



Remembering World War II



A Guide to Museums and Historic Sites
in the United States

*Dedicated to the members of the U.S. armed forces and
the civilians on the home front who sacrificed so much.*

*Remembering World War II:
A Guide to Museums and Historic Sites in the United States*

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Introduction

World War II ended 70 years ago. Through four long years of war, Americans sacrificed and served alongside our Allies to help bring freedom to people in other countries. While many of those who lived through that conflict are no longer with us, historic sites and museums across the country preserve their memories and honor their efforts.

This guide highlights some key locations and major museums. If you undertake a major family trip, you will want to get additional information from local guide books and websites. You probably also have a variety of local resources nearby, including state, county, and city history museums; research rooms at public and university libraries; and neighbors and relatives who have memories of World War II from their own lives or their parents and grandparents.

Some of these sites are open seasonally or by appointment only, so plan ahead and confirm what you can see and when before you visit. Be aware that you may encounter depictions of graphic violence, coarse language, or risqué artwork. As a parent, you know best what your children are prepared to see and hear.

War is a terrible thing. By learning about World War II, your family can understand the historical factors that led to it and honor the sacrifice of those involved. You can also encourage your children to work for peace and justice so that perhaps our world can avoid repeating some mistakes.

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Battle and Attack Sites

Conflict spread through Asia, Africa, and Europe during the 1930s. The United States remained officially neutral at first, and then began sending supplies and equipment to the Allies (particularly Great Britain and Russia). In December 1941, the United States entered the war on the side of the Allies after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, which was then a U.S. territory. The Japanese also attacked the Philippines, then a commonwealth of the United States.

Most of U.S. involvement in World War II took place far away from our country. Other than Pearl Harbor, the only site of major fighting in what is now the fifty United States occurred in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska. However, several incidents brought the war close to home for Americans.

Pearl Harbor

Pearl Harbor Historic Sites, Hawaii

[BestTrips.guide/phshi](https://www.besttrips.guide/phshi)

The WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument features the USS *Arizona* memorial. Other sites are the Battleship *Missouri* Memorial, the USS *Bowfin* Submarine Museum & Park, and the Pacific Aviation Museum.



USS Missouri and USS Arizona Memorials

Aleutian Islands

Attu, Alaska - [BestTrips.guide/attak](https://www.besttrips.guide/attak)

Japanese forces captured the island of Attu in 1942. American forces retook it in 1943 after heavy fighting. This was the only land battle in the United States during World War II. The island became a U.S. airbase for the rest of the war. Access to the island is restricted.

Amaknak Island, Alaska - [BestTrips.guide/aisak](https://www.besttrips.guide/aisak)

In 1942 the Japanese also bombed Amaknak Island, which was home to the U.S. Fort Schwatka. Today a Visitor Center on the island is part of the Aleutian World War II National Historic Area. It tells the story of the American campaign to push back the Japanese.



In 1987 the Japanese government placed this monument on Attu in memory of those who died and in dedication to world peace. This photo shows Toshino Makino, member of a Japanese delegation, inspecting the monument in 2007.

Other Attacks

Cape Hatteras, North Carolina - [BestTrips.guide/bscnc](#) and [BestTrips.guide/gamnc](#)

In 1942 German submarines sank hundreds of Allied ships in the Atlantic, many just a few miles from the coast of the United States. Such a large number of these attacks occurred off the coast of North Carolina that the area became known as Torpedo Junction. British sailors who died in these attacks are buried near Cape Hatteras. The Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum has an exhibit about this period.

Ellwood Oil Field, Goleta, California - [BestTrips.guide/eofca](#)

On February 23, 1942, a Japanese submarine attacked an oil field near Santa Barbara, California. The shelling caused minimal damage, but it caused a scare about the possibility of more attacks. This fear contributed to the internment of Japanese-Americans (see page 28 for more information).

Fort Stevens, Oregon - [BestTrips.guide/ftsor](#)

A Japanese submarine shot at this fort on June 21, 1942. This was the only military installation in the continental United States attacked during World War II.

Lookout Air Raids, Oregon - [BestTrips.guide/laror](#)

On September 9, 1942, a single Japanese plane launched from a submarine dropped two bombs near Brookings, Oregon. The same pilot, Nubuo Fujita, made a similar attack twenty days later. These were unsuccessful attempts to start forest fires.

Twenty years later, in 1962, Fujita was invited to visit Oregon. Fujita, ashamed of his actions during the war, gave his family's 400-year-old samurai sword to the city of Brookings. The sword is on display at the Chetco Community Public Library there.

Fire Balloons - [BestTrips.guide/fbmor](#)

Late in the war (1944-45), Japan launched over 9,000 hydrogen-filled balloons that floated across the Pacific toward North America. A few hundred of them landed across the western and northern United States, from California to Michigan. The balloons carried explosives, and some caused minor damage.

The only known deaths occurred in a tragic event in Oregon. Members of a Sunday School came upon one of the bombs during a picnic outing. The bomb exploded, killing five children and Elsie Mitchell, who was pregnant.

Elsie's husband, Archie, went to Vietnam as a missionary after the war. He was kidnapped by the Viet Cong in 1962. What finally happened to him is unknown.

The Japanese fire balloons were made out of a special paper or silk. After this one was shot down in California, Americans repaired and reinflated it.



World War II Museums and Sites

Over sixteen million Americans served in uniform during World War II. Over 400,000, about one of out every forty, did not come home. Many hundreds of thousands more were left with physical injuries and emotional scars. On the home front, American citizens built the equipment for the military, bought war bonds, recycled metal and rubber, and waited and prayed for their loved ones in the service to come home. These sites focus on World War II and its impact on the United States of America.

National WWII Memorial

Washington, D.C.

[BestTrips.guide/nwmcdc](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/nwmcdc)

Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site

Tuskegee, Alabama

[BestTrips.guide/tanal](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/tanal)

Navajo Code Talkers Exhibits

Kayenta, Arizona

[BestTrips.guide/nc1az](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/nc1az)

[BestTrips.guide/nc2az](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/nc2az)

Bill Toledo, Robert Walley, and Alfred Newman were three soldiers from the Navajo tribe who used their native language to communicate in code during World War II. This greatly helped the war in the Pacific since the Japanese were unable to crack the code.

W.A.S.P. Museum

Quartzsite, Arizona

[BestTrips.guide/wasaz](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/wasaz)

390th Memorial Museum

Tucson, Arizona

[BestTrips.guide/390az](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/390az)

WWII Home Front Quilts Project

Richmond, California

[BestTrips.guide/hfqca](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/hfqca)

Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front

National Historical Park

Richmond, California

[BestTrips.guide/rrhca](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/rrhca)

San Francisco Bay Area Sites

San Francisco, California

[BestTrips.guide/sfbca](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/sfbca)

National Museum of World War II Aviation

Colorado Springs, Colorado

[BestTrips.guide/nmwco](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/nmwco)



[Military Museum of Southern New England](#)
Danbury, Connecticut
[BestTrips.guide/mmsct](#)

[Museum of Black WWII History](#)
Stamford, Connecticut
[BestTrips.guide/mbwct](#)

[Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum](#)
Carrabelle, Florida
[BestTrips.guide/cgjfl](#)

[Coastal Observation Post](#)
Ormond-By-The-Sea, Florida
[BestTrips.guide/copfl](#)

[Camp Blanding Museum](#)
Starke, Florida
[BestTrips.guide/cbmfl](#)

[Institute on World War II](#)
Tallahassee, Florida
[BestTrips.guide/iwwfl](#)

[Zephyrhills Museum of Military History](#)
Zephyrhills, Florida
[BestTrips.guide/zmmfl](#)

[World War II Flight Training Museum](#)
Douglas, Georgia
[BestTrips.guide/ftmga](#)

[Currahee Military Museum](#)
Toccoa, Georgia
[BestTrips.guide/cmmga](#)

[Roberts Armory Museum](#)
Rochelle, Illinois
[BestTrips.guide/ramil](#)



In addition to extensive displays about American servicemen and women on the battlefield, the National World War II Museum features exhibits about the Home Front that explore wartime shortages, Rosie Riveters, draft boards, boot camp, and the art of the propaganda poster.

