

Vzpomínka (46)

Midland, TX

Město v západním Texasu, založeno roku 1881 mezi Fort Worth a El Paso. Rodiště bývalé první dámy Laury Bushové, vyrůstal zde pozdější prezident George W. Bush. Původní jméno Midway Station, později změněno na Midland.

World War II began and ended with the airplane. From the German aerial attack on Poland in 1939 to the release of the atom bomb over Hiroshima in 1945, the airplane played a decisive role in the outcome of World War II.

Today, the American Airpower Heritage Museum (AAHM) located at Midland International Airport in Midland, Texas, is dedicated to preserving the complete history of World War II military aviation and the memory of the men and women who built, serviced and flew the historic military aircraft of World War II.

Recognized for its collection of authentic World War II artifacts and memorabilia, including uniforms of Allied and Axis countries, armament, photographs, weapons and equipment, the museum houses 40,000 square feet of "hands-on" permanent exhibits that detail the story of World War II airpower. From the rise of German and Japanese militarism before World War II to the introduction of the atomic age, the AAHM provides interactive exhibits that illustrate aviation concepts and events from every theater of the war.

Museum Membership

Your membership in the museum provides for general operating expenses. Memberships allow the museum to provide quality educational programs, exhibits and special events. As a member of the museum, you and your family will enjoy a variety of benefits from free museum admission and special invitations to great publications and discounts. You can join online or call the museum office for more information.



Admission Rates and Hours of Operation

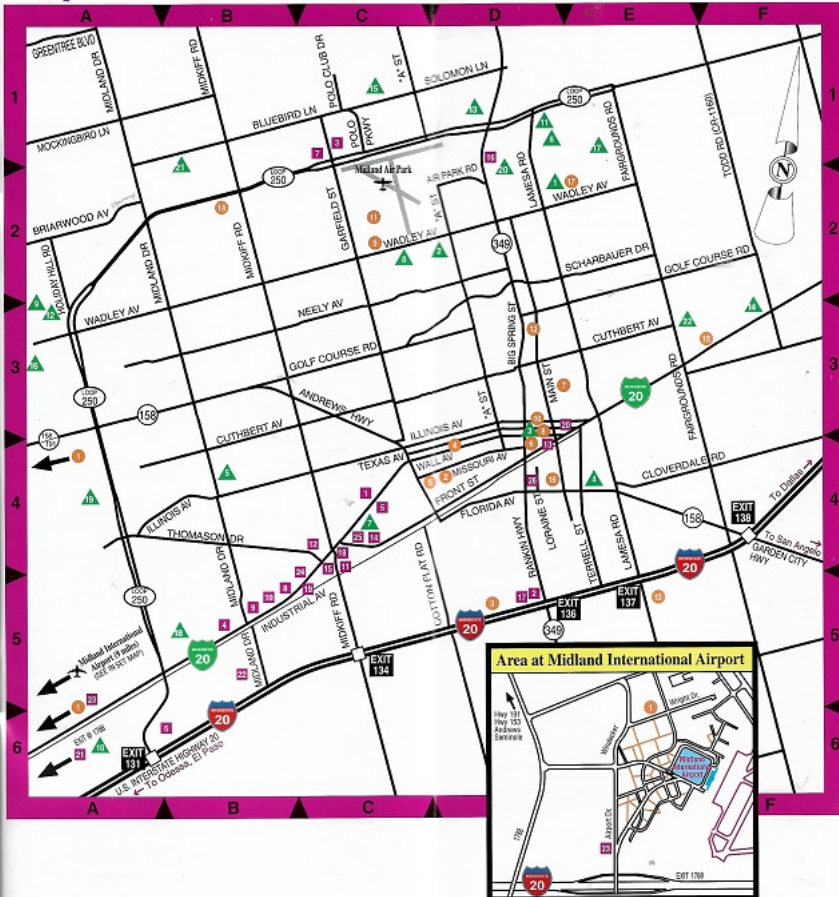
The American Airpower Heritage Museum is open daily, except for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Hours of operation are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday and from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday and holidays. Call for admission rates.

