



Friday 12 February 2016

School holiday activities at IWM Duxford in 2016

During **February half term** (Saturday 13 to Sunday 21 February), the **Easter holidays** (Friday 25 March to Sunday 10 April), **May Bank Holiday weekend** (Saturday 30 April to Monday 2 May) and **Spring Half Term** (Monday 30 May to Sunday 5 June) visitors can discover the magnificent Lancaster bomber in detail and enjoy an exciting activity with fun family backpacks.

School holiday activities are included in general admission to IWM Duxford.

The Lancaster experience

The Lancaster bomber is a commanding presence in the *AirSpace* exhibition at IWM Duxford. During the school holidays, visitors can discover more about this legendary Second World War aircraft with a series of engaging talks and, for the first time, will be able to peer inside the Lancaster and visualise what life was really like for a bomber crew.

A historic interpreter, dressed as a member of Bomber Command, will present three interpretative sessions each day at 11am, 12pm and 1pm. The sessions will introduce visitors to the Lancaster, looking at the roles of the individual crew members and the uniform, equipment and weapons they used. Visitors will also find out about the famous Dambusters Raids and the development of the bouncing bomb.

For the first time, the rear door of the Lancaster bomber will be open for visitors to peer into the main body of the aircraft. The sight of the compact interior of the Lancaster, coupled with the distinctive aroma of a Second World War aircraft, will enable visitors to identify with the young men who flew and fought in this impressive aircraft.

Interpretative sessions take place at 11am, 12pm and 1pm daily throughout the school holidays. Each session lasts for 20 minutes. The Lancaster bomber is open for viewing between 11.20am and 3.30pm, except during the interpretative sessions.

Family backpacks 10am to 3pm (last entry at 2.30pm)

Borrow a family backpack, full of exciting challenges and activities which take you on a trail around key objects in the *AirSpace* exhibition.

There are two backpacks on offer for children aged 6 and under and two for children aged 7 and over. The backpacks also include aviation-themed items to try on.

Try the new Armoury Café and Kitchen

The Mess Restaurant, next to the Visitor Centre and Shop at IWM Duxford, has had a major makeover and is now the Armoury Café and Kitchen. The Armoury offers hot seasonal British food, deli sandwiches, hot and cold drinks. Lunch options include freshly made pies, traditional beer-battered fish and chips, steamed suet puddings, toad-in-the-hole and more. Children can choose from a selection of lunch bags or hot dishes. The nearby playground makes this a great family lunch choice or stop-off before travelling home.

The new American Air Museum exhibition opens on Saturday 19 March

IWM Duxford's transformed *American Air Museum* will open to the public on Saturday 19 March after a major redevelopment.

The newly transformed *American Air Museum* tells the story of Anglo-American collaboration in twentieth and twenty-first century conflict, as seen through the eyes of the people linked with the aircraft and objects on display.

Find out more at <http://www.iwm.org.uk/exhibitions/iwm-duxford/american-air-museum>

– Ends –

For more information, images and interviews, please contact

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Notes to Editors

- IWM Duxford is open from 10am to 4pm during February half term and from 10am to 6pm during the Easter holidays, May Bank Holiday and spring half term.
- Holiday activities are included in general admission to IWM Duxford.
- Please check the IWM website (iwm.org.uk/duxford) for up to date information regarding all holiday activities. IWM Duxford reserves the right to change or cancel activities where necessary.

Transformed American Air Museum at IWM Duxford opens with new personal stories and objects

From Saturday 19 March, exhibition included in general admission to IWM Duxford

***SAVE THE DATE* Press preview on Wednesday 16 March 2016.**

To RSVP email press@iwm.org.uk

IWM Duxford's transformed *American Air Museum*, containing the best collection of American aircraft on display outside North America, will open to the public on Saturday 19 March after a major redevelopment.

The newly-transformed *American Air Museum* tells the story of Anglo-American collaboration in twentieth and twenty-first century conflict, as seen through the eyes of the people linked with the aircraft and objects on display. From Private to President, the *American Air Museum* tells the

personal stories of people whose lives have shaped or been shaped by their experiences of conflict. It focuses on the key role played by American air power, in conflicts from 1918 to the present day, with dramatic displays of historic and contemporary aircraft.

The *American Air Museum* will be home to 850 objects, including equipment, uniforms, keepsakes and photographs. Many of these have never been seen by the public before.

The new exhibition features 85 people whose lives were changed by war. Visitors will come face to face with life-size images of these men and women and see their gripping experiences told through often emotive film interviews and personal objects.

For further press information please contact:
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IWM Duxford

IWM Duxford is Britain's best-preserved Second World War airfield, with a fascinating history that dates back to the First World War. Its story reflects the landmark achievements made in aviation history. IWM Duxford is Europe's premier aviation museum, where historic buildings intersperse with state-of-the-art exhibition halls, including AirSpace and the American Air Museum. Historic aircraft can regularly be seen taking to the skies from Duxford's wartime airfield. Through the rich displays of aircraft and the powerful stories of the men and women involved, we tell the story of the impact of aviation on the nature of war, on people's lives and on the social and economic history of the region. With one of the finest collections of tanks, military vehicles and artillery in the UK, we also show the impact of technological development on war and conflict.

Open Daily:

Winter 2015/16: 25 October 2015 to 11 March 2016 10am to 4pm. Last entry at 3pm.

IWM

IWM (Imperial War Museums) tells the story of people who have lived, fought and died in conflicts involving Britain and the Commonwealth since the First World War.

Our unique Collections, made up of the everyday and the exceptional, reveal stories of people, places, ideas and events. Using these, we tell vivid personal stories and create powerful physical experiences across our five museums that reflect the realities of war as both a destructive and creative force. We challenge people to look at conflict from different perspectives, enriching their understanding of the causes, course and consequences of war and its impact on people's lives.

IWM London

IWM London – IWM's flagship branch – tells the stories of those whose lives have been shaped by war through the depth, breadth and impact of our Galleries, displays and events. Visit our brand new First World War Galleries featuring over 1,300 objects from IWM's collections, explore what life was like at home during the Second World War in *A Family in Wartime*; delve into the world of espionage in *Secret War*; visit our award-winning *Holocaust Exhibition*; discover stories of bravery in *The Lord Ashcroft Gallery: Extraordinary Heroes*; see work by some of Britain's most significant 20th Century artists in our art galleries or take in our latest major temporary exhibitions. Our family learning sessions and events encourage debate and challenge people's perceptions of war.

Open daily from 10am – 6pm (except 24 - 26 December)
IWM London, Lambeth Road, London, SE1 6HZ.
T: 020 7416 5000 E: mail@iwm.org.uk
iwm.org.uk / @I_W_M / www.facebook.com/iwm.london

Our other branches are [IWM North](#), housed in an iconic award-winning building designed by Daniel Libeskind; [IWM Duxford](#), a world-renowned aviation museum and Britain's best preserved wartime airfield; [Churchill War Rooms](#), housed in Churchill's secret headquarters below Whitehall; and the Second World War cruiser [HMS Belfast](#).

First World War Centenary

2014 - 2018 marks the centenary of the First World War, a landmark anniversary

for Britain and the world. IWM will mark the centenary by leading a vibrant, four year programme of cultural activities across the country, including the opening

of brand new First World War Galleries at IWM London in 2014. For more information visit www.1914.org

