

A Day of Heroes, History & High-Flying Machines

National Museum of the Marine Corps • AM | Udvar-Hazy Air & Space Center • PM

Morning: National Museum of the Marine Corps

Located in Triangle, VA — 25 min from our campsite — this world-class museum tells the full story of the United States Marine Corps from its founding in 1775 to today's modern fighting force. Built around a soaring 210-foot steel spire that mimics the raising of the flag at Iwo Jima, the building itself is an experience before you even walk inside.

What you'll explore:

- Step inside a simulated WWII landing craft and experience the chaos of the Pacific theater — sights, sounds, and all.
- Walk through immersive galleries covering every major conflict: WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and the War on Terror.
- Climb into actual cockpits, handle real gear, and see weapons, vehicles, and aircraft up close.
- Discover the meaning of honor, courage, and commitment — the core values Scouts live by too.
- Learn about the legendary Battle of Belleau Wood, the Chosin Reservoir, and the men who earned the Medal of Honor.

Afternoon: Udvar-Hazy Air & Space Center

The Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center is the Smithsonian's companion facility to the Air and Space Museum on the National Mall — and it's where they keep the BIG stuff. With over 300 aircraft and spacecraft displayed in two massive hangars, this is one of the most impressive collections of flying machines on Earth.

What you'll see:

- The Space Shuttle Discovery — a real orbiter that flew 39 missions and logged over 148 million miles in space.
- The SR-71 Blackbird, the fastest jet ever built, capable of outrunning a missile at Mach 3+.
- The Enola Gay — the B-29 Superfortress that dropped the first atomic bomb, ending World War II.
- A Concorde supersonic airliner, fighter jets, helicopters, and scores of historic aircraft from every era.

Scouts should wear their Troop T-shirts, Hoodies and Jackets. No day packs or string bags in the museums but OK on the Bus