

# SWAM GROUP VISITS FOR 2025



SWAM is open to the public on weekends,  
- Saturday & Sunday 10am-4pm -  
Bank Holidays and also Wednesdays  
during school holidays\*.  
\*See our Facebook page and website &  
for further information.

*'Inspiring the future by preserving the past'*

Looking to arrange a group visit to SWAM? We would love to welcome you to our museum!  
Contact our group visit coordinator; [groupvisits@swam.museum](mailto:groupvisits@swam.museum).

**Please plan ahead ...** SWAM is run by volunteers during both our normal weekend opening hours and when we arrange private 'out of hours' visits. We are only able to host one group visit per week & our diary fills quickly.

## ADULT GROUP VISITS - DAY & EVENING

**A SWAM GUIDED TOUR** The highlight of any SWAM group visit is a guided tour of our hangar and exhibit rooms. During your tour, - which will last for about two hours - you'll be able to sit in airliners & helicopters, visit flight decks and sit in the pilot's seats of fast jets. In our exhibit rooms you'll see aviation artefacts, models and other historical displays.



Your tour will be led by SWAM volunteers who enjoy sharing their knowledge and experiences with our visitors. All of our volunteers are aviation enthusiasts and many of them are retired RAF servicemen. For adult group daytime visits we can cater for your lunch in our SWAM Café, either after or before your guided tour. You can pre-order from a discounted group visit menu.



### The SWAM collection

In most museums the aircraft are roped off so visitors can 'look but don't touch!' In SWAM you can get really 'hands on' with our aircraft, touch them and even sit in some of them.



Most of our aircraft are ex-military. There are complete airframes, a large collection of cockpits, engines and other artefacts to see. The oldest type first flew in 1943 and the newest type retired from RAF service as recently as 2019.

Whilst none of our aircraft are currently airworthy; some are complete and potentially could be restored to taxi-able condition. Our exhibit rooms display artefacts, photographs and historical research of local places, people and events.

# SCHOOL DAY VISITS - Ages 7yrs plus (KSII + older)

**ENGAGE & EXCITE YOUR PUPILS;** Make a SWAM visit part of your pupils' learning experience.



Every topic is enhanced by a great visit- and SWAM provides a memorable 'hands-on' aircraft encounter, for your pupil's work. Whether you have a history, geography, art or STEM theme, a visit to SWAM can ignite your pupils' enthusiasm for their topic - suitable for the start, middle or end of your term.

Topics that can be enhanced by a visit to SWAM include... Journeys, WW2, Transport & Travel, Flight & Aviation, Forces, 20<sup>th</sup> Century Inventions and many more!

As well as your guided hangar and exhibit room tours you can participate in a SWAM aviation activity which can be tailored to your topic theme.

**A SCHOOL DAY AT SWAM** The timetable for your day will be tailored to your individual requirements, generally your SWAM experience is planned around a 10am-2pm, 4hr visit.

- Arrival welcome - about 10mins.
- The guided hangar tour - about 90mins.
- Packed lunch in our group visit room - about 30mins.
- Aviation activity - about 45mins.
- Exhibit rooms tour: - about 45mins.
- Departure: Q & A - about 10mins.



**Arrival** Your group will be welcomed to SWAM and our museum volunteers will pass on important information & safety instructions for your day. Whilst we strive to create a safe environment, due to your proximity to the aircraft we have some essential safety rules...

Strictly no running - you'll also need to take care when you are walking close to, around and inside the aeroplanes and sitting in the cockpits.

Toilet visits will need to be supervised by school staff.



**Guided Hangar Tour** The tour is taken in small groups. SWAM guides will show you around our hangar, describing the aircraft and answering any questions.

You will sit in the pilot's seats of Phantom & Hunter fast jets, a Chipmunk trainer, a Tucano flight simulator, and go onboard our Sea Prince, 737 airliner, Jumbo Jet flight deck, Guppy and Sea King helicopter.



**The Exhibit Rooms** In our Modern Conflicts, WW2, WW2 Diorama, RAF St Athan, Parachute & Model rooms you will see aviation artefacts, aircraft models and historical displays.



**Departure** End your visit with a 'question and answer' session where pupils can ask SWAM volunteers about their visit or any other aviation-based questions. Pose for a group photo before boarding your bus for departure.

## AVIATION ACTIVITIES

Sci/Tech/Art ... Parachutes, card spinners & paper darts; Geography/Travel ...

**737 Experience** Currently one of our most popular activities is our '737' experience. Children from Y3 to Y6 have enjoyed taking part in a 'pretend' flight abroad.

- In the hangar we have the front fuselage of a Boeing 737 airliner. Your children will take it in turns to act as air and cabin crew for your journey.
- Prior to your visit we will send you a passport template to complete.
- Each child will be given a ticket/boarding card to go with their passport.



- The children will clear 'passport control' to board our 737 for a destination of your choice. (\*Previous school groups have chosen to go to Europe and all over the rest of the World!)
- Your pupils will read out the captain's welcome and pre-flight safety briefing, which your 'cabin crew' demonstrate to their passengers. (We will send you a script for the children to practice.)
- The children will be shown how to use their seat belts, oxygen masks and life jackets.
- They will have the aircraft safety leaflet explained to them and discuss the features of

the aircraft and differences between short & long-haul flights.

- Pupils acting as cabin crew will wheel a refreshments/duty free trolley up (and down) the aisle.
- They will explore all the features of the cabin and see the galley and into the cockpit.
- They will discuss all the reasons why we are (sadly!) we won't actually be able to fly today as there as our airliner has no engines or wings and many other missing parts!