[Ernie Pyle WWII Museum](#)
Dana, Indiana
[BestTrips.guide/epwin](#)

[Camp Atterbury Museum](#)
Edinburgh, Indiana
[BestTrips.guide/apcin](#)

[National WWII Museum](#)
New Orleans, Louisiana
[BestTrips.guide/nwmla](#)

[Museum of World War II](#)
Natick, Massachusetts
[BestTrips.guide/mwwma](#)

[Tuskegee Airmen](#)
[National Historical Museum](#)
Detroit, Michigan
[BestTrips.guide/tanmi](#)

Polish Home Army Museum
Orchard Lake, Michigan
[BestTrips.guide/phami](https://www.besttrips.guide/phami)

Arsenal of Democracy Museum
St. Clair Shores, Michigan
[BestTrips.guide/admmi](https://www.besttrips.guide/admmi)

Fagen Fighters WWII Museum
Granite Falls, Minnesota
[BestTrips.guide/ffwmn](https://www.besttrips.guide/ffwmn)

Camp Van Dorn World War II Museum
Centreville, Mississippi
[BestTrips.guide/cvdms](https://www.besttrips.guide/cvdms)

Wright Museum of WWII History
Wolfeboro, New Hampshire
[BestTrips.guide/wmwnh](https://www.besttrips.guide/wmwnh)

Camp Shanks World War II Museum
Orangeburg, New York
[BestTrips.guide/csmny](https://www.besttrips.guide/csmny)

Museum of American Armor
Old Bethpage, New York
[BestTrips.guide/maany](https://www.besttrips.guide/maany)

Eldred World War II Museum
Eldred, Pennsylvania
[BestTrips.guide/ewmpa](https://www.besttrips.guide/ewmpa)

Hangar 25 Air Museum
Big Spring, Texas
[BestTrips.guide/h25tx](https://www.besttrips.guide/h25tx)

National Museum of the Pacific War
Fredericksburg, Texas
[BestTrips.guide/nmptx](https://www.besttrips.guide/nmptx)

Iwo Jima Museum
Harlingen, Texas
[BestTrips.guide/ijmtx](https://www.besttrips.guide/ijmtx)

Silent Wings Museum
Lubbock, Texas
[BestTrips.guide/swmtx](https://www.besttrips.guide/swmtx)

National WASP World War II Museum
Sweetwater, Texas
[BestTrips.guide/nwmtx](https://www.besttrips.guide/nwmtx)

No. 1 British Flying Training School
Terrell, Texas
[BestTrips.guide/bfttx](https://www.besttrips.guide/bfttx)

Historic Wendover Airfield
Wendover, Utah
[BestTrips.guide/hwaut](https://www.besttrips.guide/hwaut)

National D-Day Memorial
Bedford, Virginia
[BestTrips.guide/ndmva](https://www.besttrips.guide/ndmva)

Greatest Generation Society Exhibit
Rowlesburg, West Virginia
[BestTrips.guide/ggswv](https://www.besttrips.guide/ggswv)

War in the Pacific National Historical Park
Hagåtña, Guam
[BestTrips.guide/wpngu](https://www.besttrips.guide/wpngu)

Military History Museums

Many of these museums are associated with specific branches, units, or posts of the United States military. Others feature a wide variety of items, from personal memorabilia to vehicles. They have exhibits and information about World War II and other conflicts in American history.

[National Museum of the U.S. Navy](#)
Washington, D.C.
[BestTrips.guide/nmndc](#)

[Alabama Veterans Museum and Archives](#)
Athens, Alabama
[BestTrips.guide/avmal](#)

[United States Army Aviation Museum](#)
Fort Rucker, Alabama
[BestTrips.guide/aamal](#)

[U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum](#)
Huntsville, Alabama
[BestTrips.guide/vmmal](#)

[Kodiak Military History Museum](#)
Kodiak, Alaska
[BestTrips.guide/kmhak](#)

[Arizona Military Museum](#)
Phoenix, Arizona
[BestTrips.guide/ammaz](#)

[Arkansas Air & Military Museum](#)
Fayetteville, Arkansas
[BestTrips.guide/aamar](#)

[Fort Smith Air Museum](#)
Fort Smith, Arkansas
[BestTrips.guide/fsaar](#)

[Fort Smith Museum of History](#)
Fort Smith, Arkansas
[BestTrips.guide/fsmar](#)

[Veterans Military Museum](#)
Hardy, Arkansas
[BestTrips.guide/vmmar](#)

Alexis Stoopenkoff, born in Russia in 1895, was a captain in the Russian army during World War I. He later emigrated to New York City. When World War II began, he joined the U.S. Marines as a private. Stoopenkoff died in 1963.



[Alameda Naval Air Museum](#)

Alameda, California

[BestTrips.guide/anaca](#)

[General Patton Memorial Museum](#)

Chiriaco Summit, California

[BestTrips.guide/gpmca](#)

[Travis Air Force Base Heritage Center](#)

Fairfield, California

[BestTrips.guide/tafca](#)

[Moffett Field Historical Society Museum](#)

Moffett Field, California

[BestTrips.guide/mfhca](#)

[Military Antiques & Museum](#)

Petaluma, California

[BestTrips.guide/mamca](#)

[United States Navy Seabee Museum](#)

Port Hueneme, California

[BestTrips.guide/nsmca](#)

[Inland Empire Military Museum](#)

San Bernardino, California

[BestTrips.guide/iemca](#)

[Fort MacArthur Museum](#)

San Pedro, California

[BestTrips.guide/ftmca](#)

[Stockton Field Aviation Museum](#)

Stockton, California

[BestTrips.guide/sfaca](#)

[Dragonman's Military Museum](#)

Colorado Springs, Colorado

[BestTrips.guide/dmmco](#)

[Fort Trumbull State Park](#)

New London, Connecticut

[BestTrips.guide/ftpct](#)

[U.S. Coast Guard Museum](#)

New London, Connecticut

[BestTrips.guide/cgmct](#)

[Military Historians Museum](#)

Westbrook, Connecticut

[BestTrips.guide/mhmct](#)

[Cape Henlopen State Park /](#)

[Fort Miles Historical Area](#)

Lewes, Delaware

[BestTrips.guide/chpde](#)

[Air Force Armament Museum](#)

Eglin AFB, Florida

[BestTrips.guide/afaffl](#)

[Navy SEAL Museum](#)

Fort Pierce, Florida

[BestTrips.guide/nsmfl](#)

[Museum of Military History](#)

Kissimmee, Florida

[BestTrips.guide/mmhfl](#)

[Armed Forces History Museum](#)

Largo, Florida

[BestTrips.guide/afhfl](#)

[Fort Pickens](#)

Pensacola Beach, Florida

[BestTrips.guide/ftpfl](#)

[Military Heritage Museum](#)

Punta Gorda, Florida

[BestTrips.guide/mhmfl](#)

National Infantry Museum &
Soldier Center
Columbus, Georgia
BestTrips.guide/nimga

6th Cavalry Museum
Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia
BestTrips.guide/6cmga

National Museum of the
Mighty Eighth Air Force
Pooler, Georgia
BestTrips.guide/meaga

U.S. Army Museum of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawaii
BestTrips.guide/amhhi

Tropic Lightning Museum
Schofield Barracks, Hawaii
BestTrips.guide/tlphi

Idaho Military Museum
Boise, Idaho
BestTrips.guide/immid

Vermillion County War Museum
Danville, Illinois
BestTrips.guide/vcwil

Great Lakes Naval Museum
Great Lakes, Illinois
BestTrips.guide/glnil

Armed Forces Museum
Greenville, Illinois
BestTrips.guide/afmil

Chanute Air Museum
Rantoul, Illinois
BestTrips.guide/camil

Naval Combat Demolition Units had the difficult and dangerous job of clearing obstacles from the water to allow ships to land for beach invasions. This 1943 photo shows a seaman in full deep-water diving gear.



