed kilometre circuit by Henry Farman, recreates the atmosphere of an aviation workshop from the beginning of the 20th century.

The Model Gallery displays 1,000 scale models of airplanes, helicopters, and balloons, some of which are more than 150 years old.

The Saint-Exupéry Space is dedicated to the pilot, artist and pioneer of postal flights and displays his manuscripts, his airplane's landing gear, his medallion, photos, original drawings etc.

The Air and Space Museum's collection also includes:

1,000 engines that will soon be part of a specific show; thousands of works of art, objects, toys and ornaments, uniforms, instruments; 10,000 manufacturers' drawings and manuals; 100,000 books and posters; several hundred thousand photos and films; one million magazines; a large number of aircraft and aircraft parts waiting to be restored in our stores; others that are being restored in the workshops; and, of course, the Patrouille de France's Fouga Magisters, the Museum's figureheads; plus acquisitions throughout the year!

... and events throughout the year for adults and youngsters alike: cultural and educational activities, themed guided tours, temporary exhibitions, events and festivals, flight simulators, first flights in a helicopter, and, soon, air displays of light airplanes from the collection every weekend!

Entry to the French Air and Space Museum is free for all, all year round!*

You'll never go so far just 6 kilometres from Paris!

**except for paying events*

The airplanes from 100 years' of the Air Museum!

As the 48th International Air and Space Show opens its doors, 100 years have passed since the 1st "International Air Locomotion Exhibition" at the Grand Paris, on the Champs Elysées. Most of the planes that have graced the biannual show held at Le Bourget since the 1951 show are now displayed at the French Air and Space Museum.

For the centenary, thirty of these treasures have been showcased in an exhibition that covers the whole of the Museum. Inaugurated on the same day as the show, on 15 June, volunteer professionals will guide visitors along the "Centennial Path" and bring back to life these fabulous machines, built and piloted by exceptional men and women.

Here's a close up of some of the stars, each having graced the famous air show and now put in context with other examples from the museum, all authentic:

The Demoiselle was presented for the first time at the 1908 Car Show, in the "air things" section.	The museum's aircraft was piloted by its designer, Santos-Dumont, in Saint-Cyr in 1909.
Unveiled at the 1909 and 1910 shows, the Blériot XI received all the honours in the summer of 2009, the centenary—another—of the first Channel crossing.	The museum's aircraft is the one in which Adolphe Pégoud flew the first loop-the-loop in the world.
The Farman 60 Goliath was exhibited in 1921 for the 7th "air show". It performed the first commercial Paris-London flight in 1919.	The Air Museum has the only existing fuselage.
The Breguet 19 "Point d'Interrogation" was in the 1928 and 1930 shows.	This famous red airplane is one of the museum's "stars". It was on board this plane in 1930 that Costes and Bellonte made the first North Atlantic "Le Bourget-New York", crossing, against the prevailing winds.
The Supermarine Spitfire, a "warbird" also known as "the Spit", was exhibited at the 1938 show. It was the hero of the Battle of Britain.	The museum aircraft was given to France by the British government to honour the members of the French Air Forces.
Concorde appeared at the 1969 show, some months after the first test flight by André Turcat on 2 March. The supersonic took 3 hours and 30 minutes to fly from Paris to New York, at 15,000 meters altitude with 100 passengers on board.	The museum is the only one in the world that owns two Concorde : the prototype 001 that made the first flight and Air France's "Sierra Delta" that was operating until 31 May 2003.

Ten years younger than the event that takes place every two years on its tarmac, the French Air and Space Museum is celebrating its 90th birthday in 2009.

It is one of the oldest aviation conservatories in the world.

The 27 airplanes of the Centennial Path and where to find them in the exhibition:

Grand Gallery: Demoiselle, Voisin-Farman, Blériot XI, Levasseur Antoinette, Bébé Nieuport, Breguet XIV, Caudron G3.

Saint-Exupéry Hall: Farman Goliath, Potez 25, Bernard 191 "Oiseau Canari", Breguet 19 "Point d'Interrogation", Caudron Simoun.

Second World War Hall: Dewoitine D520, Supermarine Spitfire.

Prototype Hall: SO 6000 Triton, Leduc 010, Fouga Magister, Mystère IV A, Alouette II,
Caravelle, Atar Volant C400 P2, Dassault Mirage G8-0.1

Rosette Hall: Dassault MD-450 Ouragan, Dassault Mirage F-1C Cristal.

Concorde Hall: Dassault Mirage IVA, Concorde.

