SELF-GUIDED TOUR

of the British Airliner Collection at IWM Duxford

THE BRITISH AIRLINER COLLECTION

DUXFORD AVIATION SOCIETY MUSEUM

www.britairliners.org /britishairlinercollection

Form follows function –
the shape of an aircraft is dictated by its purpose

Follow the major developments of post-Second World War civil aviation through 13 classic airliners. Check the QR codes on our display boards to see the aircraft in flight, the interior and flight deck.

1

BAC/AEROSPATIALE CONCORDE 101

(inside AirSpace)

First flight, 1971. Concorde 101 was a test aircraft and played an important role in making supersonic passenger flight a reality.

It crossed the Atlantic in 2 hours 56 minutes making it the fastest of all Concordes. It has an ogival delta wing that allows it to fly fast and high, and very special engines. See our display wall in AirSpace explaining how Concorde was developed and how it compares with other aircraft you can see at Duxford.

2

HANDLEY PAGE HERMES

(our 'museum on a plane' inside AirSpace)

First flight, 1950. This is the only Hermes still in existence. It was developed from the wartime Halifax bomber and is the oldest surviving British pressurised airliner. Pressurised aircraft can fly 'above the weather', giving passengers a much smoother ride and less airsickness. Because control and navigation systems were relatively primitive, five crew were needed to fly the Hermes, for only 40 passengers.

On board you can read about post Second World War air travel and the development of the airliners we use today. Don't miss the picture of Heathrow when it was a collection of tents!

3

AVRO YORK

(between hangars two and three)

First flight, 1946. This York served in the Berlin Airlift in 1948/9 and is one of only two remaining. It was designed by Roy Chadwick who adapted the Lancaster bomber with a larger body so that it could carry freight and passengers. It is typical of a warplane redesigned for peacetime. The RAF used it during the Berlin Airlift to carry food and fuel into Berlin, and later in its career it flew with independent airline Dan-Air. It could fly at 298mph (479km/h) at 23,000 feet (7,010 m) and had a range of 3,000 miles (4,828km). Its four Rolls Royce Merlin engines are the same as those used on the iconic Spitfire.