

OUT OF THIS WORLD: THE SMITHSONIAN AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM

The Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum is home to an incredible collection of artifacts, from 17th century sea navigation tools to full-sized airplanes and missiles. The Air and Space Museum is one of the most popular Smithsonians, and it's not hard to see why. It offers a number of exhibits, each filled with stunning displays, informative panels, and interactive materials curated by the Smithsonian's expert staff. Here is a list of the best exhibits in the Air and Space Museum, as well as exhibit highlights.

→ Boeing Milestones of Flight Hall

The Boeing Milestones of Flight Hall is one of the first exhibits you'll see when you walk into the museum. On display are a wide variety of airplanes and spacecraft, each integral in the development of flight and exploration throughout history. A number of planes and spacecraft are suspended from the ceiling, including the Ryan NYP Spirit of St. Louis, an airplane built specifically for Charles A. Lindbergh's astounding solo flight from New York to Paris. Here you can also see the first airplane that could fly faster than the speed of sound, the Bell X-1 Glamorous Glennis.

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→ Barron Hilton Pioneers of Flight Gallery

This exhibit displays a diverse range of artifacts and focuses on people who pushed and surpassed the perceived barriers of flight. The displays are colorful and include information on a wide cast of characters like Amelia Earhart, the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic ocean, Bessie Coleman, the first woman of African American and Native American descent to hold a pilot license, and Robert Goddard, the man who created the first liquid-fueled rocket. This exhibit also includes a number of airplanes, including the Lockheed 5B Vega, which Earhart flew during her solo flight, and the Douglas World Cruiser Chicago, which successfully circumnavigated the globe.

→ The Wright Brothers and the Invention of the Aerial Age

If you know anything about airplanes, then you know who the Wright Brothers are. This exhibit gives details about their lives and accomplishments before their first successful airplane, as well as the results that followed their achievements. Included in this exhibit is the 1903 Wright Flyer, which was the first successful aircraft. The entire exhibit is designed with the early 1900s in mind, including a vintage house front and items owned by the Wright Brothers.

→ Space Race

One of the most impressive exhibits in the Air and Space Museum is Space Race, which highlights the rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union after World War II. This exhibit displays a number of space suits, rockets, and spacecraft, including the Apollo Command/Service Module and the Soviet Soyuz 19 capsule. This spacecraft was the main part of the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project, which acknowledged the end of the Space Race, marking the beginning of cooperation between nations in creating a human presence in space. Here you can also view a test version of the Hubble Space Telescope and the Skylab Orbital Workshop.







FEATURED PLACES





Captain Cookie is a mobile bakery, so you might have to chase it down! They offer a selection of cookies, local milk, and custom ice cream sandwiches.





If you're a record collector, or just into music, Hill & Dale Records is the place to go. They don't only have vinyl records, but also offer posters and collectible photos.



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THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Apollo 50 Festival

National Mall

July 18 & 19 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. & July 20 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Free

Celebrate the first Moon landing at the Apollo 50 Festival, presented by the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum and NASA. Here you will be able to enjoy tents with exhibitors such as NASA, LEGO, and PBS, as well as live performances and several guest speakers (including Adam Savage of MythBusters!).

Apollo 50: Go for the Moon

Washington Monument

July 19 & 20 at 9:30 p.m., 10:30 p.m., & 11:30 p.m.

Free

Continue the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 lunar landing mission by attending the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum's "Go for the Moon" show. The Saturn V rocket will be projected onto the Washington Monument and accompanied by a recreation of the Kennedy Space Center countdown clock, as well as videos to inform audiences of the first successful Moon landing.

Truckeroo

The Bullpen

Friday, July 19 at 4 p.m.

Free

Go attend one of Washington D.C.'s most popular events of the summer. Truckeroo is a food truck festival that has been featured in articles from The Washington Post and Thrillist. Not only can you enjoy great food, but you can also hear live music, play games, and win giveaways.

Hot in Herre 2000s Dance Party

9:30 Club

Saturday, July 20 at 9 p.m.

\$16

Why listen to a throwback playlist when you can go to a throwback dance party? 9:30 Club is hosting a 2000s dance party DJ-ed by Will Eastman and Ozker, and with visuals by Kylos. This event is advertised as open to all ages.