Tarmac: Boeing 747





New permanent exhibition: The Aces of 14-18

In the midst of the largest collection of planes in the world, the Air and Space Museum presents a significant interactive exhibition about aerial warfare during the First World War (1914-1918).

The authentic planes from this period tell the story of the development and the increasing role of aviation during the Great War.

In 1914, the Caudron G3 and the Farman XI were still only spotter aircraft, like the hot-air balloons or kites that were tethered to the ground.

However, when Roland-Garros developed the mechanism for firing through the propeller, Morane-Saulnier planes won the first air victories.

In 1916, the battle of Verdun marked the real birth of fighter aircraft: the "Bébé Nieuport", in the colours of the Commandant de Rose, was the symbolic plane in this battle.

Aviators earned the title of "Ace" by winning dogfights -- like Guynemer, the Ace with 53 victories. His original Spad VII, the "Vieux Charles" is presented in this exhibition.

1917-1918: The Spad XIII and the Breguet XIV were the planes for victory. The American La Fayette squadron came to reinforce the allied troops. An air division of 600 planes was formed to stop the German advance. Aviation had become a weapon in its own right.

All of the planes presented in the Museum are the originals that were flown by the Aces of 14-18!

This new permanent interactive exhibition will recreate the atmosphere of an air battle for the visitor.

CALENDAR 2009-2010

All summer

EVENTS for youngsters and families.

Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 September 2009

EUROPEAN HERITAGE DAYS: open days for the Museum's workshops and reserves.

Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 September 2009

AEROPUCES: collectors' aviation bric à brac with a special auction.

Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 October 2009

THE COMIC STRIP TAKES OFF: the comic strip through aviation.

Friday 27, Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 November 2009

4th WORLD SIMULATION SHOW: from the virtual to the real, a show for professionals and the general public.

Fin 2009

INAUGURATION OF A JUNIOR SPACE of more than 1,000 m² for youngsters from 6 to 12 years old.

Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 March 2010 (dates to be confirmed)

5th WOMEN IN AVIATION SHOW: Civilian and military women pilots come from all over Europe to land at Le Bourget on the occasion of International Women's Day.

From 18 to 20 June 2010

2nd GREEN AVIATION SHOW :

- Air meeting with zero carbon emissions.
- A show dedicated to clean technological innovations in the field of aviation (electric engines, hydrogen batteries, solar energy, reduction in noise pollution, use of non-polluting paints, sustainable development in airports, runways, aviation villages).
- conferences and workshops for engineers, researchers and students.
- Educational workshops to explain new technologies to the general public.

- Static display: micro light, ULM with electric engine, hang-gliders, solar balloons, solar airplanes, gliders, electric tugs for gliders, motorised gliders equipped with electric engines...

Practical information

The Museum is open every day except Monday,
25 December and 1 January:

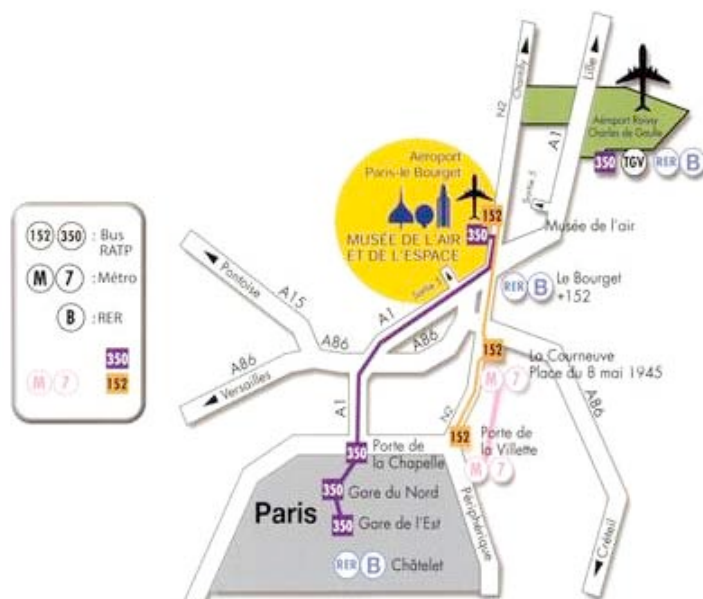
10h00 to 18h00 in the period 1 April to 30
September,
and 10h00 to 17h00 from 1 October to 31
March.

Free entry

(except for some special events)

Air and Space Museum

Less than 10 minutes. from Paris



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All current events at: www.museedelair.org