[Russell Military Museum](#)

Zion, Illinois

[BestTrips.guide/rmmil](#)

[Illinois State Military Museum](#)

Springfield, Illinois

[BestTrips.guide/ismil](#)

[First Division Museum at Cantigny](#)

Wheaton, Illinois

[BestTrips.guide/fdmil](#)

[McClain's Military Museum](#)

Anderson, Indiana

[BestTrips.guide/mmmin](#)

[National Military History Center](#)

Auburn, Indiana

[BestTrips.guide/nmhin](#)

[Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum](#)

Columbus, Indiana

[BestTrips.guide/abain](#)

[Ropkey Armor Museum](#)

Crawfordsville, Indiana

[BestTrips.guide/ramin](#)

[Indiana War Memorial Museum](#)

Indianapolis, Indiana

[BestTrips.guide/iwmin](#)

[Indiana Military Museum](#)

Vincennes, Indiana

[BestTrips.guide/immin](#)

[Iowa Gold Star Military Museum](#)

Johnston, Iowa

[BestTrips.guide/igsia](#)

M24 Chaffee Tank at the First Division Museum, Wheaton, Illinois



[Kansas Museum of Military History](#)

Augusta, Kansas

[BestTrips.guide/kmmks](#)

[Kansas Cosmosphere & Space Center](#)

Hutchinson, Kansas

[BestTrips.guide/kcsks](#)

[Museum of the Kansas National Guard](#)

Topeka, Kansas

[BestTrips.guide/mknks](#)

[Don F. Pratt \(101st Airborne\) Museum](#)

Fort Campbell, Kentucky

[BestTrips.guide/101ky](#)

[Military History and Weapons Museum](#)

New Orleans, Louisiana

[BestTrips.guide/mhwla](#)

[Louisiana Maneuvers and Military Museum](#)

Pineville, Louisiana

[BestTrips.guide/lngla](#)

[Louisiana Military Museum](#)

Ruston, Louisiana

[BestTrips.guide/lmmla](#)

[Vintage Wings Millers Field](#)

Newburgh, Maine

[BestTrips.guide/vwmme](#)

[U.S. Naval Academy Museum](#)

Annapolis, Maryland

[BestTrips.guide/nammd](#)

[National Cryptologic Museum](#)

Annapolis Junction, Maryland

[BestTrips.guide/ncmmd](#)



Radio Equipment and Ammunition at the Ropkey Armor Museum in Crawfordsville, Indiana

[Maryland Museum of Military History](#)

Baltimore, Maryland

[BestTrips.guide/mmmmd](#)

[Collings Foundation](#)

Stow, Massachusetts

[BestTrips.guide/cfsma](#)

[Michigan's Military and](#)

[Space Heroes Museum](#)

Frankenmuth, Michigan

[BestTrips.guide/mmsmi](#)

[The Fighting Falcon Military Museum](#)

Greenville, Minnesota

[BestTrips.guide/ffmmn](#)

[Historic Fort Snelling](#)

Saint Paul, Minnesota

[BestTrips.guide/ftsmn](#)

[Minnesota Air National Guard Museum](#)

Saint Paul, Minnesota

[BestTrips.guide/manmn](#)

[Mississippi Armed Forces Museum](#)

Camp Shelby, Mississippi

[BestTrips.guide/mafms](#)

Seabee Heritage Center
Gulfport, Mississippi
BestTrips.guide/shcms

African American Military History Museum
Hattiesburg, Mississippi
BestTrips.guide/aamms

United States Army Engineer Museum
Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri
BestTrips.guide/aemmo

Soldiers Memorial Military Museum
St. Louis, Missouri
BestTrips.guide/smmmo

Montana's Military Museum
Helena, Montana
BestTrips.guide/mmmmt

Fort Robinson Museum
Crawford, Nebraska
BestTrips.guide/frmne

Heartland Museum of Military Vehicles
Lexington, Nebraska
BestTrips.guide/hmmne

Hawthorne Ordnance Museum
Hawthorne, Nevada
BestTrips.guide/homnv

Military Museum of Nevada
Las Vegas, Nevada
BestTrips.guide/mmnnv

Army Reserve Mobilization Museum
Fort Dix, New Jersey
BestTrips.guide/armnj

National Guard Militia Museum
of New Jersey
Trenton, New Jersey
BestTrips.guide/ngmnj

Harbor Defense Museum at
Fort Hamilton
Brooklyn, New York
BestTrips.guide/hdmny

Fort Drum Museum
Fort Drum, New York
BestTrips.guide/fdmny

Airborne Troops Training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, 1942



American Merchant Marine Museum
Kings Point, New York
BestTrips.guide/mmmny

New York State Military Museum
Saratoga Springs, New York
BestTrips.guide/nysny

West Point Museum
West Point, New York
BestTrips.guide/wpmny

Airborne & Special Operations Museum
Fayetteville, North Carolina
BestTrips.guide/asonc

82nd Airborne Division Museum
Fort Bragg, North Carolina
BestTrips.guide/82anc

John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Museum
Fort Bragg, North Carolina
BestTrips.guide/swmnc

National Museum of the Army Reserve
Fort Bragg, North Carolina
BestTrips.guide/nmanc

National Museum of the U.S. Air Force
Dayton, Ohio
BestTrips.guide/afmoh

Motts Military Museum
Groveport, Ohio
BestTrips.guide/mmmoh

U.S. Army Artillery Museum
Lawton, Oklahoma
BestTrips.guide/aamok

45th Infantry Division
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
BestTrips.guide/45iok

Pennsylvania National Guard
Military Museum
Annville, Pennsylvania
BestTrips.guide/pngpa

Pennsylvania Military Museum
Boalsburg, Pennsylvania
BestTrips.guide/pmmpa

Museum of the Artillery Company
of Newport
Newport, Rhode Island
BestTrips.guide/macri

South Carolina Military Museum
Columbia, South Carolina
BestTrips.guide/scmsc

U.S. Army Basic Combat Training Museum
Fort Jackson, South Carolina
BestTrips.guide/bctsc

U.S. Army Chaplain Museum
Fort Jackson, South Carolina
BestTrips.guide/acmsc

South Dakota National Guard Museum
Pierre, South Dakota
BestTrips.guide/sdnsd

USS South Dakota Battleship Memorial
Sioux Falls, South Dakota
BestTrips.guide/ussdd

Veterans' Museum
Halls, Tennessee
BestTrips.guide/vmhtn



African-Americans served with distinction in World War II, even though they faced prejudice and discrimination from their own countrymen. This 1945 photo shows a soldier from the U.S. 12th Armored Division guarding a group of German prisoners. Back in the United States, German prisoners of war often received more favorable treatment than black American soldiers.

Tennessee Military Museum

Nashville, Tennessee

[BestTrips.guide/tsmtn](https://www.besttrips.guide/tsmtn)

12th Armored Division Museum

Abilene, Texas

[BestTrips.guide/12atx](https://www.besttrips.guide/12atx)

Texas Military Forces Museum

Austin, Texas

[BestTrips.guide/tmftx](https://www.besttrips.guide/tmftx)

Fort Bliss and Old Ironsides Museum

Fort Bliss, Texas

[BestTrips.guide/fbmtx](https://www.besttrips.guide/fbmtx)

1st Cavalry Division Museum

Fort Hood, Texas

[BestTrips.guide/1cdtx](https://www.besttrips.guide/1cdtx)

U.S. Army Medical Department Museum

San Antonio, Texas

[BestTrips.guide/amdtx](https://www.besttrips.guide/amdtx)

Museum of North Texas History

Wichita Falls, Texas

[BestTrips.guide/mnttx](https://www.besttrips.guide/mnttx)

Vermont National Guard Museum

Colchester, Vermont

[BestTrips.guide/vngvt](https://www.besttrips.guide/vngvt)

AAF Tank Museum
Danville, Virginia
[BestTrips.guide/aafva](https://www.besttrips.guide/aafva)

U.S. Army Transportation Museum
Fort Eustis, Virginia
[BestTrips.guide/atmva](https://www.besttrips.guide/atmva)

Ordnance Museum
Fort Lee, Virginia
[BestTrips.guide/ordva](https://www.besttrips.guide/ordva)

