

## **Fantasy of Flight Showcases Wonder and History of Aviation** Stroll Among the World's Greatest Aircraft Collection

*Everyone can relate to the metaphor of reaching for the sky and the stars. We soar in our imaginations, and we fly in our dreams –*

**Fantasy of Flight Creator and Owner Kermit Weeks**

POLK CITY, Fla. – Lean into a cloud simulation to feel the sensation of parachuting to earth, then step into a 1903 scene as the Wright Brothers celebrate their first successful flight. Witness the drama of a World War I aerial dogfight, then board a real B-17 Flying Fortress to reenact a flight at 25,000 feet over enemy territory.

Fantasy of Flight, voted #1 of “Orlando’s 101 Best Kept Secrets” by *Orlando Sentinel* readers in 2007, welcomes you to a world that captures the wonder of aviation and the history of those marvelous flying machines. And it gives you the chance to stroll among the world’s largest collection of vintage airplanes dating from the early 1900s, including World War II standouts like the rare P-51C Mustang featuring red tail colors of the Tuskegee Airmen and the B-26 Marauder, which saw combat in the South Pacific and over North Africa.

“We want to deliver the human experience through entertainment in a way that you discover yourself in the process,” says Fantasy of Flight creator and owner Kermit Weeks. “That’s the most profound way to learn and grow.”

Themed sight- and sound-immersion experiences showcase memorable moments in aviation history, and a new self-guided audio tour gives an added sense of time and place, as well as insider details about featured aviators. Guided tours go behind the scenes to show how craftsmen restore vintage planes. The only attraction in the world that offers daily aerial demonstrations, Fantasy of Flight showcases different vintage planes with each flight and offers a question-and-answer session with the pilot. Experiences and tours within the art-deco style attraction are multifaceted.

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### ***Step Into the History of Flight***

You'll feel as if you've time-traveled back to several eras as you discover the birth of human flight and the role of aircraft in two World Wars.

- Early Flight: Witness mankind's earliest attempts to fly, from hot air balloons to the Wright Brothers' first successful flight.
- World War I: Enter the trenches of the Western front and feel the excitement of an aerial dogfight.
- World War II: Climb into the B-17 Flying Fortress to feel the bomber's power as it soars above enemy troops.

### ***Stroll Past Vintage Aircraft***

Explore Fantasy of Flight's sprawling Art Deco hangars, where history and human experience illuminate more than 40 historical airplanes dating from the early 1900s to the 1950s, including:

- Early Flight: Replica Curtiss Pusher (1911), Morane-Saulnier monoplane (1916), replica Valkyrie (1911)
- WWI: Replica Nieuport 17 (1915), Morane A-I (1918), Curtiss Jenny (1917), Standard E-1 (1917), Thomas Morse Scout (1917), Standard J-1 (1917), Avro 504 (1916)
- WWII: P-51C Mustang (1944), B-26 Marauder (1940), MK-16 Spitfire (1945), Short Sunderland flying boat (1944)

Make your journey even more exciting with the new **Audio Tour** (\$4.95), which brings the planes on exhibit to life through compelling stories written and narrated by Kermit Weeks. Anecdotes of these remarkable flying machines, complete with special effects, evoke the triumphs of the modern age and celebrate the extraordinary achievements of pilots and their planes.

***Discover Interactive Thrills at ‘Fun with Flight Center’ and ‘Fightertown’***

Design and build your own paper airplane, then set it free to see how far it gets through the Fun with Flight Center’s “fly zone.” Try out a state-of-the-art hang gliding simulator or see what it feels like to pilot a hot air balloon. Here, children can let their imaginations soar as they enjoy flight-related free play. Parents can kick back and watch or join in for some family fun.

***Go Behind the Scenes -- Tour Backlot and Restoration Shop Areas***

- Backlot Tram Tour: Ride behind the scenes of the World’s Greatest Aircraft Collection. For every perfectly restored airplane in the Art Deco display hangars, two airplanes await restoration in the backlot. Guests can inspect an eclectic collection of military aviation artifacts and historic Hollywood “aeroplanes” of yesteryear, including the world’s largest collection of B-17 parts. Guided by crack aviation enthusiasts who share stories of aviation derring-do, trams tour the Fantasy Engine Bay with its priceless array of historic engines (Gnomes to Rolls Royces) from around the world. A breezy ride along the grass runway takes guests to the Maintenance Hangar, where some of Mr. Weeks’ favorite superstar airplanes are ready to fly high.
- Wood Shop and Machine Shop Tour: See Wood Shop specialists restore and rebuild wooden aircraft like the original Curtiss JN-4, better known as the “Jenny” -- the barnstormer’s chariot of choice. Grease and gears keep the Machine Shop running smoothly – it’s where the pilots’ heroes spin ratchets and shoot grease guns.
- Restoration Shop Tour – “Preserving and Restoring Treasures”: Visit a working restoration shop where Fantasy of Flight’s greatest assets are under reconstruction. Get a close-up look as expert craftsmen dismantle, resurface and restore multi-million-dollar vintage planes such as the Seversky P-35 (one of only three remaining in the world) to pristine condition. Fantasy of Flight consistently wins world championships in the art and craft of historical restorations, and guests get the insider scoop on the process.