American Airpower Heritage Museum
9600 Wright Drive, P. O. Box 62000
Midland, Texas 79711
Phone: (915) 563-1000 Fax: (915) 567-3047
www.airpowermuseum.org



Pilots of an F6F Hellcat on board the USS Lexington

Map/Street Guide



DAY TRIPS

Approximately 150 miles from Midland on State Highway 17 and U.S. 290 is **Balmorhea State Park**. Known for the 1.75 acre, 30 foot deep spring-fed swimming pool, the park also offers camping, trailer sites, cabins, play and picnic areas and scuba diving.

At **Big Bend National Park**, rugged, spectacularly beautiful mountains rise above the Rio Grande. Float trips down this international boundary are an experience to remember. Horseback riding, pack trips, hiking, mountain climbing, fishing and camping are also featured. Big Bend National Park is located about 200 miles from Midland on Highway 18 and U.S. 385.

Lajitas Resort, at the western edge of Big Bend National Forest, is a unique community that provides a mixture of Old West and Spanish history. Enjoy the beautiful Chisos Mountains, spend some time at the Barton Warnock Environmental Education Center and Desert Garden or cross the border for shopping in Ojinaga, Mexico.

Carlsbad Caverns National Park in Carlsbad, New Mexico, is located 175 miles west of Midland. One of the world's largest caverns showcases tremendous caves, sculpted by nature over millions of years. These caves house literally thousands of bats, which fly out daily at sundown.

The **Davis Mountains State Park** is nestled in Texas' only mountain chain that runs from the New Mexico border south of Carlsbad to the Rio Grande in Big Bend. This 1,869 acre park offers excellent camping facilities, hiking, horseback riding, mountain climbing, and exploring the many caves in the mountains.

Fort Davis was built in the mid-19th century to protect travelers headed to California. It was taken over by the Confederacy during the Civil War, then later abandoned. Federal troops (including the Black military unit known as the Buffalo Soldiers) returned to rebuild the Fort in 1867. **Fort Davis National Monument** includes a large museum, established within the partially restored Fort. Fort Davis is located 175 miles south of Midland.

The **McDonald Observatory**, located in the heart of the Davis Mountains at an elevation of 6,800 ft. above sea level, is famous for day and night celestial viewing. This nationally renowned astronomy center is 185 miles south of Midland.

The **Monahans Sandhills State Park** is the site of 3,840 acres of constantly shifting white sand. A great place to sand surf, dune buggy ride, or walk barefoot across the sandhills. The Sandhills are located just east of Monahans and 45 miles southwest of Midland.

ATTRACTIONS & FACILITIES

1 American Airpower Heritage Museum/CAF..... A-4, A-5	1 Midland Community (Coke) Theatre..... C-2
960 Wright Dr..... 585-1000	2000 W. Wadley..... 682-2544 or 682-4111
2 Innes-Denney House..... B-3	3 Midland County Exhibit Building..... F-3
213 N. Weatherford..... 682-2891	2445 E. Business 20..... 688-5100
4 Devorens Lines Club Fire Museum..... D-4	4 Midland County Library & Midland County Historical Museum..... D-4
1300 W. Wall..... 685-7340	301 W. Missouri..... Library 688-8891
5 Freda Turner Durham Children's Museum..... D-4	5 Midland Park Mall..... B-2
1705 W. Missouri..... 683-2882	Midland Loop 250..... 694-1663
6 Gallery 1104..... D-3	6 Museum of the Southwest..... D-4
1114 N. Big Spring..... 685-9944	1705 W. Missouri..... 685-2882
7 Haley Library & Museum..... C-4	7 Permian Basin Petroleum Museum..... D-5
1905 W. Indiana Ave..... 683-5785	1500 Interstate 20 West..... 685-4403
8 Maria Balcones Plantation..... D-4	8 Scarborough-Lindberg House..... D-4
1705 W. Missouri..... 683-2882	802 S. Main..... 685-7368
9 Midland Center/Continental Plaza..... D-3	9 Shiley Learning Center..... E-2
105 N. Main..... 682-4234	1307 E. Wadley..... 684-8827
10 Midland Chamber of Commerce..... D-3	10 State's South Forty Coalitions..... E-5
100 N. Main..... 800-624-6435 or 683-3381	2001 S. County Rd. 1180..... 570-4040
11 Midland College Chaparral Center & McCormick Art Gallery..... C-2	11 Yucca Theatre..... D-3
3009 N. Garfield..... 685-4500 or 685-4640	200 N. Colorado..... 682-4111