U.S. Army Quartermaster Museum
Fort Lee, Virginia
[BestTrips.guide/aqmva](https://www.besttrips.guide/aqmva)

United States Army Women's Museum
Fort Lee, Virginia
[BestTrips.guide/awmva](https://www.besttrips.guide/awmva)

Freedom Museum
Manassas, Virginia
[BestTrips.guide/fmmva](https://www.besttrips.guide/fmmva)

Virginia War Museum
Newport News, Virginia
[BestTrips.guide/vwmva](https://www.besttrips.guide/vwmva)

National Museum of the Marine Corps
Triangle, Virginia
[BestTrips.guide/mmcva](https://www.besttrips.guide/mmcva)

Puget Sound Navy Museum
Bremerton, Washington
[BestTrips.guide/psnwa](https://www.besttrips.guide/psnwa)

Washington National Guard Museum
Camp Murray, Washington
[BestTrips.guide/wngwa](https://www.besttrips.guide/wngwa)

Naval Undersea Museum
Keyport, Washington
[BestTrips.guide/numwa](https://www.besttrips.guide/numwa)

Top Kick's Military Museum
Petersburg, West Virginia
[BestTrips.guide/tkmwv](https://www.besttrips.guide/tkmwv)

Mountaineer Military Museum
Weston, West Virginia
[BestTrips.guide/mmmwv](https://www.besttrips.guide/mmmwv)

Wisconsin Veterans Museum
Madison, Wisconsin
[BestTrips.guide/wvmwi](https://www.besttrips.guide/wvmwi)

Mitchell Gallery of Flight
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
[BestTrips.guide/mgfwi](https://www.besttrips.guide/mgfwi)

Richard I. Bong Veterans Historical Center
Superior, Wisconsin
[BestTrips.guide/ribwi](https://www.besttrips.guide/ribwi)

Wyoming Veterans Memorial Museum
Casper, Wyoming
[BestTrips.guide/wvmwy](https://www.besttrips.guide/wvmwy)

Military Memorial Museum
Cheyenne, Wyoming
[BestTrips.guide/mmmwy](https://www.besttrips.guide/mmmwy)

Airplanes

These museums and organizations focus on historic aircraft, including planes from World War II. Some of them maintain planes that can still fly, and a few offer rides. In addition to aircraft, several of the museums feature land vehicles and additional exhibits about World War II. Ask these organizations about nearby air shows. See page 39 for more information about WWII-related events.

Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum

Washington, D.C.

[BestTrips.guide/sasdc](https://www.besttrips.guide/sasdc)

Southern Museum of Flight

Birmingham, Alabama

[BestTrips.guide/smfal](https://www.besttrips.guide/smfal)

Alaska Aviation Museum

Anchorage, Alaska

[BestTrips.guide/aamak](https://www.besttrips.guide/aamak)

Pioneer Air Museum

Fairbanks, Alaska

[BestTrips.guide/pamak](https://www.besttrips.guide/pamak)

CAF Aviation Museum

Mesa, Arizona

[BestTrips.guide/cafaz](https://www.besttrips.guide/cafaz)

Wingspan Air

Mesa, Arizona

[BestTrips.guide/wamaz](https://www.besttrips.guide/wamaz)

Pima Air & Space Museum

Tucson, Arizona

[BestTrips.guide/pasaz](https://www.besttrips.guide/pasaz)

Planes of Fame Air Museum

Valle, Arizona

[BestTrips.guide/pfaaz](https://www.besttrips.guide/pfaaz)

Castle Air Museum

Atwater, California

[BestTrips.guide/camca](https://www.besttrips.guide/camca)

CAF Southern California Museum

Camarillo, California

[BestTrips.guide/wamca](https://www.besttrips.guide/wamca)

Chico Air Museum

Chico, California

[BestTrips.guide/chmca](https://www.besttrips.guide/chmca)

Planes of Fame Air Museum

Chino, California

[BestTrips.guide/pfaca](https://www.besttrips.guide/pfaca)

Yanks Air Museum

Chino, California

[BestTrips.guide/yamca](https://www.besttrips.guide/yamca)

Air Group One CAF Museum

El Cajon, California

[BestTrips.guide/agoca](https://www.besttrips.guide/agoca)

Warbirds West Air Museum

El Cajon, California

[BestTrips.guide/wwaca](https://www.besttrips.guide/wwaca)

March Field Air Museum

March Air Reserve Base, California

[BestTrips.guide/mfaca](https://www.besttrips.guide/mfaca)

[Aerospace Museum of California](#)
McClellan, California
[BestTrips.guide/amcca](#)

[CAF Central California Valley Museum](#)
Modesto, California
[BestTrips.guide/ccvca](#)

[Oakland Aviation Museum](#)
Oakland, California
[BestTrips.guide/oamca](#)

[Palm Springs Air Museum](#)
Palm Springs, California
[BestTrips.guide/psaca](#)

[Estrella Warbirds Museum](#)
Paso Robles, California
[BestTrips.guide/ewmca](#)

[Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum](#)
San Diego, California
[BestTrips.guide/flnca](#)

[San Diego Air & Space Museum](#)
San Diego, California
[BestTrips.guide/sdaca](#)

[Lyon Air Museum](#)
Santa Ana, California
[BestTrips.guide/lamca](#)

[Minter Field Air Museum](#)
Shafter, California
[BestTrips.guide/mtca](#)

[North Bay Air Museum](#)
Sonoma, California
[BestTrips.guide/nbaca](#)

In the 1950s, a group of men who had served as pilots during World War II began collecting and restoring aircraft from the war. The Commemorative Air Force (CAF) now has over 150 planes located around the country that participate in air shows. Many of the local units offer rides in their restored aircraft. Several of the units, as listed in this section, also have museums that feature World War II exhibits.



Spirit of Flight Center
Erie, Colorado
[BestTrips.guide/sfcc](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/sfcc)

Peterson Air & Space Museum
Peterson AFB, Colorado
[BestTrips.guide/pasco](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/pasco)

Pueblo Weisbrod Aircraft Museum
Pueblo, Colorado
[BestTrips.guide/pwaco](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/pwaco)

Connecticut Air & Space Center
Stratford, Connecticut
[BestTrips.guide/casct](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/casct)

New England Air Museum
Windsor Locks, Connecticut
[BestTrips.guide/neact](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/neact)

Air Mobility Command Museum
Dover AFB, Delaware
[BestTrips.guide/amcde](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/amcde)

DeLand Naval Air Station Museum
DeLand, Florida
[BestTrips.guide/dnafl](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/dnafl)

Warbird Adventures
Kissimmee, Florida
[BestTrips.guide/wadfl](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/wadfl)

National Naval Aviation Museum
Pensacola, Florida
[BestTrips.guide/nnafl](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/nnafl)

Fantasy of Flight Museum
Polk City, Florida
[BestTrips.guide/ffmfl](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/ffmfl)

Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum
Titusville, Florida
[BestTrips.guide/vacfl](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/vacfl)

CAF Dixie Wing Museum
Peachtree City, Georgia
[BestTrips.guide/cdwga](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/cdwga)

Pacific Aviation Museum, Ford Island, Hawaii



Museum of Aviation
Warner Robins, Georgia
BestTrips.guide/mavga

Pacific Aviation Museum
Ford Island, Hawaii
BestTrips.guide/pamhi

Warhawk Air Museum
Nampa, Idaho
BestTrips.guide/wamid

Legacy Flight Museum
Rexburg, Idaho
BestTrips.guide/lfmid

Air Combat Museum
Springfield, Illinois
BestTrips.guide/acmil

Grissom Air Museum
Peru, Indiana
BestTrips.guide/gamin

Great Plains Wing Museum
Council Bluffs, Iowa
BestTrips.guide/gpwia

Iowa Aviation Museum
Greenfield, Iowa
BestTrips.guide/iamia

Airpower Museum
Ottumwa, Iowa
BestTrips.guide/apmia

Mid-America Museum of Aviation
and Transportation
Sioux City, Iowa
BestTrips.guide/matia

Mid-America Air Museum
Liberal, Kansas
BestTrips.guide/mamks

Combat Air Museum
Topeka, Kansas
BestTrips.guide/camks

Aviation Museum of Kentucky
Lexington, Kentucky
BestTrips.guide/amkky

Barksdale Global Power Museum
Barksdale AFB, Louisiana
BestTrips.guide/bgpla

Maine Air Museum
Bangor, Maine
BestTrips.guide/mamme

Hagerstown Aviation Museum
Hagerstown, Maryland
BestTrips.guide/hammd

Massey Air Museum
Massey, Maryland
BestTrips.guide/mammd

Glenn L. Martin Maryland
Aviation Museum
Middle River, Maryland
BestTrips.guide/gmmmd

Yankee Air Museum
Belleville, Michigan
BestTrips.guide/yammi

Air Zoo
Portage, Michigan
BestTrips.guide/azomi



Frances Green, Margaret Kirchner, Ann Waldner, and Blanche Osborn were among just over 1,000 Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) in WWII. They tested planes, flew aircraft from factories to military bases, towed targets for anti-aircraft practice, and transported cargo. Thirty-eight of them died in service-related accidents during the war. Originally considered civilians, the WASP were finally recognized as military veterans in 1977. The WASP corps received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2009.