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***Pay Tribute to Real Heroes***

- The Tuskegee Airmen – *They Dared to Fly*: Listen to interviews and tour the photo gallery honoring these brave African-American pilots who overcame extreme odds with dignity and valor. Their dream to fly for their country ultimately commanded significant civil rights changes in our nation.
- WASP (Women Airforce Service Pilots) – *A Passionate Pursuit*: Marvel at this multimedia tribute to the first women in history to fly U.S. military aircraft.

***Experience Aircraft of the Day Demonstration***

Part of the fun is learning which vintage plane will be rolled out for this daily event. After a brief question-and-answer session that includes some history on the aircraft, a pilot performs an aerial demonstration in the skies above Fantasy of Flight.

***Enjoy a Bite to Eat***

Relax in a 1940s-style Art Deco booth for a burger and a milkshake at the Compass Rose Diner. Soups, salads, sandwiches and entrees are served daily. Open 11 a.m.-3 p.m. daily.

***Shop for the Perfect Souvenir***

The Fantasy of Flight gift shop will surprise you with its variety of aviation-themed merchandise and apparel. You'll find aviation collectibles, signs, books, videos, toys and T-shirts. Pick up a signed copy of "All of Life is a School" (KWIP Publishing, \$19.95, 64 pages) penned by Fantasy of Flight creator and owner Kermit Weeks.

***EXTRA, EXTRA! Climb Aboard for the Flight of Your Life***

If you want to take your Fantasy of Flight experience to an even higher level, flying and piloting activities are on tap for an additional charge. Soar over Central Florida in a hot air balloon, fly in a fully restored 1929 open-cockpit New Standard biplane or learn to pilot a famous WWII trainer. All offer breathtaking experiences.

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Float Into the Clouds – Up to four passengers can climb into the gondola of a colorful hot air balloon for an idyllic three-hour voyage above the area’s lakes and orange groves. (\$175 per person; available daily, weather permitting. Reservation required.)

Experience a Vintage Barnstorming Flight – Gather family or friends for a 15-minute flight in a New Standard D-25. Your pilot has plenty of barnstorming stories before he shows you what this biplane can do. (\$69.95 per person; available October through August, weather permitting)

Take the Controls of a Stearman PT-17 -- Think you have the right stuff to pilot this WWII gem? Duel controls in both cockpits mean no experience is needed to fly this biplane – your pilot shows you the ropes before you take the controls for the ultimate flying adventure. (\$229 per person; available October through August, weather permitting. Reservations suggested)

### ***Spell Victory for Your Corporate Event***

Plan a winning meeting or event, whether you’re hosting 50 or 5,000. Book the Officers’ Club, complete with Tiki bar and decorated with the nose of a B-24 bomber. Or take over an aircraft hangar, where authentic vintage planes serve as your party backdrop. All will hail the chief when the incentive prize is a flight in a real biplane. Contact Corporate Event Sales at 863.984.3500, Ext. 281.

### ***Zoom in on Our Location, Hours and Admission***

Fantasy of Flight is located in Polk City, Fla., on 2,000 acres just off of I-4 (Exit 44) between Tampa and Orlando, and about 15 minutes west of Orlando area attractions. Plan three-to-five hours for your visit.

- Hours: 10 a.m.-5 pm. daily except during special events, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

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- General admission is \$28.95. Discounted youth admission for children 6-15 is \$14.95; children 5 and under receive free admission. No admission is required to visit the Compass Rose Diner or to browse the gift shop. (Hot air balloon and biplane flights are not included in general admission.) MasterCard, Visa, Discover and American Express are accepted.
- Parking is free except during special events and festivals.

***Gather the Troops***

Groups of 15 or more receive discounted admission rates. Student, military and scout groups, as well as group fly-ins, are welcome with advanced booking. Call 1.863.984.3500, Ext. 220, for group sales.

***Need more information?***

Call 1.863.984.3500 or visit [www.fantasyofflight.com](http://www.fantasyofflight.com).