

# AVIATION MUSEUMS OF BRITAIN

Includes hundreds of other ideas for family days out



**KEN ELLIS**

**NEW  
EDITION**

Dedicated to all those organisations – large and small – who are brave enough to open their doors and let their pride and joy go on display to the public.

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'Guarding' the main entrance to the  
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(Ian Howell)

*Cover Illustrations courtesy:*  
Front, Ken Ellis; Rear, both Roger Richards.

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## INTRODUCTION

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The first edition of *AMB* was well greeted by readers and museums alike and this second edition aims to continue to provide a wide range of information on the ever-increasing number of aviation museums and related venues in the British Isles.

Acknowledging that many an aviation enthusiast is to be found happy as a lamb wending through the locomotives at a steam museum, or vintage car collection or the Victoria & Albert, this book aims to provide a wider view of what is available. For many, there is also the family to take into consideration and a visit to an aviation museum can be extended to find something else that will please the rest of the household as well. This book has been devised to offer other alternatives, hopefully not by way of a sop to 'her indoors' but to allow everyone to find venues of interest and, who knows, to make it easier to visit an aviation museum next time!

With the co-operation of the museums concerned, greatly expanded information has been given on the facilities that are available at museums – some that may be quite crucial to a successful family day out. It is believed that *AMB* is the first aviation museum guide ever to provide details of how to travel to these venues by public transport and which offer help to the disabled.

Great emphasis has been made of the excellent services to be had from the Tourist Boards, a source all too frequently overlooked by many visitors. The book has adopted, with a few

'tweaks' the larger 'regions' used by the English Tourist Boards as a more useful way of showing touring possibilities.

Another cornerstone of the book has been to cover *only* museums and collections that are *truly* open to the public on a regular basis. The general ruling has been only to include venues that are at least open at weekends throughout the summer season. Other venues that genuinely encourage visitors by prior arrangement are given briefer mentions. In this edition, other venue suggestions include an increasing number of locations that display airframes, but cannot be called museums – for example shopping centres!

The illustrations attempt to show the broad sweep of aviation museums in Britain – there is a wondrous variety out there to sample. Hence there are photographs of displays, as well as airframes for it is often the latter that 'capture' visitors for longer. To add further flavour to the pictorial element some views of exhibits 'in action' before retirement are also included.

The contents of *AMB* reflects input from readers who clearly are looking for much more than a 'field with aircraft in' when travelling the country. Comments, suggestions and additions are very welcome so that the next edition will 'work' even harder for you!

Ken Ellis  
Barrowden, Rutland  
June 1998

# AVIATION MUSEUMS OF BRITAIN

Aircraft and aeronautica on show to the public



Answers the questions needed before setting out to a museum: When is it open? Does it open off-season? Can we eat there? Is there something to interest the children? And much more. With an easy-to-read review of exhibits, features and themes.

For the first time in an aviation museum guide, the book includes suggestions of how to extend a visit to a full day, or weekend, by highlighting other attractions nearby, allowing *all* of the family to find something of interest. An invaluable guide, full of ideas and possibilities.

Back cover illustrations:

Top: **Newark Air Museum's SAAB Draken** outside the display hall.

Bottom: **Supermarine Attacker** on the flight deck of 'Carrier' at the Fleet Air Arm Museum, Yeovilton.

Front cover: **Manchester Museum of Science and Industry's** aviation gallery.

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