[Selfridge Military Air Museum](#)
Selfridge ANG Base, Michigan
[BestTrips.guide/smami](#)

[CAF Lake Superior Squadron Museum](#)
Duluth, Minnesota
[BestTrips.guide/cafmn](#)

[Wurtsmith Air Museum](#)
Oscoda, Minnesota
[BestTrips.guide/wammn](#)

[CAF Red Tail Squadron Museum](#)
Red Wing, Minnesota
[BestTrips.guide/redmn](#)

[CAF Minnesota Wing Museum](#)
South Saint Paul, Minnesota
[BestTrips.guide/casmn](#)

[CAF Mississippi Wing Museum](#)
Madison, Mississippi
[BestTrips.guide/cafms](#)

[CAF Missouri Wing Museum](#)
Portage Des Sioux, Missouri
[BestTrips.guide/cafmo](#)

[Air & Military Museum of the Ozarks](#)
Springfield, Missouri
[BestTrips.guide/ammmo](#)

Malmstrom Air Force Base Museum

Malmstrom AFB, Montana

[BestTrips.guide/mafmt](https://www.besttrips.guide/mafmt)

Strategic Air & Space Museum

Ashland, Nebraska

[BestTrips.guide/sasne](https://www.besttrips.guide/sasne)

Millville Army Air Field Museum

Millville, New Jersey

[BestTrips.guide/maanj](https://www.besttrips.guide/maanj)

Naval Air Station Wildwood

Aviation Museum

Rio Grande, New Jersey

[BestTrips.guide/nasnj](https://www.besttrips.guide/nasnj)

War Eagles Air Museum

Santa Teresa, New Mexico

[BestTrips.guide/weanm](https://www.besttrips.guide/weanm)

Fargo Air Museum

Fargo, North Dakota

[BestTrips.guide/famnd](https://www.besttrips.guide/famnd)

Dakota Territory Air Museum

Minot, North Dakota

[BestTrips.guide/dtand](https://www.besttrips.guide/dtand)

American Airpower Museum

Farmingdale, New York

[BestTrips.guide/aapny](https://www.besttrips.guide/aapny)

Cradle of Aviation Museum

Garden City, New York

[BestTrips.guide/coany](https://www.besttrips.guide/coany)

National Warplane Museum

Geneseo, New York

[BestTrips.guide/nwmny](https://www.besttrips.guide/nwmny)

Tri-State Warbird Museum

Batavia, Ohio

[BestTrips.guide/tswoh](https://www.besttrips.guide/tswoh)

Historical Aircraft Squadron

Carroll, Ohio

[BestTrips.guide/hasoh](https://www.besttrips.guide/hasoh)

MAPS Air Museum

North Canton, Ohio

[BestTrips.guide/mapoh](https://www.besttrips.guide/mapoh)

Liberty Aviation Museum

Port Clinton, Ohio

[BestTrips.guide/lamoh](https://www.besttrips.guide/lamoh)

Champaign Aviation Museum

Urbana, Ohio

[BestTrips.guide/camoh](https://www.besttrips.guide/camoh)

Oklahoma Museum of Flying

Bethany, Oklahoma

[BestTrips.guide/omfok](https://www.besttrips.guide/omfok)

Charles B. Hall Airpark

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

[BestTrips.guide/cbhok](https://www.besttrips.guide/cbhok)

Tulsa Air and Space Museum

Tulsa, Oklahoma

[BestTrips.guide/tasok](https://www.besttrips.guide/tasok)

Oregon Air & Space Museum

Eugene, Oregon

[BestTrips.guide/oasor](https://www.besttrips.guide/oasor)

Western Antique Aeroplane &

Automobile Museum

Hood River, Oregon

[BestTrips.guide/waaor](https://www.besttrips.guide/waaor)

Erickson Aircraft Collection

Madras, Oregon

[BestTrips.guide/eacor](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/eacor)

Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum

McMinnville, Oregon

[BestTrips.guide/easor](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/easor)

B-17 Alliance Museum

Milwaukee, Oregon

[BestTrips.guide/b17or](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/b17or)

Tillamook Air Museum

Tillamook, Oregon

[BestTrips.guide/tamor](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/tamor)

Wings of Freedom Aviation Museum

Horsham, Pennsylvania

[BestTrips.guide/wfapa](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/wfapa)

Piper Aviation Museum

Lock Haven, Pennsylvania

[BestTrips.guide/pampa](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/pampa)

Mid-Atlantic Air Museum

Reading, Pennsylvania

[BestTrips.guide/mampa](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/mampa)

Quonset Air Museum

North Kingstown, Rhode Island

[BestTrips.guide/qamri](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/qamri)

South Dakota Air and Space Museum

Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota

[BestTrips.guide/sdasd](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/sdasd)

Tennessee Museum of Aviation

Sevierville, Tennessee

[BestTrips.guide/tmatn](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/tmatn)

Cavanaugh Flight Museum

Addison, Texas

[BestTrips.guide/cfmtx](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/cfmtx)

Texas Air & Space Museum

Amarillo, Texas

[BestTrips.guide/tastx](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/tastx)

CAF Highland Lakes Museum

Burnet, Texas

[BestTrips.guide/chltx](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/chltx)

Rio Grande Valley CAF Museum

Brownsville, Texas

[BestTrips.guide/rgvtx](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/rgvtx)

Frontiers of Flight Museum

Dallas, Texas

[BestTrips.guide/ffmtx](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/ffmtx)

This 1945 poster was created by Jes Wilhelm Schlaikjer, a WWI veteran.



Lone Star Flight Museum

Galveston, Texas

[BestTrips.guide/lsftx](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/lsftx)

Flight of the Phoenix Aviation Museum

Gilmer, Texas

[BestTrips.guide/fpmtx](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/fpmtx)

Vintage Flying Museum

Fort Worth, Texas

[BestTrips.guide/vfmtx](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/vfmtx)

CAF Houston Wing Museum

Houston, Texas

[BestTrips.guide/cahtx](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/cahtx)

Texas Flying Legends Museum

Houston, Texas

[BestTrips.guide/tfltx](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/tfltx)

CAF Airpower Museum

Midland, Texas

[BestTrips.guide/caftx](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/caftx)

Texas Air Museum (Stinson Field)

San Antonio, Texas

[BestTrips.guide/tamtx](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/tamtx)

Texas Air Museum (Caprock Chapter)

Slaton, Texas

[BestTrips.guide/tactx](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/tactx)

Hill Aerospace Museum

Hill AFB, Utah

[BestTrips.guide/hamut](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/hamut)

Smithsonian Udvar-Hazy Center

Chantilly, Virginia

[BestTrips.guide/suhva](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/suhva)

Virginia Air & Space Center

Hampton, Virginia

[BestTrips.guide/vasva](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/vasva)

Virginia Aviation Museum

Richmond, Virginia

[BestTrips.guide/vamva](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/vamva)

Military Aviation Museum

Virginia Beach, Virginia

[BestTrips.guide/mamva](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/mamva)

Heritage Flight Museum

Burlington, Washington

[BestTrips.guide/hfmwa](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/hfmwa)

Flying Heritage Collection

Everett, Washington

[BestTrips.guide/fhcwa](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/fhcwa)

McChord Air Museum

JBLM-McChord Field, Washington

[BestTrips.guide/mamwa](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/mamwa)

Historic Flight at Kilo-7

Mukilteo, Washington

[BestTrips.guide/hfkwa](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/hfkwa)

Olympic Flight Museum

Olympia, Washington

[BestTrips.guide/ofmwa](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/ofmwa)

Museum of Flight

Seattle, Washington

[BestTrips.guide/mflwa](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/mflwa)

Mitchell Gallery of Flight

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

[BestTrips.guide/mgfwi](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/mgfwi)

Ships and Submarines

These sites feature naval vessels from World War II, many of which you can board and explore. Some ships even offer overnight stays!

