



*The Grumman Owners and Pilots Association, Headquarters Europe
requests the pleasure of your presence at*

Another Great GOPA Fly-in

*at Speyer Germany between Thursday, May 25th and Sunday May 29th
2023*

R.S.V.P. by 30th October 2022

dr-rgt@hotmail.com

Dress: Casual

Smart for Dinners

Please have landed by 1600 UTC on Thursday at EDRY

Why Speyer:

The **history of Speyer** begins with the establishment of a Roman camp in 10 BCE, making it one of Germany's oldest cities. Its name evolved from **Spira**, first mentioned in 614. As of 1294 a Free Imperial City, the town became renowned for its Romanesque cathedral, its vibrant Jewish community, its seat of the Imperial Chamber Court, for 50 diets that took place within its walls, most notably 1526 and 1529, and last but not least, for the Protestation at Speyer. For several centuries from the Middle Ages into the early modern period, Speyer was one of the main centers of gravity of the Holy Roman Empire.

From an aviation perspective, Speyer first had an airport in 1912 (one of the oldest in Europe) and a thriving aircraft manufacturing industry. From building fighters in both the first and second world wars, aircraft parts and manufacturing continues today.

The crown jewel of aviation history has to be the Technik Museum, Speyer. Please take a look at the following article in an aviation magazine: <https://www.key.aero/article/teutonic-treasure-trove-technik-museum-speyer>.

The best part of Speyer is that once you land at the airport (for general aviation), everything is within walking distance. This includes the Technik Museum, the fly-in hotel, the Romanesque Cathedral, the Rhine River and the old town of Speyer. Buses will not feature for this Fly-In. Please see the map on the next page to see how close everything is.

The airport welcomes general aviation and has ample parking, fueling and maintenance facilities. This is a customs airport and provides complete clearance services for customs and immigration. Complete information can be found at: <https://flugplatz-speyer.de/airport-speyer-ludwigshafen/?lang=en>. According to the Operations Manager at the Airport, we have parking reserved at the grass area directly above where I have the "Airport" text box. It can be arranged that Police and/or immigration will come to us for formalities. Alternatively, a new building is being built that will be located by the parking area to simplify all payment, customs and administrative requirements.



Landing, parking fees and fuel can all be arranged directly with the airport. Closer to the date of the event, Fly-in participants will need to send details of their aircraft type, call sign, MTOW, name, email address and home address to the airport and accounts will be set up for all fees so that invoices can be sent directly after the event. While one can pay directly at the airport or using an Aerops app, direct payment will allow significant discounts that we have arranged. Landing fees will be €10 and overnight parking also €10. It is not possible to get a discount on AVGAS 100LL, however, we have negotiated a 10¢ (Euro) reduction per liter for Mogas (Super Plus). You can budget €50 if you land twice (arrive and fly out) and stay overnight for the 3 nights (or €60 if you leave on Monday). For the fly out to Koblenz (EDRK), we will arrange fixed landing fees on the Saturday at that airport.

Hopefully, having your interest peaked, let's look at the Technik Museum in more detail:

“Welcome to the Technik Museum Speyer – where one sensation follows close on the next! Just an hour south of Frankfurt, discover technology from the underwater world to space: what does the inside of a submarine look like? What does a sea cruiser need on board? How huge is the Jumbo Jet? What does the world's largest organ sound like? How did a Chinese steam locomotive end up in Speyer, and was the Space Shuttle Buran in space? Alongside Europe's largest aerospace and amazing naval exhibition, discover a variety of aircraft, classic vintage cars, racing- and classic motorcycles, historic fire engines, massive steam locomotives, mechanical instruments, rarities and fashions.” (Technik Museum blurb, I just copied and pasted!)

Please take a look at the Technik Museum website for more information:

<https://speyer.technik-museum.de/en/>

There is a nice map of the whole layout of the museum and the Boeing 747 on Stilts. It is true that you have to climb up to get in the belly of the beast, but the reward is an amazing helter skelter (slide) to return to earth.



We will arrange tours in English (or German) for GOPA members and the Museum has a super IMAX theater that is included in the ticket price. There is a nice restaurant on the campus for those wanting to take a lunch break and, of course, there is German beer on tap.

Also included in the entrance ticket is the [Museum Wilhelmsbau](#) with the world's largest collection of automated music machines known as orchestrions. There are instruments from all eras and design of which only a few specimens still exist today. Since orchestrions are equipped with many different sound sources their diversity of sound can be compared to a small orchestra. Typical are a piano part which, in many cases, can also be played manually, percussion instruments like drums, cymbals and xylophones, and different types of pipes.

The Hotel:

Literary, one walks out of the museum directly to the hotel.



We have arranged a special package for GOPA members. There are 40 double rooms blocked from Thursday, May 25th to Sunday, May 28th 2023. These rooms can be extended for those wishing to stay until Monday (at the same discounted rate).

For double occupancy: First night €149 (including an entrance to the Museums and IMAX), subsequent nights €120. Breakfast is included.

For single occupancy: First night €107 (including entrance to the Museums and IMAX), subsequent nights €100. Breakfast is included.

Parking is free for those with cars.

As is the normal practice in GOPA meetings, the participants must book the rooms directly by 30 March 2023. All reservations can be canceled on the day of arrival at 18:00 with a full refund. The email for making this reservation is: reservierung@hotel-speyer.de and participants must provide a code for the blocked rooms. The code to use when booking is "TOMPKINS" and mention that it is for the GOPA Fly-In 2023.

