



Tour Information



Magnificent Men Fly Again





The tour starts and finishes at the **Orida Maidstone**

Bearsted Road

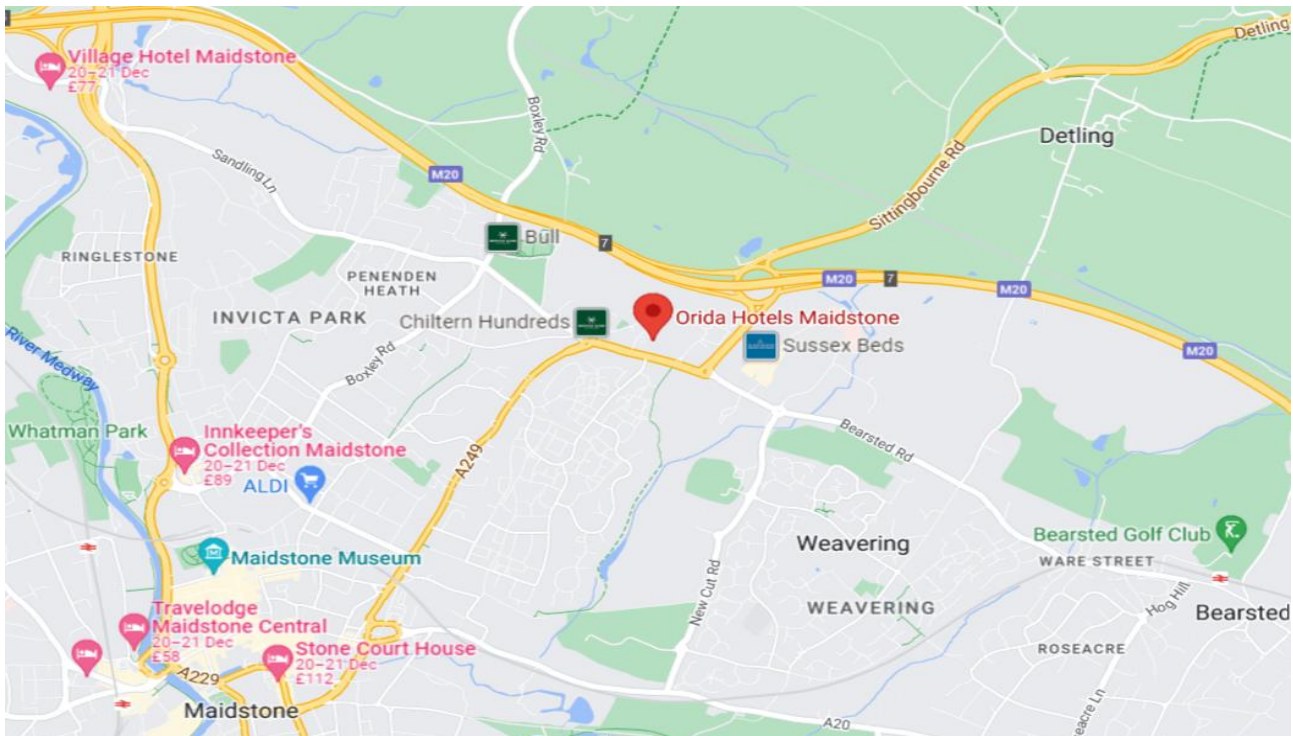
Maidstone

ME14 5AA

United Kingdom

Tel: 01622 734322

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



Driving directions to the hotel:

From the South: Merge onto M11, take M25 towards M20. Keep right and merge to M25 and continue to A282. Take A206, keep left onto M2. Take J3 to A220 and M20 slip road to Dover. Exit M20 J7 and at roundabout take third exit onto A249. Through two more roundabouts and hotel will be on the left.

From the West: Merge onto A335, leave at J12 onto M3. M3 to Basingstoke, merge onto M25. Fork right onto M26, exit to M20. Exit M20 J& and at roundabout take third exit onto A249. Through two more roundabouts and hotel will be on the left.

From the North: Merge onto A13 towards Lnd EC. Exit at J30 onto A282 and merge onto M25. Merge onto M20. Exit M20 J7 and at roundabout take third exit onto A249. Through two more roundabouts and hotel will be on the left.

