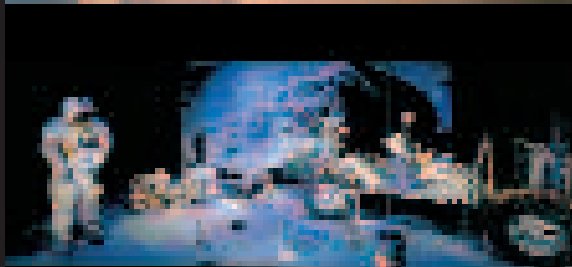
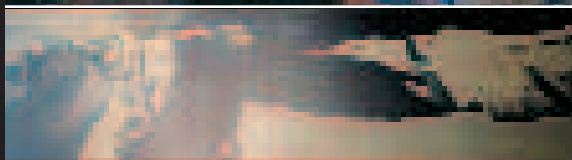


Record Discoveries

A Closer Look at Record Setting Aircraft

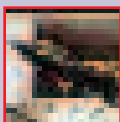


THE COLLECTION of the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum includes hundreds of unique, rare and famous aircraft. A number of these have held records with the National Aeronautic Association. For much of the history of powered flight, NAA, which has been around since 1905, has been the official aviation record keeper in the United States. More than 100 records are set or broken each year with NAA certification. In this brochure, you will learn more about the Museum's record-setting vehicles and their achievements.



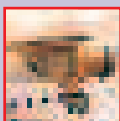
Apollo 11 Command Module Columbia

Apollo 11 set the bar for the lunar landing missions, establishing records for Duration of stay on the Moon, Duration outside the spacecraft, Greatest Mass Landed on the Moon, and Greatest Mass Lifted into Lunar Orbit (5,928.6 pounds).



North American X-15

On April 30, 1962, this aircraft, flown by Joseph Walker, set an altitude record of 246,750 feet. After its release at 45,000 feet, it climbed an additional 38.2 miles in 2 minutes and 46 seconds, the equivalent of a vertical speed of 830 mph. In comparison, the typical airliner today climbs with a vertical speed of about 24 mph.



Ryan NYP Spirit of St. Louis

In addition to making the first solo transatlantic flight, Lindbergh set a record for distance without landing. The fact that he didn't land enroute was verified by the trace produced by the barograph on display, which was affixed to the inside of the aircraft by NAA Directing Official Carl F. Schory.



Curtiss Robin Ole Miss

In 1928 the Key Brothers beat the previous record for sustained flight, set almost exactly five years earlier, by 99 hours and 53 minutes (just over four days). Today, the airport where they set their record in Meridian, Mississippi, is known as Key Field, and has the longest public-use runway in the state.



Friendship 7

In addition to an American record of 4 hours, 55 minutes, 23 seconds, John Glenn set a distance record of 81,900 miles. No other American astronaut had traveled as far or spent as much time in space at that point.

Hughes H-1

Amelia Earhart assisted with Howard Hughes' 1935 record observation from a Lockheed Vega circling overhead. Hughes made four passes of a 3 kilometer course, with an average duration over the course of 19.19 seconds. After the final pass, he ran out of fuel and made a gear-up landing in a beet field north of Santa Ana Airport.



Wittman Chief Oshkosh

Steve Wittman flew his 100 kilometer speed record from Wayne County Airport (now Detroit's main international airport) southwest to Britton, Michigan, and back in 15 minutes and 39 seconds, on a route which followed the Wabash Railway. Today, the airport in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, is named after Wittman and has served since 1970 as the site of the largest general aviation fly-in in the world.



Voyager

The wingspan is listed on the display both with and without winglets because the winglets fell off in flight. The wings were so heavy with fuel that they drooped, dragging on the runway (notice the scrapes) for nearly two minutes until Voyager accelerated to a point where they generated enough lift to raise themselves off the ground. Weakened by the scraping, they broke off after Voyager became airborne.



Spirit of Freedom

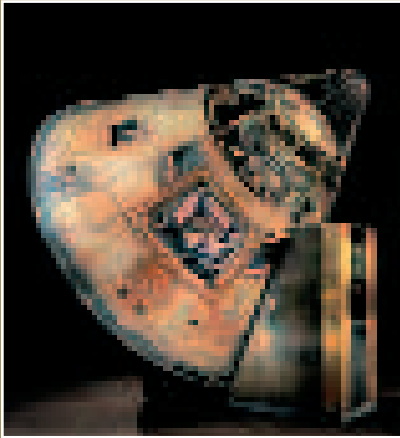
Steve Fossett set a speed record of 320 hours and 33 minutes for balloons flying around the world, shaving 50 hours off the previous record set by the Breitling Orbiter 3. During his voyage, Fossett carried a boomerang given to him by a well-wisher before his departure, under the tradition that a boomerang will always return to its home base.



Apollo 17 spacesuit

Wearing this spacesuit, Eugene Cernan spent a record-breaking 21 hours and 31 minutes outside the Lunar Module Challenger, over the course of a total duration on the moon of 75 hours. In comparison, Apollo 11's Neil Armstrong spent just two hours and 31 minutes outside the Eagle three and a half years earlier.





If you would like to look into aviation records more closely, you can search a database of aviation records at www.naa.aero.

This brochure was made possible through the generosity of Avemco Insurance Company.