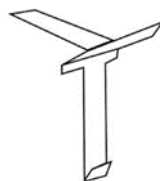
## SCOUTS/GUIDES: EVENING VISITS - ages 9yrs plus



Your evening group visit will last two hours depending on distance to travel. We aim for a 5:30pm start & 7:30pm departure. (For bigger travel distances we would aim for a 6pm - 8pm visit.) During your visit you will be split into smaller groups for an aviation activity and our Hangar tour.

**SWAM GUIDED HANGAR TOUR** Your group will have the opportunity to see, walk into & sit in the cockpits of a number of our fast jets, other aircraft and helicopters, whilst being shown around our museum by our knowledgeable and experienced volunteer guides; many of whom are ex RAF servicemen.

**AVIATION ACTIVITY** Your evening aviation activity will see the children making a card spinner (helicopter) and test dropping it from our balcony. You will be able to take home their spinner & a SWAM activities certificate.



**END OF VISIT PRESENTATION** You are welcome to end your visit with your aviation activity badge presentation ceremony in front of your favourite plane in our hangar.

## General group visit information...

Group	time	Days	Group Size	Cost pp	Free Places	Activity
<b>Adult Day</b>	Between 10-4pm	Tues, Wed, Thur	15+	£12.50	-	2 hr + guided tour
<b>Adult Evening</b>	6-8pm	Tues, Wed, Thur	15+	£12.50	-	
<b>School - small (1 class)</b>	10-2pm	Tues & Thur	20 - 36	£7	1:6	*737 experience *Parachutes *Card spinners & paper darts
<b>School - large (2 classes)</b>	Unfortunately, we are currently unable to host larger school groups					
<b>Family Organisations</b>	10-2pm	Tues & Thur	20-36	£7	-	
<b>Cadets, scouts &amp; cubs, guides &amp; brownies</b>	5:30-7:30pm or 6-8pm	Tues, Wed, Thur	20+	£7	1:6	*Card spinner
Saturday & Sunday... Group visits may take place during our normal opening hours.						Please contact us for more information.
SWAM Sleepover - 'Night at the Museum' - ages 12 plus						
MINIMUM AGES	DAY Visits (schools) - 7 yrs plus (KSII)					
	EVENING visits - 9 yrs plus (Cub & Scouts / Brownies & Guides)					
Our Café is open 10am-2pm on Wednesday & Friday.						
On these days lunch can be pre-booked in our SWAM cafe as part of your visit.						
We can be flexible with timings, days, group sizes and other visit arrangements.						
We avoid booking group visits on Mondays and Fridays as our volunteers will already be 'on SWAM duty' on Saturdays and Sundays.						
SWAM Group Visit Coordinator    Mark Condon    07977097331    groupvisits@swam.museum						

## SWAM CAFÉ - ADULT GROUP VISIT MENU

Ham, egg and chips with standard tea or coffee £6.50

Chicken curry and chips with a standard tea or coffee £6.50

Tuna Mayo or beans jacket potato (served with salad and coleslaw) with a standard tea or coffee £6.00

Ham or cheese salad with a standard tea or coffee £6.00

manager@swam.museum

\*All information correct as of 1/2/2025

# SWAM DIRECTIONS

Apologies for the length of these 'olden days' style directions... Unfortunately we are not the easiest place to find; - and depending on what SATNAV people use, inputting even our correct post code may send you on an unwanted diversion. (Bus drivers for several group visits have taken wrong turns up narrow lanes after their SATNAVS misdirected them!)

We have two traditional 'brown' heritage signposts once you get close to the museum.

We'd advise your party to check our location (eg; on Google Maps) before choosing a route and to allow plenty of time to reach us.

'WHAT 3 WORDS?' to navigate **what3words** 'salads.conducted.remark'

**DIRECTIONS - GENERAL...** SWAM is located at the north of the former RAF St Athan. We are not on the current 'active' airfield, - sometimes visitors incorrectly try to go to MOD St Athan.

**TRAVELLING FROM THE EAST** - From Cardiff/Barry/Cardiff Airport;

- Our advice would be to stay on the B4265, following the signs for Aston Martin/Bro Tathan; by-passing the village of St Athan itself.\*
- Pass signs for the main St Athan gate and come to a set of traffic lights - the Boverton turn off.
- Go straight through these lights, passing under a railway bridge and you come to a roundabout.
- Turn (2nd) right here onto the 'Northern Access Road' signposted 'Bro Tathan' and head northeast, skirting the west edge of the airfield.
- After about a mile you reach a large set of traffic lights;- our museum is signposted (left) & located to the north- opposite the large Aston Martin factory and outside the 'active' St Athan airfield.  
(\*Drivers familiar with the area may prefer to drive through St Athan village.)

**TRAVELLING FROM THE WEST** - From Bridgend/Cowbridge

- On the B4265 - Go straight through the set of traffic lights indicating Llantwit Major (right) and Llanmaes (left)
- After going straight through these lights you'll come to a roundabout - turn (1st) left here onto the 'Northern Access Road' and you'll head northeast - skirting the west edge of the airfield.
- After about a mile you reach a large set of traffic lights; - our museum is signposted (left) & located to the north- opposite the large Aston Martin factory, outside the 'active' St Athan airfield.

**How to find us...** Hangar 872, Picketston, Buisness Park, Bro Tathan North, St Athan, Barry CF62 4QR  
**01446 789767** [info@swam.museum](mailto:info@swam.museum)

Either approach from ... the east past Cardiff Airport or the west via Cowbridge /Llantwit Major