From the East: Join M23 SPUR at roundabout exit onto M23. Leave M23 at J8 to M25. At J5 take right land to M26. Continue onto M26. Leave M20 at J& and at roundabout take third exit onto A249. Through two more roundabouts and hotel will be on the left.

Travelling by train: If you are travelling by train, there are lots of options for Maidstone including Maidstone West, Maidstone Barracks and Maidstone East – all approximately less than a 10-minute taxi ride away from the hotel. There is also a train station at Bearsted which is approximately 2.1 miles from the hotel and a 6-minute taxi ride.



Accommodation

Orida Maidstone

The contemporary four-star Orida Maidstone is located on the outskirts of Maidstone. Facilities at the hotel include a leisure centre with indoor pool, whirlpool, sauna and spa, bar, café and hotel restaurant. All bedrooms are comfortable with modern amenities including en-suite bathroom, TV, telephone, free wifi and hairdryer.

Car parking is available at the hotel at £5 per day which is payable directly to the hotel.

Additional details can be found via the hotel website:

<https://www.oridahotels.com/>

Check-in and departure from the hotel

On the day of arrival, you will be able to check-in at the hotel from 15.00, and the tour manager will meet you in the evening at the welcome reception.

On the last day of the tour, the tour will not finish until approximately 17.30 so you should check with your tour manager, or the hotel reception, where luggage may be stored until your departure.

Extra nights

If you have booked to stay an extra night at the hotel, this is on a bed and breakfast basis and check out from the hotel is at 11.00.

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.

Dining

On the first night of your stay, a private dinner with wine is provided. During the second evening of the tour, dinner is provided at the hotel restaurant. Breakfast on each day of your stay is included in the price. All other meals other than these stated are not included.



Places Visited

Biggin Hill Memorial Museum and St George's Chapel

Biggin Hill Memorial Museum tells the story of RAF Biggin Hill through the personal experiences of those who served there, and the community who supported them. The museum journey begins over 100 years ago when RAF Biggin Hill was just farmland. Its high altitude and strategically important location between London and continental Europe, destined it to become the most important airfield of the Battle of Britain, laying the foundation for the European landscape as we know it today. One of Britain's oldest aerodromes, RAF Biggin Hill is still internationally recognised as Sir Winston Churchill's 'strongest link'.

St George's RAF Chapel of Remembrance was built as a memorial to the aircrew who lost their lives flying from the Biggin Hill Sector during the Second World War. It was built in 1951 after a fundraising campaign led by Sir Winston Churchill. The chapel features a reredos, the Book of Remembrance, and 12 stained glass windows design by Sir Hugh Easton.

<https://bhmm.org.uk/>

RAF Kenley

It was in June 1917 when the area of a local golf course was commandeered for use by the RFC under the 'Defence of the Realm Act'. The first most people knew about it, and this included the Head Keeper, was when a gang of Canadian Forestry Corps started to clear the ground making way for airfield construction. The airfield was used as a base for various squadrons over the inter-war years and Empire Air Days were held annually from 1934 right the way through to 1939. These events drew tens of thousands of people to the airfield where they were also permitted access to the workshops, motor transport yards etc. With a watchful eye on the growing unrest in Europe the Air Days were a significant aid to recruitment as well as providing considerable reassurance to the public of RAF strength. Kenley's finest hour was the day of its greatest bombardment by the Luftwaffe on 18th August 1940. The 'early warning' radar had picked up a lot of enemy activity across the channel that sunny Sunday lunchtime and at about 12.45pm, the perceived threat resulted in 615 and 64 Squadrons being scrambled but targets were still unclear. At 1pm some sixty aircraft crossed the coast, and all the local air raid sirens were sounded, fifteen minutes later the onslaught began; some pilots were still strapping themselves into their machines. Damage to the airfield and its facilities is well documented, three of the hangers were well alight, the equipment stores was a write off as were four Hurricanes and a Blenheim destroyed on the ground. Damage was sustained to another four parked aircraft and the station's medical facilities.

<https://kafg.org.uk/>

St Luke's Church, Whyteleafe

On 13th August 1940 St Luke's became the first Church to be damaged by enemy action when a bomb landed outside the Church in Whyteleafe Hill. In the Sanctuary on the left-hand side of the church there is a 'Book of Remembrance' recording the names of the R.A.F. personnel of the Battle of Britain who served at nearby R.A.F. Kenley. Either side of the high altar are Memorial Boards dedicated to those who lost their lives while serving at RAF Kenley. St Luke's still has strong links with R.A.F.A. The War Graves Commission look after the graves in the churchyard of those killed in action during the last war.

