

# SWAM GROUP VISITS 2026

*'Inspiring the future by preserving the past'*



SWAM is open to the public 10am-4pm on weekends, - Saturday & Sunday- Bank Holidays and Wednesdays during school holidays.

\*See our Facebook page and website & for further information.

Looking to arrange a group visit to SWAM? We would love to welcome you to our museum!

Contact us at; [groupvisits@southwalesaviationmuseum.com](mailto:groupvisits@southwalesaviationmuseum.com)

**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 often fills up quickly.

## The SWAM collection

In most museums the aircraft are roped off so visitors can 'look but don't touch!' In SWAM you can get 'hands on' with our aircraft, touch them and even sit in some of them. Most of our aircraft are ex-military. There are complete and partial 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 in 2019.



Whilst none our aircraft are currently airworthy; some are complete and potentially a small number could be restored to taxy-able condition.

Our exhibit rooms display artefacts, photographs and historical research of local places, people and events.

## 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.

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.



# SCHOOL DAY VISITS – Ages 7-18yrs

## ENGAGE & EXCITE; Make SWAM a part of your pupils' learning experience.



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

School 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 TYPICAL SCHOOL DAY AT SWAM

The timetable for your day will be tailored to your individual needs, generally your SWAM experience is planned around a 10am-2pm, 4hr visit.

- Arrival welcome
- Guided hangar & exhibit room tours.
- Packed lunch in our group visit room
- Aviation activity
- Departure: Q & A Group Photo



**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... You’ll also need to take care when you are walking close to, around and inside the aeroplanes – So strictly no running!

### 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, Diorama, Women in Aviation, Parachute & Model rooms you will see aviation artefacts, aircraft models and historical displays. You’ll be shown historical research that will inspire our children to conduct their own.



### 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



- Prior to your visit we will send you a passport template to complete.
- Each child will be given a ticket/boarding card to your chosen destination.
- The children will clear 'passport control' to board our 737 for their flight. (\*Previous school groups have 'flown' all over 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!
- To end your day there'll be a life vest inflation demonstration – and you'll be given one to take back to school.



## CADET, SCOUTS/GUIDES: EVENING VISITS - 9yrs plus

### SWAM GUIDED HANGAR TOUR

Your evening group visit will last two hours.

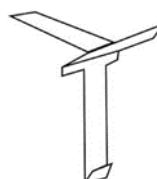
Depending on distance to travel we aim for a 5:30pm or 6pm start.

During your visit you will be split into smaller groups for your aviation activity and Hangar tour. You 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.



### AVIATION ACTIVITY

For scouts and guides - Your evening aviation activity - the children will 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 PHOTO & PRESENTATION



Scouts can end their visit with your aviation activity badge presentation ceremony & a photo in front of your favourite aircraft.



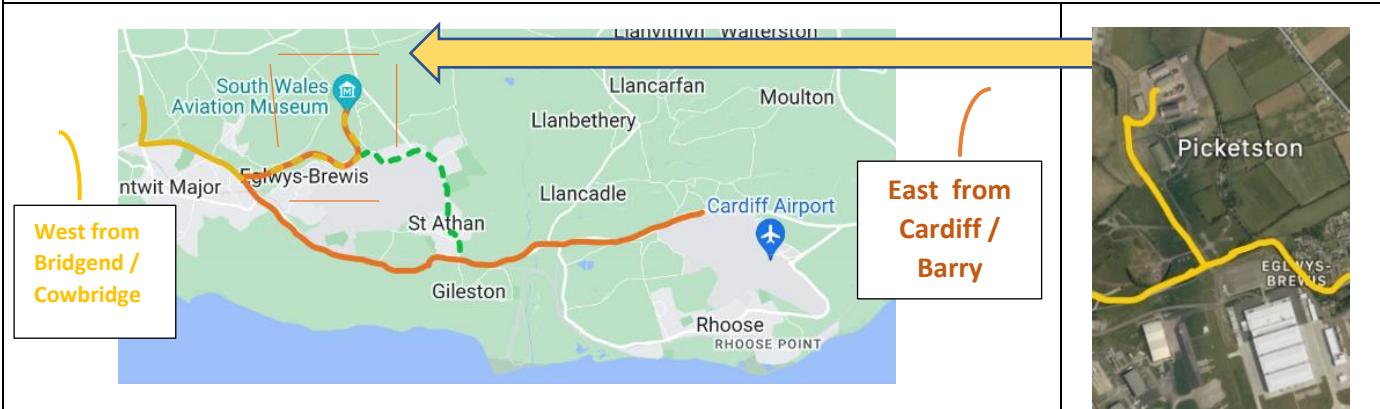
## General group visit information...

Group	time	Days	Group Size	Cost pp	Free Places	Activity							
<b>Adult - Day</b>	2hrs between 10-4pm	Tues, Wed, Thur	16+	£15	1:20	2 hr + guided tour							
<b>Adult - Evening</b>	6-8pm		16+	£15	1:20								
<b>School – class visit (1 class)</b>	10-2pm	Tues	24 – 32	£7.50	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	24-32	£7.50	1:20								
<b>Cadets, scouts &amp; cubs, guides &amp; brownies</b>	5:30-7:30pm or 6-8pm	Tues, Wed, Thur	20+	£7.50	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													
<b>MINIMUM AGES</b>	DAY Visits (schools) - 7 yrs plus (KSII)												
	EVENING visits - 9 yrs plus (Cub & Scouts / Brownies & Guides)												
<b>SCHOOL VISITS</b> Adult Supervision	Minimum of three adults per class visit; 4 adults is better – 5 is ideal.												
Our Café is open 10am-2pm on Wednesday, Thursday & 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 Condron    07977097331 <a href="mailto:groupvisits@southwalesaviationmusem.com">groupvisits@southwalesaviationmusem.com</a>													

\*All information correct as of 1/1/2026

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

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



## SWAM DIRECTIONS

Unfortunately we are not the easiest place to find; - 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 Boerton 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.