Battleship Memorial Park

Mobile, Alabama

[BestTrips.guide/bmpal](https://www.besttrips.guide/bmpal)

Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum

North Little Rock, Arkansas

[BestTrips.guide/aimal](https://www.besttrips.guide/aimal)

USS Hornet

Alameda, California

[BestTrips.guide/ushca](https://www.besttrips.guide/ushca)

Humboldt Bay Naval Sea/Air Museum

Eureka, California

[BestTrips.guide/hbnca](https://www.besttrips.guide/hbnca)

Pacific Battleship Center

Los Angeles, California

[BestTrips.guide/pbccca](https://www.besttrips.guide/pbccca)

Presidential Yacht Potomac

Oakland, California

[BestTrips.guide/pypca](https://www.besttrips.guide/pypca)

SS Red Oak Victory

Richmond, California

[BestTrips.guide/rovca](https://www.besttrips.guide/rovca)

USS Midway

San Diego, California

[BestTrips.guide/usmca](https://www.besttrips.guide/usmca)

SS Jeremiah O'Brien

San Francisco, California

[BestTrips.guide/sjoca](https://www.besttrips.guide/sjoca)

USS Pampanito

San Francisco, California

[BestTrips.guide/uspca](https://www.besttrips.guide/uspca)

SS Lane Victory

San Pedro, California

[BestTrips.guide/lvsca](https://www.besttrips.guide/lvsca)

USS LCS(L)(3)-102

Vallejo, California

[BestTrips.guide/lcsca](https://www.besttrips.guide/lcsca)

Submarine Force Museum

Groton, Connecticut

[BestTrips.guide/sfmct](https://www.besttrips.guide/sfmct)

U.S. Coast Guard Eagle

New London, Connecticut

[BestTrips.guide/cgect](https://www.besttrips.guide/cgect)

USCG Cutter Ingham

Key West, Florida

[BestTrips.guide/cgifl](https://www.besttrips.guide/cgifl)

SS American Victory Mariners Museum

Tampa, Florida

[BestTrips.guide/avmfl](https://www.besttrips.guide/avmfl)

USS LST Ship Memorial

Evansville, Indiana

[BestTrips.guide/lstin](https://www.besttrips.guide/lstin)

USS Kidd Veterans Museum

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

[BestTrips.guide/kvmla](https://www.besttrips.guide/kvmla)



The USS Massachusetts was launched on September 23, 1941. The U.S. Navy photo at left shows the vessel on November 8, 1942, the day of a major battle off the coast of North Africa. The Massachusetts later went to the Pacific and participated in numerous other battles. As seen at right, the ship is now on display at Battleship Cove, which also features a destroyer, a submarine, and two PT boats.

[USS Orleck](#)

Lake Charles, Louisiana

[BestTrips.guide/usola](#)

[SS John W. Brown](#)

Baltimore, Maryland

[BestTrips.guide/sjbmd](#)

[Historic Ships in Baltimore](#)

Baltimore, Maryland

[BestTrips.guide/hsbmd](#)

[Tugboat Luna](#)

Boston, Massachusetts

[BestTrips.guide/tlbma](#)

[USS Cassin Young](#)

Boston, Massachusetts

[BestTrips.guide/ucyma](#)

[Nantucket Lightship](#)

East Boston, Massachusetts

[BestTrips.guide/nlema](#)

[Battleship Cove](#)

Fall River, Massachusetts

[BestTrips.guide/bcvma](#)

[USS Salem](#)

Quincy, Massachusetts

[BestTrips.guide/ussma](#)

[Icebreaker Mackinaw](#)

Mackinaw City, Michigan

[BestTrips.guide/immmi](#)

[USS LST 393](#)

Muskegon, Michigan

[BestTrips.guide/lstmi](#)

[USS Silversides Submarine Museum](#)

Muskegon, Michigan

[BestTrips.guide/ssmmi](#)

[Freedom Park](#)

Omaha, Nebraska

[BestTrips.guide/fpone](#)

[Battleship New Jersey](#)

Camden, New Jersey

[BestTrips.guide/bnjnj](#)

[New Jersey Naval Museum](#)

Hackensack, New Jersey

[BestTrips.guide/njnnj](#)

USS Slater
Albany, New York
[BestTrips.guide/usany](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/usany)

Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park
Buffalo, New York
[BestTrips.guide/bnmny](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/bnmny)

Fleet Obsolete
Kingston, New York
[BestTrips.guide/fobny](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/fobny)

USS Intrepid Aircraft Carrier
New York, New York
[BestTrips.guide/iacny](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/iacny)

H. Lee White Maritime Museum
Oswego, New York
[BestTrips.guide/hlwny](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/hlwny)

Battleship North Carolina
Wilmington, North Carolina
[BestTrips.guide/bncnc](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/bncnc)

USS Cod
Cleveland, Ohio
[BestTrips.guide/uscoh](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/uscoh)

USS Batfish
Muskogee, Oklahoma
[BestTrips.guide/usbok](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/usbok)

Amphibious Forces Memorial Museum
Portland, Oregon
[BestTrips.guide/afmor](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/afmor)

PT-658
Portland, Oregon
[BestTrips.guide/ptpor](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/ptpor)

Independence Seaport Museum
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
[BestTrips.guide/isppa](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/isppa)

USS Requin
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
[BestTrips.guide/usrpa](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/usrpa)

USS Lexington
Corpus Christi, Texas
[BestTrips.guide/usltx](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/usltx)

Battleship Texas State Historic Site
LaPorte, Texas
[BestTrips.guide/btstx](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/btstx)

American Undersea Warfare Center
Galveston, Texas
[BestTrips.guide/uwctx](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/uwctx)

Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum
Mount Pleasant, South Carolina
[BestTrips.guide/ppnsc](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/ppnsc)

Nauticus / Battleship Wisconsin
Norfolk, Virginia
[BestTrips.guide/nbwva](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/nbwva)

USCGC Comanche
Bremerton, Washington
[BestTrips.guide/cgcwa](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/cgcwa)

USS Cobia Submarine
Manitowoc, Wisconsin
[BestTrips.guide/uszwi](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/uszwi)

SS City of Milwaukee
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
[BestTrips.guide/scmwi](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/scmwi)

The Manhattan Project

Over 100,000 people across the country were involved in the Manhattan Project, a top-secret program to develop a nuclear weapon during World War II. Most of the workers did not know exactly what they were working on as leading scientists and top military officials directed the research, experiments, and production needed. The United States dropped two atomic bombs on Japan in 1945, which led directly to the end of the war. This was the first and only time that nuclear weapons have been used in war.

In 2014 the U.S. government authorized creation of the Manhattan Project National Park. The new park will focus on historic interpretation and preservation at the sites in Oak Ridge, Tennessee; Hanford, Washington; and Los Alamos, New Mexico.

