



Tour Information



Reach for the Sky





The tour commences and concludes at the **The Comet Hotel**.

St Albans Road West

Hatfield

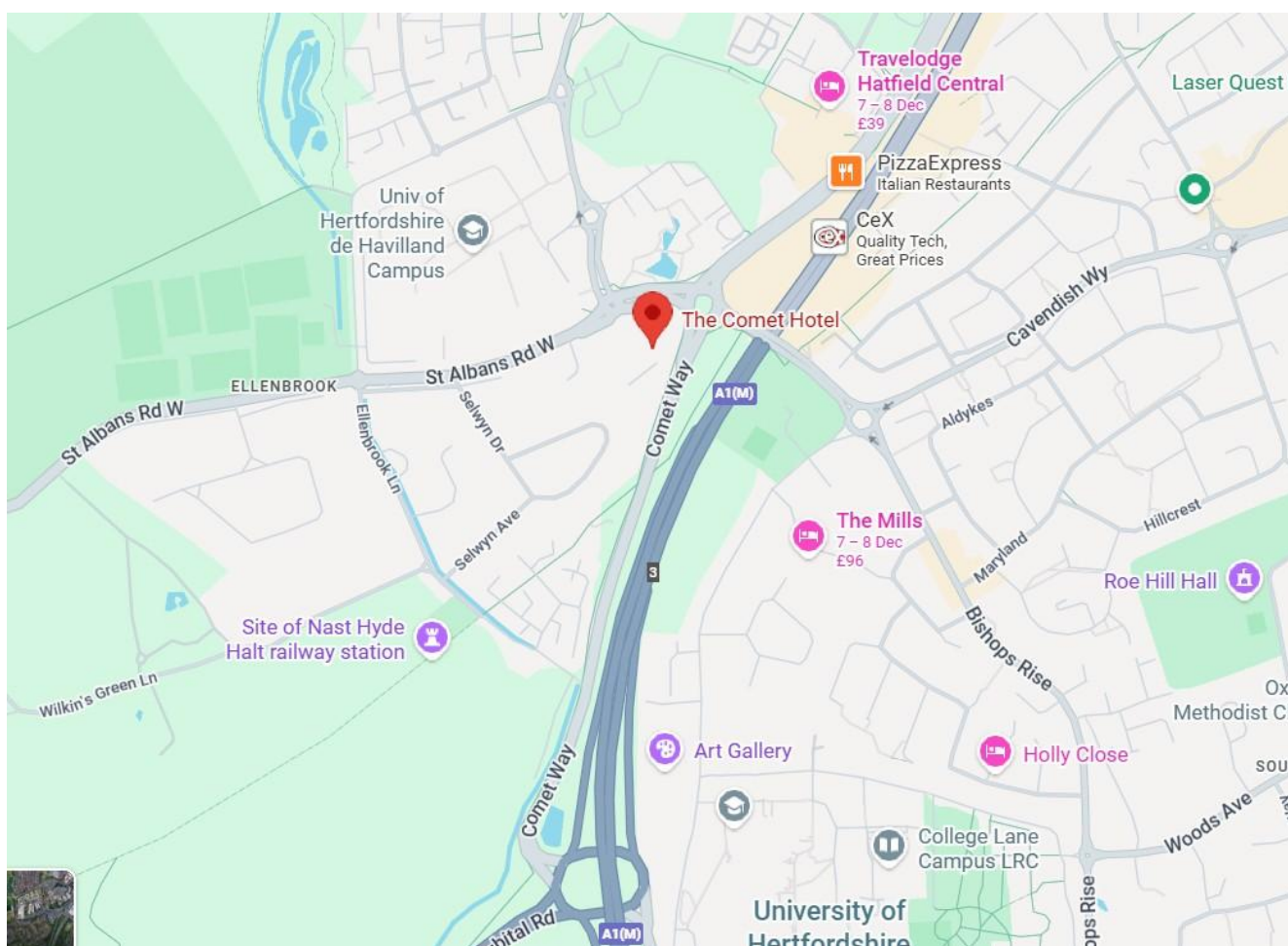
Hertfordshire

AL10 9RH

Tel: +44 (0) 1707 932700

E-mail: info@comethotel.co.uk

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



Transport

If you are travelling by car:

From the North exit the M1 at J7, continue along the M10, A414 towards Hatfield. At J3 of the A1(M), turn right at the roundabout onto the A1001 and the hotel is on the right opposite the University.