<https://www.stlukeswhyteleafe.co.uk/>

Chartwell

Chartwell was the much-loved Churchill family home from 1922 and the place from which Sir Winston drew inspiration until the end of his life. The rooms remain much as they were when he lived here, with pictures, books and personal mementoes evoking the career and wide-ranging interests of a great statesman, writer,

painter and family man. The studio is home to the largest collection of Churchill's paintings that have been saved for the nation to see and enjoy. With his paints still laid out and a canvas waiting for completion, it looks like Winston has just stepped out the room for a moment. The hillside gardens reflect Sir Winston's love of the landscape and nature. They include the lakes he created, the kitchen garden and the Marycot, a playhouse designed for his youngest daughter Mary.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/chartwell>

Headcorn Aerodrome and Lashenden Air Warfare Museum

The Lashenden Air Warfare Museum, at Headcorn Aerodrome is one of the longest established aviation museums in the country, having been formed in 1970. The museum collection was started by members of the Maidstone branch of Royal Air Forces Association in the late 1960's. The museum itself came into being when the airfield owner, Mr Freeman, offered the Maidstone branch of the Royal Air Forces Association a building for use as a museum in early 1970. The museum opened to the public Easter 1970 taking on the name of Lashenden Air Warfare Museum (Lashenden being the wartime name of the airfield). The museum's first aircraft arrived just before Easter 1970, this being the very rare Fieseler Fi 103R-4 Reichenberg piloted V1 flying bomb.

During the visit you will be taken for the exclusive flight on either the Tiger Moth or Jackaroo bi-plane, which will take you up and over the aerodrome for approximately 10-15 minutes.

<https://www.lashendenairwarfaremuseum.co.uk/2.html>

National Memorial to the Few

The National Memorial to the Few is a peaceful space, ideal for quiet reflection, atop the famous White Cliffs and offering superb views across the Channel to France. The central statue of a lone pilot is complemented by the Christopher Foxley-Norris Memorial Wall, two replica aircraft and other items of interest. The Wing, open to the public since 2015, an eye-catching building was designed in the shape of a Spitfire wing, complete with its famous uplift, houses The Scramble Experience, a hands-on attraction that uses audio-visual effects, a video wall and other special techniques to show something of what it was like for the Few in the summer and early autumn of 1940.

<https://www.battleofbritainmemorial.org>

Your Guide

Your guide, **Chris Lee-McCloud** is a lifelong aviation historian, and has been involved with the Imperial War Museum at Duxford since the early 1980s. In his spare time, Chris spent twenty years in the Air Training Corps, rising to command Duxford's local Squadron at Sawston. In 2001, after working at Stansted Airport and Duxford, Chris started his teaching career by reading History at Cambridge. Making good use of his time there, he helped re-launch the Homerton History Society and was elected as President; he also co-wrote an academic paper with one of his lecturers, examining the "cult" of the Spitfire. Chris now teaches History near Cambridge, conveniently close to Duxford as his students often like to visit! He has also planned and led school tours of the First World War Battlefields of France and Belgium for over ten years.

Chris has been leading guided tours at Duxford and other venues for more than 25 years, and greatly enjoys guiding for Travel Editions as the audience is refreshingly different from his day job!

Your Expert Tour Manager: Dr Robert Owen, an aviation historian and the Official Historian of the No. 617 Squadron Association. His interest in the Squadron extends over 40 years and he is co-author of "*Breaching the German Dams*" for the RAF Museum. He has assisted the authors of numerous authoritative books on the subject together with a number of TV documentaries. He has also contributed to publications for the RAF Museum, Keith Park Memorial Fund, Battle of Britain Memorial Flight and the RAF's official publication commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain.



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, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment, and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.

Walking Grading– This tour has been graded a **Moderate**: Walking between sites and lots of standing for viewings. Please note that there will also be some steps to get into and out of the aircraft.

Important Information – Please note there is a maximum weight limit per aircraft:

Maximum weight for Tiger Moth – 105kg

Maximum weight for Jackaroo for two people – 180kg



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 1000-1600), telephone our emergency staff on:

07841 023807

07831 133079

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

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