[Atomic Heritage Foundation](#)
[BestTrips.guide/ahfnp](#)

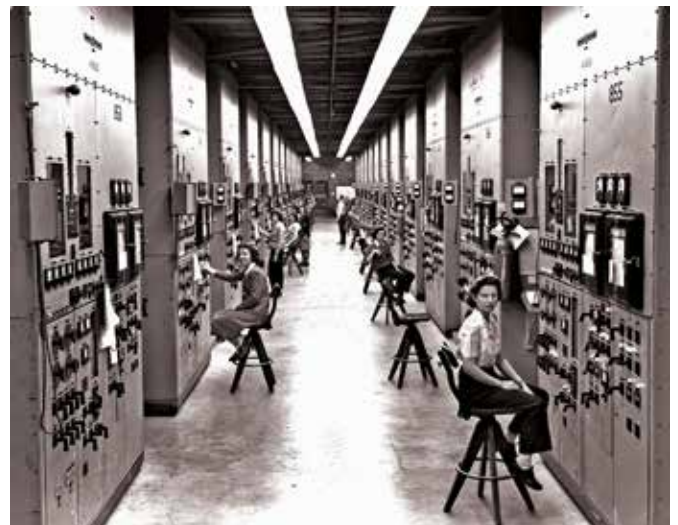
[Bradbury Science Museum](#)
Los Alamos, New Mexico
[BestTrips.guide/bsmnm](#)

[White Sands Missile Range Museum](#)
Las Cruces, New Mexico
[BestTrips.guide/wsmnm](#)

[American Museum of Science & Energy](#)
Oak Ridge, Tennessee
[BestTrips.guide/amstn](#)

[B Reactor Museum Association](#)
Hanford, Washington
[BestTrips.guide/brmwa](#)

At left below are workers at the Hanford plant in Washington collecting their paychecks. At right below are workers in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The woman in the foreground is Gladys Owens. She visited the American Museum of Science and Energy in 2003 and identified herself in this photo.



Relocation Centers

During the war, over 110,000 people in the United States who had Japanese ancestry were ordered to leave their homes on the West Coast. The government took them to live in internment camps. The majority of these were citizens of the United States. In 1988 the U.S. government issued a formal apology for the internment, admitting that the policy was motivated by prejudice. Legislation authorized the payment of \$20,000 to each camp survivor.

After Japanese soldiers moved into the Aleutian Islands, they captured some of the native islanders and used them as forced laborers in Japan. In an effort to protect other islanders, the U.S. government forced 881 members of the Unangax people to leave their homes in the Aleutian Islands. They were taken to camps in southeast Alaska and left without adequate provisions. Eighty-two of them died there. Several of their villages were never resettled after the war.

People who want our country to remember this tragic part of World War II history have been working to preserve these sites. What you can see at each site varies significantly from small memorials to larger museums.

Unangan Evacuation and Internment

Alaska

[BestTrips.guide/ueiak](https://www.besttrips.guide/ueiak)

World War II Japanese American Internment Museum

McGehee, Arkansas

[BestTrips.guide/jaiar](https://www.besttrips.guide/jaiar)

Japanese Internment Camp Monument

Poston, Arizona

[BestTrips.guide/jicaz](https://www.besttrips.guide/jicaz)

Manzanar National Historic Site

Near Independence, California

[BestTrips.guide/mnhca](https://www.besttrips.guide/mnhca)

The photo at left below shows the Aleutian Islanders on board a U.S. ship taking them away from their homes. The photo at right shows children at one of the relocation camps. The camps were in a deplorable condition. Most buildings did not have electricity or heat, and the camps had limited water supply, no sewer system, and no bathing facilities.



Tule Lake Unit National Monument

Tulelake, California
[BestTrips.guide/tluca](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/tluca)

Japanese American National Museum

Los Angeles, California
[BestTrips.guide/janca](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/janca)

Camp Amache National Historic Landmark

Granada, Colorado
[BestTrips.guide/canco](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/canco)

Minidoka National Historic Site

Near Jerome, Idaho
[BestTrips.guide/mnhid](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/mnhid)

Topaz Museum

Delta, Utah
[BestTrips.guide/tmdut](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/tmdut)

Heart Mountain Interpretive Center

Powell, Wyoming
[BestTrips.guide/hmiwy](https://www.besttrips.com/guide/hmiwy)

Sunday School Class at the Manzanar Relocation Center (1943). Photograph by Ansel Adams.



The Holocaust

The United States enforced strict limits on immigration during the 1920s and 30s. In the years before World War II, a relatively small number of Jews escaped Europe and came to the United States. After the United States entered the war, reports began to circulate about Nazi atrocities against Jews and other groups. Some U.S. government officials and journalists were reluctant to acknowledge and publicize these reports. Toward the end of the war, as Allied troops began to liberate Nazi concentration camps, the truth came out.

These museums contain graphic depictions of extreme suffering and death. Many of them discourage visitors under the age of 11.

[United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#)
Washington, D.C.
[BestTrips.guide/us hdc](#)

[Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust](#)
Los Angeles, California
[BestTrips.guide/lmhca](#)

[William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum](#)
Atlanta, Georgia
[BestTrips.guide/wbjga](#)

[Museum of History and Holocaust Education](#)
Kennesaw, Georgia
[BestTrips.guide/mhnga](#)

[Holocaust Memorial Resource Center](#)
Maitland, Florida
[BestTrips.guide/hmrfl](#)

[Holocaust Museum & Education Center](#)
Naples, Florida
[BestTrips.guide/hmefl](#)

[Florida Holocaust Museum](#)
St. Petersburg, Florida
[BestTrips.guide/fhmfl](#)

[Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center](#)
Glen Cove, New York
[BestTrips.guide/hmntny](#)

Names of Holocaust Victims at the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.



[Anne Frank Center USA](#)
New York, New York
[BestTrips.guide/afcny](#)

[Museum of Jewish Heritage](#)
New York, New York
[BestTrips.guide/mjhny](#)

[Safe Haven Museum and Education Center](#)
Oswego, New York
[BestTrips.guide/shmny](#)

[Illinois Holocaust Museum](#)
Skokie, Illinois
[BestTrips.guide/ihmil](#)

[CANDLES Holocaust Museum](#)
Terra Haute, Indiana
[BestTrips.guide/chmin](#)

[Holocaust Memorial Center](#)
Farmington Hills, Michigan
[BestTrips.guide/hmcmi](#)

[Holocaust & Intolerance Museum](#)
Albuquerque, New Mexico
[BestTrips.guide/himnm](#)

[Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art](#)
Tulsa, Oklahoma
[BestTrips.guide/smmok](#)

[Center for Holocaust & Humanity Education](#)
Cincinnati, Ohio
[BestTrips.guide/chhoh](#)

[Holocaust Awareness Museum](#)
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
[BestTrips.guide/hampa](#)



Allied troops released these Hungarian Jews from a Nazi concentration camp in 1945. This photo was taken at a U.S. Army hospital in Austria.

[Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh](#)
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
[BestTrips.guide/hcppa](#)

[Dallas Holocaust Museum](#)
Dallas, Texas
[BestTrips.guide/dhmtx](#)

[El Paso Holocaust Museum](#)
El Paso, Texas
[BestTrips.guide/ephtx](#)

[Holocaust Museum Houston](#)
Houston, Texas
[BestTrips.guide/hmhtx](#)

[Holocaust Memorial Museum](#)
San Antonio, Texas
[BestTrips.guide/hmmtx](#)

[Virginia Holocaust Museum](#)
Richmond, Virginia
[BestTrips.guide/vhmva](#)

POW Camps

Hundreds of thousands of enemy prisoners of war were brought to POW camps in nearly every state. This included about 370,000 Germans and 50,000 Italians. Only about 5,000 Japanese prisoners were brought to the United States; the majority went to Australia or New Zealand. Japanese soldiers often fought to the death rather than surrender. Allied soldiers heard stories about Japanese mistreatment of Allied prisoners, and some Japanese who wanted to surrender were killed by Allied troops.

POWs in the United States were often employed on farms and factories and were generally treated well. Sent home after the war, a significant number decided to move back to the United States.

POW camps held soldiers who had been fighting against the Allies. Another type of camp was the Alien Internment Camp. These sites held people who were citizens (but not soldiers) of Japan, Germany, or Italy, who had been living in the United States. Even though most were not charged with specific crimes, the government chose to confine them during the war.

