

Fast Facts

- ✂ Airbourne is back for its 32nd year.
- ✂ The biggest FREE seafront airshow in the UK - hundreds of thousands of visitors expected - and one of the few remaining local authority run airshows.
- ✂ Voted UK's Best Free Airshow for 6th time in 2025.
- ✂ NEW Europe's only flying MiG-17 makes its south of England debut following its restoration and long-awaited return to the skies this summer.
- ✂ NEW The Conair Turbo Firecat will debut with a water drop display – this aircraft can carry up to 3,395 litres of water for firefighting.
- ✂ NEW the Royal Navy Black Cats perform alongside the historic Navy Wings Wasp in a rare duo display.
- ✂ NEW The Red Devils Army Parachute Display Team make their Eastbourne debut – landing in the sea.
- ✂ NEW Mustang 'Marinell' debuts with a romantic WWII story – flown today by champion pilot Isabel Rutland- in the show's first female piloted solo warbird display.
- ✂ NEW 'Spirit of Kent' Spitfire and the Firebirds both make their Airbourne debuts.
- ✂ The fastest aircraft is the Typhoon, capable of Mach 2.
- ✂ The largest aircraft is 'Sally B' Europe's only B-17 Flying Fortress with a length of 22.66m and a wingspan of 31.62m.
- ✂ The oldest display team is the barnstorming Stampe Formation Team - formed in 1957.
- ✂ Rich Goodwin's Jet Pitts is the first jet powered biplane in the world – it can also hover, almost like a Harrier Jump Jet!
- ✂ The Battle of Britain Memorial Flight displays a rare line-up between the Dakota, Hurricane and Spitfire, while the Lancaster undergoes scheduled maintenance. Display supported by Horder Healthcare.
- ✂ Other highlights include the Tutor (display supported by The Lansdowne), AeroSuperBatics Wingwalkers and The Starlings.
- ✂ Airbourne is a tri-service event with RAF, Army and Navy flying assets and ground displays.
- ✂ Airbourne first took off in 1993 and displays included the Red Arrows, falconry, hot air balloons, frisbees, kite flying, model aircraft and even a liberation of pigeons at Beachy Head!
- ✂ Flying displays will operate from a multitude of airports including Shoreham, Biggin Hill, RAF Coningsby, Southend, Deanland, Duxford, Lydd, Bournemouth, Redhill and Headcorn.

✂ Commentator George 'Smokey' Bacon MBE TD is a retired Army Major, former RAF and AAC pilot, BBC broadcaster and recent recipient of the Sword of Honour. He has flown 20 different types of aircraft.

✂ On the ground - walk through a facsimile Chinook, see the RAF Cadets Bulldog aircraft, try the Army climbing wall and virtual reality experiences and meet the RAF and Army Careers teams.

✂ Meet the PR teams on the Typhoon, Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, Tutor and Royal Navy Black Cats stands.

✂ Enjoy cooking demonstrations and samples from the RAF Field Catering team throughout the day.

✂ Celebrating 85 years of the RAF Cadets in 2026 - for many, an experience flight in the Tutor is the beginning of their RAF journey.

✂ Ace and Aimee Air Bear airshow mascots will be in residence at the Information Stand meeting and greeting fans.

✂ Plus children's rides and entertainment, trade stalls and big screen on the beach showing flying footage.

✂ Fanzone with live streamed footage in the town centre at Bankers Corner Friday to Sunday.

✂ Bandstand entertainment – DJ sets with Fergus each morning and tribute concerts each evening Thurs – Sat (George Michael, Bee Gees & Lewis Capaldi)

✂ Firework Finale on Sunday – sponsored by Eastbourne Hospitality Association, Elite Medical and Frontier Fireworks.

Keep Airbourne Flying

Airbourne must cover its costs each year if it is to continue in future years – this means finding more than £450,000 from sponsorship, donations & commercial sales. Visitors can help by:

Donating in the bucket collection or online at **SaveAirbourne.com** (30% of bucket collection donations are shared with the collecting charity).

Buying a programme for free flying times updates each day (free pin badge while stocks last). Programme sponsored by PRG Marketing Communications.

Upgrading their visit with pre-booked seating or hospitality (limited availability).

Buying merchandise or joining the Supporters Club to receive limited edition goodies with all club proceeds supporting the show.

Please support the airshow by not publishing flying times.

Supporting the Economy

The largest event of its kind in the south east, Airbourne attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors every year, supporting the regional economy and the UK staycation.

Over 5.5 million visitors come to Eastbourne each year

Tourism is worth **£513 million** to the town

Supporting **23% of all jobs**

Sustainability

Only 6.6% of emissions are created by the display aircraft – the majority 93.1% is created by audience travel.

STEM career opportunities – available in the military exhibition

Refill Not Landfill - there are free water refill points across the airshow site.

No waste goes to landfill – waste is recycled or treated at a local Energy Recovery Facility, courtesy of Environment First.

Sustainable fuel – some of the displays today are already using sustainable fuel, smoke and dye systems in their displays

All-electric cars – supplied by Caffyns and used for display crew transport.

32,118 trees have been planted by Airbourne since 2023, in conjunction with Eastbourne ECO Action Network.

Top Tips

Beat the heat – wear a hat/light breathable clothing/umbrella, keep topping up the sunscreen and hydrate regularly - free water refills points are available.

Bring a **refillable water bottle** and reusable bag for purchases.

Bring cash as card payments are limited on the seafront!

Travel by public transport if you can. There are two cycle parks on the seafront.

Purchase a programme for access to latest flying times, aircraft info, discount vouchers and a limited edition Red Arrows watch prize to be won – plus you'll be supporting the show.

Join the Supporters Club for exclusive goodies.

Make it one to remember with pre-booked seating or hospitality. Most sessions now sold out or with limited availability.

Don't rush off at the end of the day – avoid the traffic and visit the newly pedestrianised Victoria Place for dinner or enjoy a Bandstand tribute or theatre show.

Sponsors

Airbourne is organised by Eastbourne Borough Council and supported by:

Gold Sponsor: Horder Healthcare

Silver Sponsors: The Lansdowne – The View Hotel

Sponsors: Bella & Duke – Birchwood Chery Hastings - Brufords – Caffyns Eastbourne– Caffyns VW - Cloud ConnX – Eastbourne Hospitality Association – Eastbourne News - Elite Medical - Environment First - Euro Self Drive - Frontier Fireworks – Full Range Fitness – KSS Air Ambulance – Metrobus - More Radio - Neighbourhood First – NTB Outdoors - PRG Marketing Communications – Pureprint Group – Recorra - Stagecoach – Trafalgar Theatres - Visit Eastbourne - Your Eastbourne BID – Zephyr Tech.

Partners: Royal Air Force, British Army, Royal Navy, emergency services, Rotary Club of Hailsham and many volunteers.

EastbourneAirshow.com

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