

National Naval Aviation Museum

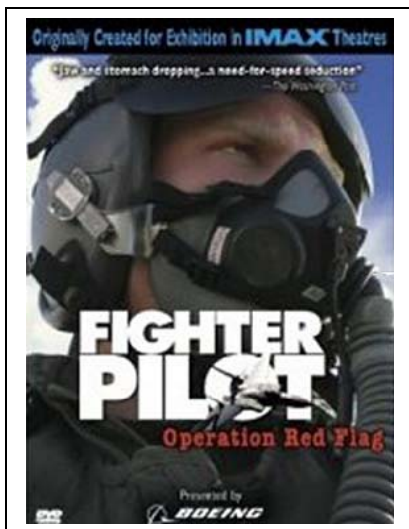
“Where Education Becomes Fun”

Self-Guided Walking Tour



This guide is designed to assist educators, parents and group leaders in maximizing the National Naval Aviation Museum’s educational resources. By reviewing this guide prior to arrival, you will be able to select or suggest the exhibits that will not only fit into your allotted visit time, but also correspond with the educational level of your students and their interests. This guide also serves as a tool for classroom review once before and after the students are back at school or home.

Upon your arrival at the Museum, it is recommended you begin your visit by viewing one of our IMAX® movies – all of which provide educational entertainment at all grade levels. Each IMAX® film has a corresponding [Teacher’s guide](#), as well as a short trailer of the film. These are accessible on our website under the “IMAX® section.” All IMAX® films are between 35-47 minutes long.



Exhibits located on the First Floor of the Museum

Each exhibit is link back to the website for further discussion

Before you begin your tour through the Museum, please be sure to pick up a Museum Map & Guide at the Information Desk located to the right of the Main Entrance. Or you can [download the map](#) from our website.

[Naval Aviation in World War I](#)

The World War I exhibit is divided into four distinct dioramas, including a seaplane as it would have appeared on the shores of Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, Florida, and an airfield scene somewhere in France showing a battle-scarred building that serves as a makeshift home for combat pilots complete with wartime music and a flickering flame in a pot belly stove. A machine gun nest guards a muddy airstrip on which a biplane sits ready to launch on a mission. This diorama also includes a period ambulance poised to take wounded airmen to a field hospital.



[Squadron Patches](#)

During World War I, the pilots that engaged in dogfights over the Western Front came to be called the Knights of the Air. Thus, it is fitting that throughout aviation history squadrons have adopted insignias as veritable coats of arms, capturing the esprit of airmen that wage war in the air to this day. Colorfully adorned with unit insignias, this exhibit displays hundreds of squadron, ship and station patches collected by the Museum through the years.



[NC-4 Flying Boat](#)

The NC (NAVY-CURTISS) Aircraft was designed during World War I as an antisubmarine aircraft. With a wingspan of 126 feet and powered by four Liberty engines, the U.S. launched the aircraft displayed here on May 8, 1919. A tangible symbol of historic developments in aviation, the NC-4 flying boat completed the historic 3,000-mile trip from Naval Air Station Rockaway Beach, New York to Lisbon, Portugal in 19 days. Finishing its journey on May 27, 1919, the NC-4 became the first aircraft to cross the Atlantic Ocean.



[Prisoners of War](#)

American prisoners of war gave Hoa Lo (perhaps the best known of all the North Vietnamese prison camps) the ironic title of "Hanoi Hilton." The name Hoa Lo means "portable earthen stove." Here the prisoners were beaten, isolated and humiliated, yet they managed to endure with great dignity, honor and courage. The POW exhibit includes a vivid display of personal items from poetry to uniforms. See what the prisoners were able to make with their limited supplies, look at their drawings and read some of their stories.



PBY-5 Catalina Cutaway

This aircraft is the only one of its kind known to exist. During World War II, *Catalinas* performed a variety of essential duties, including long-range scouting and anti-submarine patrols, convoy escorts, search and rescue and bombing operations. It was in the latter functions that the PBY established its greatest legacy, equipping so-called Black Cat squadrons that carried out effective night attacks against Japanese shipping and installations. Two other PBY squadrons were equipped with magnetic anomaly detection gear in order to locate submerged submarines. Retro-bombs were also installed which, when fired backwards at a velocity equal to the speed of the aircraft, dropped straight down upon a target.