The Program:

Thursday, May 25th Arrive at Speyer. Participants flying into Speyer will park at the airport in an area that is reserved for us and one can literally walk across the street to the hotel (I timed it and it took 4 minutes 35 seconds). Check in is anytime after 13:00. We request that all fly-in participants arrive by 16:00 UTC (18:00 local time). For participants arriving by automobile, there is dedicated parking at the hotel.

For those arriving from abroad on commercial flights, it is best to arrive at Frankfurt International airport (FRA). There are train connections from the airport to Speyer (via Mannheim). Closer to the event, information on train timetables and costs will be provided. Once at the Speyer central station, the hotel is 4 km distant. Taxis can be arranged from the central station to the hotel (cost approximately €10). Alternatively, there is a bus for €1.50 that will take you directly to the Technik Museum.

We will have a welcoming reception at the Hotel with snacks, water, wine and beer provided. After settling in, we will walk to dinner at a nearby brewery restaurant: the Hausbrauerei im Domhof, please see <https://www.domhof.de/en/>. The walk takes 13 minutes and will pass by a world heritage site, the Speyer cathedral. We have arranged a 3 course meal (including a vegetarian alternative) with local beer on tap or local wine from the region. Menu choices will be provided at a later date.

Friday, May 26th, after breakfast at the hotel, we will move to the Technik Museum at 10:00 and begin the tour. Participants are requested to choose which language group (English or German) they wish to attend. The tour lasts for approximately 2 hours and will be perfect timing for taking a lunch at the Museum restaurant (see the map above). The afternoon will be filled with checking out more of the museum, visiting the Museum Wilhelmsbau, taking in an IMAX movie and generally horsing around.

When the day is done, participants are welcome to adjourn to one of two bars (Irish Pub Outdoors and Bistro Meridian) just outside the door of the Museum (and adjacent to the airport). The cost of which is to be paid individually. Alternatively, there is a cheap and cheerful restaurant serving light meals (and drinks, of course) on the Rhine River. It has the ominous name: Flaming Star, but would be a possibility. Again, these meals will be at the discretion of the participants and we can organize reservations if there are any particular preferences.

Saturday, May 27th, after breakfast at the hotel, the groups will separate.

One group will fly to Koblenz along the Rhine River. Once at Koblenz, there will be an air-tour of 20 of the most spectacular castles along the Rhine and Moselle Rivers. After (hopefully) finding all the castles by air, we will recover with a lunch at a Greek Restaurant on the field. Participants will be responsible for their tabs. Thereafter, we will return to Speyer and get ready for the Gala Dinner.

The other group will join a tour of Speyer. The tour will begin at 10:00 and go through the old town, visit the Cathedral (please see <https://www.speyer.de/en/tourism/experience-speyer/tourist-attractions/the-speyer-cathedral/>), and discover the important Jewish cultural sites (please see <https://www.speyer.de/en/culture/shum-a-unesco-world-heritage-site/jewish-cultural-sites-worth-a-visit/>). The tour will be provided in English (and/or German). Again, when this is finished, there will be time for shopping or exploring the old town before the gala dinner.

The gala dinner will be held at the Flight Restaurant, Speyer, which is located directly on the airport and walking distance from the hotel. Please see: <https://www.flight-restaurant.de/> for more details. The plan is to have a three course outdoor BBQ on a “lava stone grill”. There will be a selection of flesh for the carnivores and a nice vegetarian option. Just select what you want grilled and it will show up cooked to perfection. Mineral water, beer and both red and white wine from the region will be provided. If the bottles run dry or Grumpy participants want something else (i.e. G&Ts, cocktails, etc.) each table will settle up separately with the restaurant. After the dinner, we can retire to the terrace bar above the restaurant to continue our celebrations. I have been told that this could go on until the early morning hours.

Sunday, May 28th, after breakfast the fly-in is formally concluded. Perhaps, those who missed the tour of Speyer can take advantage of it on the Sunday. Furthermore, there is a 90 minute boat tour of the Rhine River that takes place every day (assuming there is water in the Rhine at that time). There are more restaurants to be explored and an eclectic Historical Museum (how can you miss seeing a 2000 year old bottle of wine from Roman times?).

Costs, fees and administrative details:

Airport fees paid directly by those flying into Speyer. We have arranged a special reduced fee package at Speyer and will prepay the landing fees for those flying to Koblenz.

Hotel rooms have been blocked but must be reserved by 30 March 2023. We have arranged that these rooms can be canceled until 6 PM (local time) on the day of arrival.

The entrance fee to the Technik Museum is included in the package deal of the hotel. The welcome reception and dinner at the Brewery is covered. Drinks are included for the reception at the hotel and at the welcome dinner. The three-course dinner at the brewery will cost €50 per person and we have budgeted €15 for drinks.

The guided tours of the Technik Museum will be €10 per person (assuming 30 participants). Those wishing to take the Tour of Speyer, the cost will be €10. For those flying to Koblenz, the €10 will cover the landing fees at Koblenz. The gala dinner will cost €60 per person for the food and drinks to start us off.

In total, we will require €160 Euro for each participant. This will cover the drinks, meals and tours and provide a buffer for inflation, particularly thirsty participants and for administrative costs (i.e. signs I have to have printed to guide those that are directionally challenged from the airport to the hotel, etc.) Details for payment will be provided subsequently.

Participants should email dr-rgt@hotmail.com ASAP or at the latest by January 30 2023 to confirm:

- 1) Attendance
- 2) Means of Transport, Private Airplane (tail number), Train, Car, Commercial Flight
- 3) Participation in either Koblenz fly out or Speyer City Tour
- 4) Estimated day of departure (Sunday or Monday).

PLEASE NOTE: Attendance is strictly restricted to 60 participants. To avoid disappointment, don't dawdle, confirm sooner than later!