PARKS, SPORTS & RECREATION

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3009 N. Garfield..... 685-4500 or 685-4640	200 N. Colorado..... 682-4111
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Educational and Oral History Programs

The Museum offers award-winning interdisciplinary activities such as the Footlocker program and Aviation Boot Camp that provide area schools with unparalleled educational opportunities. A monthly seminar series featuring World War II veterans and scholars is another of the museum's popular educational programs.

Also housed at the AAHM is a significant collection of over 3,300 oral histories provided by men and women who experienced World War II first-hand. Oral history kits are available for those wishing to record their World War II experiences or those of a fellow veteran. The recordings are sent to the museum and are placed on file in the museum's archives for future generations to use for research and historical purposes.

For more information on upcoming seminars or the oral history program, contact the museum at (915) 563-1000 or visit the website at www.airpowermuseum.org.

Aviation Art Gallery

Of the 100,000 artifacts at the AAHM, 35 are very rare original nose art panels that represent the artistic expressions of young men at war. The panels were cut from the fuselages of World War II aircraft as they were being scrapped after the war. This one-of-a-kind collection is featured in the museum's Aviation Nose Art Gallery.

Giant murals, original video productions, and educational activity stations bring the nose art collection to life as do actual audio accounts made by crewmembers and artists who were personally connected to the pieces of art.

Designated by the White House Millennium Council and the National Trust for Historic Preservation as an official project of *Save America's Treasures*, the nose art collection is the world's largest.

The gallery also features a myriad of other folk art from the AAHM's extensive collection of World War II memorabilia, including flight jackets, oil paintings and armament, which allows museum visitors of all ages and backgrounds to become familiar with the culture surrounding the "nose art" era. A conservation laboratory, changing exhibit gallery and research library are exciting additions to the gallery.



Aircraft on Display

As part of the museum tour, visitors will see 14 to 20 aircraft on display in the CAF hangar. Many of the airplanes are part of the CAF's fleet – some of which are the only examples in the world. The airplanes change quarterly, so there are always new and different airplanes for visitors to see.

More aircraft can be found just outside the hangar doors. Dedicated to those Americans who served as aircrew during the Vietnam conflict, "A Salute to Vietnam Veterans" exhibit features the F-105 Thunderchief, F-4 Phantom, F-100 Super Sabre, AH-1 Cobra and the UH-1 Iroquois.





**AMERICAN AIRPOWER
HERITAGE MUSEUM**
at the Commemorative Air Force
Midland, Texas



History

Located at Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Headquarters (formerly the Confederate Air Force) in Midland, Texas, the AAHM shares a rich history with the CAF. In 1961, the CAF was chartered as a non-profit Texas corporation with the mission of restoring and preserving World War II era combat airplanes. Over the years, a small museum began to grow as World War II artifacts were donated to the CAF. In 1965, the first museum building was completed at old Rebel Field in Mercedes, Texas. When the CAF and museum moved to Harlingen, Texas in 1968, both continued to grow. The first museum-trained employee was hired in 1986 and the American Airpower Heritage Museum was born as a separate non-profit organization in 1989. The museum moved, along with the CAF in 1991, to Midland, Texas, to its current location.

The AAHM is accredited by the American Association of Museums. Accreditation certifies that a museum operates according to the standards set forth by the museum profession, manages its collections responsibly and provides quality service to the public. Of the nearly 8,500 museums nationwide, approximately 800 are nationally accredited.