USS Cabot

Commissioned July 24, 1943, the USS *Cabot* (nicknamed the “Iron Woman”) was one of the light carriers to serve in the Pacific during World War II. During the 16 months spent in the combat zone, she steamed 133,880 nautical miles and launched 116 strikes against the enemy. Viewing the World War II aircraft displayed on her deck, one gains an appreciation for the limited size of a light aircraft carrier flight deck. This exhibit also includes a 40mm anti-aircraft gun from the USS *Cabot*; climb in, take aim and defend the ship!



Sunken Treasures

Displayed here are two salvaged aircraft lost during carrier training in Lake Michigan at the height of World War II. These aircraft were underwater for 50 years! After salvaging operations are made, they become the beautifully restored aircraft on display in the Museum.



Exhibits located on the Second Floor of the Museum

Each exhibit is linked back to the website for further discussion

Space

“One giant leap for mankind.” Walk with the astronauts in America’s final frontier and relive the first lunar landing on July 20, 1969. See the Apollo command module, Skylab 2, that carried an all-Navy crew to the earth-orbiting Skylab.



[Motion-Based-Simulator](#)

The Motion-Based Simulator ride is a five minute, multi-sensory experience that combines a movie-like audiovisual presentation, using a high-definition projection screen and surround-sound, with the motion of the ride compartment. The fully enclosed capsule, which accommodates up to 15 passengers, can move in six directions, allowing you to experience horizontal rolls, longitudinal pitches and vertical climbs. Featured are two pulse pounding rides, Desert Storm and Fly With The Blues! The ride provides each student with a fun experience in what it is like to fly in a Blue Angel aircraft.



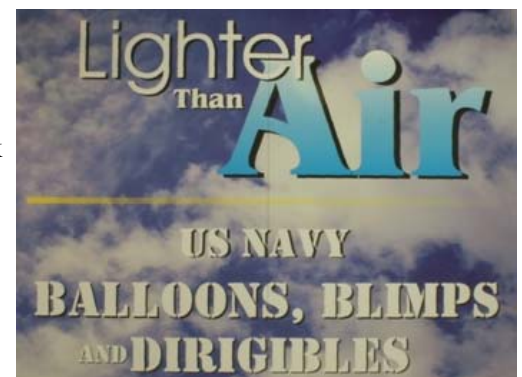
[Cockpit Trainers](#)

Imagination takes flight! Climb inside one of the 35 actual cockpit trainers, flip the switches, turn the knobs and let your imagination fly!



[Lighter-Than-Air](#)

In 1932, the Navy entered into another realm of flight – the use of dirigibles (airships) as airborne versions of aircraft carriers. They could launch, recover and hangar four aircraft while airborne by means of a retractable trapeze extending below the airship to which they could hook up. The centerpiece of this exhibit is the control car for the K-series of U.S. Navy airships. A 425,000 cubic foot Goodyear blimp, used to detect and destroy submarines during World War II, originally carried this control car.



USS Enterprise

The US Navy's sixth aircraft carrier, the USS *Enterprise* established a combat record that, by the end of World War II, was the envy of the fleet.



WWII Aircraft Carrier

While mechanics work on a *Dauntless* dive bomber in the hangar bay, visitors can pass through a ready room, sick bay, living spaces and the always popular ship's store – the “gedunk” – where the crew purchased small items from razor blades to soft drinks. Everything from Glider Shave Cream to Mars candy bars is packaged in copies of actual wrappers from the 1940s. So real, one can almost feel the deck roll!



Home Front USA

Take a stroll down Main Street in a small town on the home front during World War II. See the grocery store, drug store, pawnshop, restaurant, theater and barber shop and relax in a WWII-era living room.



WWII South Pacific

Relive the rustic lifestyle of naval aviators based at jungle airstrips and join battle-weary Marines in the fight to take the island of Guadalcanal from the Japanese.

