

# Centrifuge Tours



## The Farnborough Man-Carrying Centrifuge

The RAF Institute of Aviation Medicine Man-Carrying Centrifuge played a key role in aviation medicine research. Opened in May 1955, the centrifuge was used to gain a better understanding of how G affects the human body and to develop the countermeasures required to equip RAF front line fast jet pilots with essential life support systems. For over 60 years, the centrifuge remained at the forefront of UK high G research and training, until its final run in March 2019. The centrifuge today has changed very little from the original 1950s facility, a truly unique and impressive example of British engineering, complete with dials and valve-driven control circuits. It is a Grade II listed facility.

## Book a Tour of the Centrifuge

With the agreement of the owner (Raintree Developments Ltd), FAST can now exclusively offer comprehensive guided tours of the centrifuge.

The tours last just over 2 hours and are held by pre-arrangement, normally on a Tuesday. Other weekdays can usually be arranged if necessary. Tours are led by a FAST volunteer who was a research scientist and centrifuge subject, with the support of former centrifuge engineers and other FAST volunteers. So visitors will hear firsthand what it was like to work with (and ride on) the centrifuge. Tours start with a talk about the effects of G on the human body and various ways of G protection, with archive film to illustrate. This is followed by a hands-on tour around the centrifuge itself and associated machinery (used to run and control it) with knowledgeable guides. Usual tour pricing is £15 per person, which includes a high quality souvenir booklet.

Please contact the Museum Secretary for information on how to join a tour (groups and individuals accommodated): [secretary@airsciences.org.uk](mailto:secretary@airsciences.org.uk), Tel: 01252 375050 (phonenumber 1000-1600 Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday only).