



Thursday 12th September 2024
Hangar 42, Blackpool Airport, FY4 2QY



Followed by Lunch at Waters Edge
56 Heyhouse Lane, Lytham St Annes, FY8 3RG

Hangar 42 Contact – Jay Hale, - Jay@company-strategy.co.uk

Lunch Contact – Peter & Isobel Moore - isobelpeter@gmail.com
BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Itinerary

09.30 – Arrive and visit the café for a coffee

10.00 – Guided tour of the visitor centre. £10 payable on arrival

12.30 – Lunch at Waters Edge Approx 4 miles away.

The guided tour includes talks by the staff, dressed in period uniform, in the recreated aerodrome huts to demonstrate what life was like for the pilots just going out on a mission.



Hangar 42 was constructed for the Air Ministry in May 1939. Squires Gate was commandeered for the Royal Air Force and became a key Airfield for RAF Groundcrew and Aircrew Training. Night fighter cover was provided for the North West from Blackpool, with RAF and Polish Aircrews flying providing Night Fighter operations from Hangar 42 throughout the War. The building has been thoughtfully refurbished to its original WW2 appearance, whisking visitors back in time to 1940.

As a busy operational Airfield, running alongside the Vickers Aircraft factory, Squires Gate would have had Wellington Bombers, Hawker Hurricanes and Boulton Paul Defiant's regularly in the circuit above Blackpool. Airspeeds Oxfords, Botha's and the occasional Spitfire would have also been commonplace on the Airfield and within Hangar 42.



Famous Aviation Pioneer and ATA Pilot Amy Johnson also flew her last fateful mission from RAF Squires Gate in 1941.

The Lytham St Annes Spitfire Display Team was established in 2009 by Chairman John Coombes, to help raise funds for the RAF Memorial now located on Fairhaven Lake in Lytham St Annes.

In 1940 the residents of the Borough of Lytham St Annes raised a total of £6500 to purchase Spitfire Mark Vb W3644, sadly shot down in 1942, with the loss of her Pilot Sgt Alan Lever-Ridings

A full size replica of W3644 now sits proudly at the centre of the Spitfire Memorial at Fairhaven Lake (FY8 1BD)

The Spitfire Display Team continues to be the fundraising arm of the Spitfire Visitor Centre at Blackpool Airport.



The Hangar 42 collection is made up of Five Spitfire replicas of various marks. Our collection also includes the Hawker Hurricane MKI, with all our aircraft currently being restored with original wartime parts, bringing these iconic aircraft back to life. For a small fee, visitors can take the opportunity to sit in the cockpit of our Spitfires and have a number of unique photographs taken to mark your visit. Please note that certain height, weight and age conditions apply for those wishing to access any of our aircraft.

[Lunch at The Waters Edge Pub & Restaurant Water's Edge - Joseph Holt \(joseph-holt.com\)](http://www.joseph-holt.com)

The Water's Edge in St Annes is spacious, family friendly pub and restaurant which has become firm favourite with both the community and visitors thanks to the excellent service and top-quality food and drink. Outside, there's a fabulous seating area and giant deck chair!

There's a great selection of food available at the Water's Edge seven days a week, including a carvery which is served all week too. We also have a fantastic choice of homemade cakes and fresh ice cream!

From the bar there's a fine choice of cask ales alongside award-winning lagers, draught beers and a selection of gin and rum cocktails, plus teas and coffees.

More details for Hangar 42 can be found here - **[Hangar 42 - Spitfire Visitor Centre](#)**

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