

Carillon Historical Park and the National U.S. Air Force Museum

On Saturday afternoon, we will visit Carillon Historical Park with its selection of historical buildings and exhibits tracing Dayton from its origins to the present day. The 65-acre park focuses on the history of transportation, technology and invention, as well as what it was like to live in Dayton. From its establishment in 1796 through to the present, visitors explore historical artifacts and buildings that relate to particular moments in Dayton's history including a B&O locomotive, caboose and depot. The following are some of the exhibits that would be of interest.

The Heritage Center of Dayton Manufacturing and Entrepreneurship houses an NCR cash register room with 90 Dayton-made machines, the 4-D We Progress Through Change animatronics theater, the original Deeds Barn, dozens of exhibits featuring Dayton factories and companies, and the Carousel of Dayton Innovation, a full-scale, hand-carved carousel featuring one-of-a-kind characters such as Orville Wright's dog, a Mike-sell's potato chip bag and a Dayton soap box derby car. The Col. Edward A. Deeds' barn, located behind his home at 319 Central Avenue in Dayton, was the site for Charles Kettering and "The Barn Gang's" invention of the electric self-starter for the automobile. In addition, a replica of Deeds Barn has been erected in the Park.

The James F. Dickes Family Transportation Center houses most of the Park's historic public transportation collection: the B&O 1835 John Quincy Adams, the 1923 B&O I-10 caboose, the 1903 Summer Trolley, the 1904 Kuhlman Interurban (Toledo, Port Clinton & Lakeside), the 1903 Barney and Smith standard coach (Detroit & Mackinac), the 1949 Dayton Marmon-Herrington Trolley Bus, and a RTA Supervisor's Booth. The John Quincy Adams was built in 1835 and used until the 1890's by the B&O. It is the oldest existing locomotive built in the United States.

The CH&D/B&O Bowling Green Station was originally located in Bowling Green, OH along the line that ran from Tontogony to North Baltimore, OH. It is furnished with furniture and equipment from Ohio railway stations of the period. There is also a Pennsylvania Railroad tower for a manually-operated grade crossing that served Dayton from 1907 to 1976 on the corner of West Fifth Street and Broadway. The railroad crossing gates were operated by the watchman.

The Wright Brothers Aviation Center, including Wright Hall and the replica Wright Cycle Company building, tells the story of the Wright brothers and showcases their original 1905 Wright Flyer III, the world's first practical airplane, and is a National Historical Landmark. The center is one of the sites of Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park.

The Great 1913 Flood exhibit building contains stories and artifacts about Dayton's worst natural disaster, including a three-dimensional map of the flood zone. In addition, the National Cash Register 1909 fireless locomotive, "Rubicon," operated as a switch engine at the factory from 1909-1961 and helped in the recovery after the flood.

Exhibits that interpret daily life include Newcom Tavern (1796), William Morris House (1815), Herzel Summer Kitchen (1817), Newcom House (c.1841) and the Waterlift Shaker Building (1832).

This is not an exhaustive list and description of the Carillon Park buildings, structures and exhibits. The convention members may wish they had more time.

The Dayton Convention offers the opportunity to visit the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force by either arriving a day early or visiting it on Sunday after the convention. It presents military aviation history, including more than 360 aerospace vehicles and missiles on display (many rare and one-of-a-kind) along with thousands of historical items and exhibits that bring history to life and connect the Wright brothers' legacy with today's stealth and precision technology. The museum has four buildings arranged with galleries representing different time periods in the history of the U. S. Air Force. Between building two and three, the Missile Silo contains missiles such as the Titan I and II and Jupiter.

Building One contains the Early Years Gallery and the World War II Gallery. The Early Years Gallery presents the formative days of military air power. The gallery's aircraft collection, exhibits and artifacts combine to capture the transformational era, chronicling the time from the Wright brothers and their contemporaries, through World War I and to the lead up to World War II. The World War II Gallery houses one of the world's top collections of WWII aircraft and a variety of exhibits that tell the proud story of the U.S. Army Air Forces during the war. The pivotal moments, campaigns and figures of air power in both the Pacific and European Theaters are captured.

The second building contains the Korean War Gallery and the Southeast Asia War Gallery. The Korean War Gallery contains aircraft and exhibits that tell the story of the U.S. Air Force's role and performance in that conflict. Visitors can immerse themselves in the emergence of the modern Air Force as the service experienced significant changes in roles, tactics and technology. It contains the conflict's two most striking symbols of air power on both sides -- the F-86A Sabre and the MiG-15. In the Southeast Asia War Gallery, visitors can view aircraft and exhibits that convey the U.S. Air Force's involvement in the conflict. The exhibit includes key air campaigns such as Operation Rolling Thunder and Operation Linebacker I and II and the aircraft involved including the B-52D.

Cold War Gallery is contained in Building Three featuring aircraft that span the years of the Cold War and reveal how technological achievements of the era led to the advanced systems being applied in modern combat. The gallery's aircraft collection presents a broad range of aircraft including the B-2 stealth bomber.

The fourth building houses the Space, Research and Development, Global Reach and Presidential Galleries. Included are the Space Shuttle Exhibit, XB-70 research aircraft, C-141 *Hanoi Taxi* and the Boeing VC-137C also known as SAM (Special Air Mission) 26000, which was used by eight presidents.

Your Dayton Convention visit will allow you to spend an extra day and visit the National U.S. Air Force Museum, the oldest and largest military aviation museum in the world. The hotel will honor the convention sleeping room rate on Wednesday and Sunday night if you want to either come a day before or a day after the convention.