From the South exit from J23 of the M25 head North on the A1(M). Leave the A1(M) at J2 (signposted for Welham Green), turn left at the roundabout onto the A1001 (Comet Way), continue for approximately half a mile and the hotel is on the left.

If you are travelling by train: The nearest train station is Hatfield (3 miles from the hotel).



Accommodation

The Comet Hotel

This Art Deco style building is Hatfield's most iconic, and is located just 3 minutes from J23 of the M25 and is also within easy reaching distance of the A1(M) and M1. The hotel has a restaurant and bar, with decor based on the period glamour of the original Comet Hotel which first opened in 1936. The hotel's iconic and unusual shape is due to being original designed around the footprint of the de Havilland Comet DH.88 racing aeroplane.

All rooms are modern with private bathroom facilities, TV, free Wi-Fi, hairdryer, telephone and air-conditioning/heating. Complimentary car parking is available at the hotel.

More information can be found via the hotel's website: <https://comethotel.co.uk/>

Check-in and departure from the hotel

You can check-in at the hotel from 14.00. The tour will start in the evening when the tour manager Dr. Robert Owen will meet you in the Botanical Suite at 18.30 for the welcome reception.

Please note that your rooms may not be ready at 14.00, reception will arrange to store your luggage and put it in your room when it is ready.

On the last day, the tour will not finish at approximately 17.30 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 bed and breakfast basis and check out from the hotel is at 11:00.

Dining

On the first night, a three-course dinner with wine is provided in the Botanical Suite and included in the price of the tour. For the second evening, a three-course dinner with wine will also be provided at the De Havilland Aircraft Museum. Breakfast on all days of your stay is included in the price but meals other than these stated 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

RAF & Battle of Britain Museum

A full day visit to the RAF Museum and the Battle of Britain Museum where you will have a tour with an expert guide, who will point out the machines and weapons used during the Battle of Britain. You will then have the remainder of the day to view the museums extensive collection of aircraft spanning the history of the Royal Air Force.

<http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/>

De Havilland Museum, Salisbury Hall

A private evening visit to the de Havilland Museum at Salisbury Hall, where the Mosquito was designed and from where it first flew. See three examples of this classic aircraft together with others produced by this outstanding company, one of the pioneers of British aviation.

<http://www.dehavillandmuseum.co.uk/>

The Battle of Britain Bunker, Uxbridge

A guided tour of the little known Battle of Britain Bunker at Uxbridge (no lift or disabled access), where you will view the underground operations room from where Air Vice-Marshal Keith Park directed the No. 11 Group.

<http://www.raf.mod.uk/battleofbritainbunker/>

Bentley Priory

At Bentley Priory - the former Headquarters of Fighter Command – you will enjoy a light lunch and a guided tour of parts of the main house including a reconstruction of the filter room and Air Chief Marshall Dowding's office. The Bentley Priory Museum is a permanent living memorial to those who served in the Royal Air Force and fought in the Battle which acknowledges and recognises the sacrifices made by them and others to ensure the freedom of Europe and the World.

<http://bentleypriorymuseum.org.uk/>

Your Hosts

Dr. Robert Owen is an official Historian of the No. 617 Squadron Association. He has produced number of a books including biography of Sqn Ldr Henry Maudslay DFC, one of the pilots lost on the Dams Raid and was a lead contributor to “Dambusters – Failed to return” and a number of other works documenting the lives of some of those who flew, fought and died with Bomber Command. His most recent work,



“Breaking the German Dams: A Minute-By-Minute Account of Operation Chastise” received acclaimed reviews.

He has written for magazines including “Aeroplane” and “Flypast” and has co-authored a number of publications for the RAF Museum and Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, assisted the authors of numerous authoritative aviation works and TV documentary producers.

An experienced and knowledgeable tour manager and guide, Robert provides an enthusiastic, authoritative and personal insight into his tour locations and exhibits.

Robert will give a talk “*The de Havilland Mosquito - The Wooden Wonder*”

Guy Thomas has a lifelong interest in Aviation Heritage and has written and published several aeronautical drawings and articles. Since retiring, he has developed an Aviation & Auto Heritage website, is Chairman of the East Hertfordshire Aviation Society and as a volunteer with the RAF Museum, takes visitors on guided tours at Hendon. He also gives talks on a range of Aviation Topics.



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 as **Moderate**: Walking between sites, lots of standing for viewing.



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 09.00-17.00), telephone our emergency staff on:

07841 023807 or 07441 343850

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

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