



Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum offers thrill-of-a-lifetime airplane rides

By Leona Ens

From limousine rides to fine dining to a day at the spa, trade dollars will buy you many luxury experiences.

Now, in case you weren't aware, you can add the thrill of flight to the list—and not just any flight. At the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, you can experience an open cockpit ride in a bi-plane, the Boeing Stearman; or a ride in the famous Harvard trainer.

Two Legends Flights are available on trade, in your choice of the above aircraft. The Niagara Escarpment Tour offers a bird's eye view of Hamilton and the Lake Ontario shoreline; the Grand River Tour provides a delightful aerial tour of the rural Grand River area.

If you go on either flight, you'll wear a helmet complete with two-way intercom radio, allowing your pilot to give you an educational and entertaining tour narration. You'll enjoy photo opportunities galore and take home a free souvenir flight certificate signed by your pilot.

Don't worry about safety. All pilots on duty have commercial pilot's licenses and excellent safety records.

The cost per flight is \$T250—a wonderful treat for yourself, or for someone else through a gift certificate.

If aviation is your passion, you may also want to purchase a museum membership on trade. The museum boasts a collection of more than 40 aircraft that Canadians and the Canadian military services have flown from the beginning of the Second World War to the present. The collection includes aircraft that fly and several that remain on display as interactive workshops.

At the museum, you can climb into the cockpit of a real Second World War trainer or a real jet fighter, the Avro CF-100. You can also travel back in time through interactive video displays, movies, photographs and memorabilia.

Sustaining, family and student memberships include museum admission for one year, as well as a 10-per-cent discount in the museum gift shop and restaurant, and other benefits. Sustaining and family memberships include an annual flight in a Second World War transport aircraft for one person.

A sustaining membership, which covers one adult plus his or her spouse, costs T\$100. A family membership costs T\$150 and a student membership T\$30



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Or, to further support the cause, consider buying a contributing membership at T\$250; a supporting membership at T\$500; a benefactor membership at T\$1,000; or a life membership at T\$1,500. For the opportunity to crew aboard the museum's Avro Lancaster, you'll need a bomber crew membership at T\$1,500.

Trade dollars can also be used for the rental of meeting rooms and some catering services. Many wedding receptions and annual dinner/dance events are held among the aircraft in the museum hangar.

The Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum has been a Tradebank member for several years, says deputy director Pamela Rickards. Tradebank membership has attracted visitors who otherwise might not have experienced the museum, while also allowing use of trade dollars for carpet cleaning, mobile sign rentals and equipment rentals, she says.

To learn more about the museum, visit www.warplane.com or call the museum's information line at 1-877-FIREFLY. To arrange for use of your trade dollars at the museum, contact Tradebank broker Jane Porter at 905-777-0660.

Located at 9280 Airport Road, Mount Hope, at the Hamilton International Airport, the museum is open daily year round, except for Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., except during the summer months, when hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.