In 1945 Italian POWs at Camp Hereford, Texas, built a small chapel honoring five of their fellow prisoners who had died of natural causes while at the camp. Abandoned for many years and vandalized, the chapel has been restored twice. Former Italian POWs have returned to visit the site.





Restored Guard Tower, Camp Concordia, Kansas

[Aliceville Museum](#)
Aliceville, Alabama
[BestTrips.guide/amaal](#)

[Museum of East Alabama](#)
Opelika, Alabama
[BestTrips.guide/meaal](#)

[Atterbury POW Chapel](#)
Edinburgh, Indiana
[BestTrips.guide/apcin](#)

[Camp Algona POW Museum](#)
Algona, Iowa
[BestTrips.guide/capia](#)

[Nodaway Valley Historical Museum](#)
Clarenda, Iowa
[BestTrips.guide/nvhia](#)

Georg Gaertner was a German soldier who escaped from a POW camp in New Mexico in 1945. He assumed the name Dennis Whiles, married, and lived a quiet life. For forty years, he was on the FBI wanted list, and his photo was in post offices around the country.

In 1985 Mr. Whiles turned himself in and was allowed to remain in the country. He became a U.S. citizen in 2009 and died in 2013.

[POW Camp Concordia](#)
Concordia, Kansas
[BestTrips.guide/pccks](#)

[Aroostook County Historical and Art Museum](#)
Houlton, Maine
[BestTrips.guide/achme](#)

[Crystal City Alien Family Internment Camp](#)
Crystal City, Texas
[BestTrips.guide/ccatx](#)

[Camp Hearne POW Camp](#)
Hearne, Texas
[BestTrips.guide/chptx](#)

[Camp Huntsville](#)
Huntsville, Texas
[BestTrips.guide/chhtx](#)

[Camp Hereford Italian POW Chapel](#)
Hereford, Texas
[BestTrips.guide/ipctx](#)

[Orem Heritage Museum](#)
Orem, Utah
[BestTrips.guide/ohmtx](#)



Other Sites

Some of these are general history museums that have significant exhibits related to World War II. Others have a particular focus on prominent individuals from that time. Included are the Presidential museums of Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, and the eight subsequent Presidents who served in the military during the war.

[Smithsonian National Museum of American History](#)
Washington, D.C.
[BestTrips.guide/sahdc](#)

[Berman Museum of World History](#)
Anniston, Alabama
[BestTrips.guide/bwhal](#)

Louis Zamperini was born in 1917 and grew up in Torrance, California. He took up running in high school and competed at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany, where he met Adolf Hitler.

During World War II, Zamperini served as a bombardier in the Pacific. The photo at left below shows him examining a hole in his plane caused by Japanese fire. On May 27, 1943, Zamperini's plane crashed in the ocean. He and one other crewmate, Russell Phillips, survived for 47 days at sea, only to be captured by the Japanese. They endured over two years of brutal treatment in a POW camp before the war ended.

*Zamperini attended a Billy Graham crusade in 1949 and recommitted his life to Christ. He met with several of his Japanese captors and forgave them, and he created a camp to help struggling young people. The photo at right shows him a few weeks before his death in 2014. Zamperini is the subject of *Unbroken*, a 2010 biography by Laura Hillenbrand. The Torrance Historical Society has a display about his life.*



St. Mary Aldermanbury was a church in London destroyed by the Great Fire of 1666. Architect Christopher Wren oversaw its reconstruction. The church was destroyed again during World War II by German bombing.

The church lay in ruins until the 1960s when the remaining stones were moved from London to Fulton, Missouri. The church was reconstructed on the campus of Westminster College. Beneath the church is the National Churchill Museum, which commemorates the life and times of Winston Churchill.



Anchorage Museum

Anchorage, Alaska

BestTrips.guide/amaak

Jimmy Doolittle Center

Fairfield, California

BestTrips.guide/jdcca

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum

Simi Valley, California

BestTrips.guide/rrpca

Torrance Historical Society

Torrance, California

BestTrips.guide/thzca

Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum

Yorba Linda, California

BestTrips.guide/rnpca

Museum of Florida History

Tallahassee, Florida

BestTrips.guide/mfhfl

Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum

Atlanta, Georgia

BestTrips.guide/jcpga

German U-505 Submarine Exhibit

Chicago, Illinois

BestTrips.guide/gusil

Glenn Miller Birthplace Museum

Clarinda, Iowa

BestTrips.guide/gmbia

Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum

Abilene, Kansas

BestTrips.guide/epmks

General George Patton Museum

Fort Knox, Kentucky

BestTrips.guide/gpmky

John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum

Boston, Massachusetts

BestTrips.guide/jfkma



Audie Murphy was one of the most decorated American soldiers of World War II. Though he went on to a successful career as an actor and songwriter, he suffered for the rest of his life.

Because of his wartime experiences in Europe, Murphy faced the physical and mental symptoms now called Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Murphy helped to raise public acknowledgement and awareness of this problem as veterans returned from the wars in Korean and Vietnam.

[Gerald R. Ford Museum](#)
Grand Rapids, Michigan
[BestTrips.guide/gfmmi](#)

[Spam Museum](#)
Austin, Minnesota
[BestTrips.guide/smamn](#)

[National Churchill Museum](#)
Fulton, Missouri
[BestTrips.guide/ncmmo](#)

[Harry S. Truman Library & Museum](#)
Independence, Missouri
[BestTrips.guide/hstmo](#)

[Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum](#)
Hyde Park, New York
[BestTrips.guide/fdrny](#)

[John & Annie Glenn Historic Site](#)
New Concord, Ohio
[BestTrips.guide/jghoh](#)

[Eisenhower National Historic Site](#)
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
[BestTrips.guide/enhpa](#)

[Jimmy Stewart Museum](#)
Indiana, Pennsylvania
[BestTrips.guide/jsmpa](#)

[LBJ Presidential Library](#)
Austin, Texas
[BestTrips.guide/lbjtx](#)

[George Bush Presidential Library and Museum](#)
College Station, Texas
[BestTrips.guide/gbptx](#)

[Audie Murphy/American Cotton Museum](#)
Greenville, Texas
[BestTrips.guide/amatx](#)

[George C. Marshall Museum](#)
Lexington, Virginia
[BestTrips.guide/gcmva](#)

[The MacArthur Memorial](#)
Norfolk, Virginia
[BestTrips.guide/mmva](#)

Events

Some of the museums listed in this guide sponsor concerts, lectures, and other events related to World War II. You may be able to plan a trip to coincide with an event. Many organizations also sponsor WWII air shows and battle reenactments. Here are a few links to get you started. You can also try an Internet search for “WWII reenactment” plus the name of your state or nearest big city.

Commemorative Air Force Calendar

[BestTrips.guide/cafev](https://www.besttrips.guide/cafev)

Air shows featuring CAF planes.

CAF AirPower History Tour

[BestTrips.guide/cafap](https://www.besttrips.guide/cafap)

A Commemorative Air Force tour featuring the world’s only flying B-29 Superfortress and other aircraft.

World War II Weekend

[BestTrips.guide/w2wpa](https://www.besttrips.guide/w2wpa)

Hosted at the Eisenhower National Historic Site in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

WWII Historical Re-Enactment Society

[BestTrips.guide/whres](https://www.besttrips.guide/whres)

In addition to public events, members are also available to present programs for groups.

Living History Reenactment Association

[BestTrips.guide/lhrea](https://www.besttrips.guide/lhrea)

20th Century GI Calendar

[BestTrips.guide/20cgc](https://www.besttrips.guide/20cgc)

WWII Reenacting Units and Organizations

[BestTrips.guide/wruao](https://www.besttrips.guide/wruao)

WWII Reenactment at Midway Village & Museum Center, Rockford, Illinois



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30 Carol M. Highsmith Archive / Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division
31 Library of Congress
32 Kathy Kirkpatrick / GenTracer (www.gentracer.com)
33t Paulmcdonald / Wikimedia Commons
33b Federal Bureau of Investigation
34 National Archives and Records Administration
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36 U.S. Army
37 CapturedSomewhereInTime / Flickr / CC-BY-2.0
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The crew of the USS Cobia sank six Japanese ships during the war. The submarine is now on display at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum.



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