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10 things to do at S'pore Airshow 2008

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Adrian Lim

Fri, Feb 22, 2008

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1. Meet the Black Knights

Want to get a first-hand account of what it's like up in the skies? Meet the men behind the machines - the six skilful pilots of the Republic of Singapore Air Force's (RSAF) Black Knights - and get them to sign an autograph or two. They are available at 2:30pm daily at the Feature Pavilion.

2. Fly like a Black Knight

For those who feel who want to get a piece of the action, the RSAF has set up a flight simulator - complete with throttle control, flight stick and a seat that moves in accordance with your jet's trajectory.

"It's quite a realistic simulation of the F16 that we fly," said Captain Augustine Wan, Black Knight #2, during his trial of the simulator on Wednesday.

A flight simulator of the C130 cargo plane is also available at the ST Engineering booth, which features a three panel widescreen display. Special rings of fire will be programmed into the simulation for public visitors to practise flying through.

Where?

F16 simulator at the RSAF booth, A01, Main Hall
C130 simulator at ST Engineering, G01, Main Hall

3. Collect one-of-a-kind souvenirs

Cloth bags, badges, pins, posters and even straw hats - AsiaOne has rounded up the best freebies to collect. Find out more [here](#).

Where? Everywhere and anywhere you can find them!



4. Have your one-of-a-kind Kodak moment

Photo opportunities abound at the Singapore Airshow 2008, so let your imagination run wild.

If men in uniforms rock your world, look out for the soldiers decked out in the latest combat gear at the ST Kinetics and Elbit Systems booth.

Alternatively, get up close and personal with the mammoth-sized Airbus A380 at the static aircraft display area. For a unique photo, strike a pose in front of one of the plane's gargantuan propellers.



There's also a \$1.5 million Rolls Royce car in the static display. It's a rare chance to lay your hands on one of these ostentatious icons.

Where?

ST Kinetics, G01, Main Hall
 Elbit Systems Group, N65, Main Hall
 Aeroplanes, helicopters and car at the Static Display Area

5. Get your hands on the latest military technology in Singapore



Do literally wrap your palms and digits around some of the assault rifles and guns on display at the ST Kinetics booth. Airshow visitors are more than to handle the weapons, strike a mean pose and have their picture taken for novelty's sake.

The Compact Personal Weapon - still in the developmental phase - is one of the booth's highlights, with its easy-to-conceal design, but packing a deadly 9-millimetre ammunition punch.

If handling heavy metal is not your cup of tea, take a seat in the TERREX 8X8 Armoured Fighting Vehicle, which is also currently in development. The TERREX is able to traverse most terrains in its path - rivers, trenches and even slopes with a 60 per cent gradient.

Find out more about the Commercial Articulated Vehicle (CAV), which ST Kinetics has designed for disaster recovery, resupply and medical aid. It boasts the manoeuvrability of the Bronco tank - another ST Kinetic product - but can be outfitted in various configurations with a whopping payload of 3,800 kg.

Where? G01, Main Hall

- 10 things to do at S'pore Airshow 2008 (Part II)

Buy an aeroplane to do your part for charity and meet the youngest exhibitors. Find out more!

Photos by Adrian Lim

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Buy an aeroplane to do your part for charity, and meet the youngest exhibitors at the airshow.

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6. Meet the youngest exhibitors

Just aged between 17 and 21, six students from Temasek Polytechnic - who comprise Team Pyroeis - lay claim to their own exhibition space at this year's airshow.

Hailing from the Aviation Management and Services faculty, the team pipped several other tertiary institutions to emerge tops at the inaugural Singapore Space Challenge.

They will be on location to explain their award-winning design for a Martian Research Transport Craft, using a computer-generated simulation, miniature mockups, and most importantly, their youthful enthusiasm.

"It's an eye-opener for us. Through our exhibit, we have gained invaluable feedback from industry professionals, notably some of whom have worked closely with NASA before," said Mr Ooi Yong Ann, leader of Team Pyroeis.

"One company has even expressed interest to fund our project."

Are they intimidated by their more senior exhibition counterparts? Not at all, says Yong Ann.

Where? Booth E95, Main Hall

7. 'Tee off' with Saab and win

How is golf related to the Swedish aviation, defence and car manufacturing company? Absolutely nothing, says Mr Sven Olsson, Exhibition Manager, Planning and Support, Saab Bofors Dynamics AB, but many like playing the game and it's a nice way to network and relax, he added.

SAAB's mini "Golf Putting Green" was, in fact, highly popular with visitors on the trade-only days of airshow.



Photo: Team Pyroeis, Temasek Polytechnic

Trade-day participants were given three attempts to make the hole on the green - each successful try entitling them to put one namecard in a lucky draw bowl. The prize of the daily draw at 4:30pm: a driver club worth some S\$1,000.

Public visitors stand to win SAAB baseball caps and key chains on Saturday and Sunday.

Where? Booth K87, Main Hall

8. Try out the RBS 70 Air Defence Missile System

The RBS 70 is one of Saab Bofors Dynamics' most well-known military products, procured by some 23 users worldwide. Visitors can try out the simulator - which is used in actual

Asiaone - S'pore firm offers

military training - and attempt to successfully target and shoot

down an incoming enemy plane.

Where? Booth K87, Main Hall

9. Buy an aeroplane and do your part for charity

You won't have to dig too deep down in your pockets - these replica aeroplanes are reasonably priced and make great ornaments for the home and office.

Choose between an Airbus A380, a Boeing 747 and a Cessna - every model is beautifully handcrafted in wood, of a 1:150 scale, and limited in production quantity.

All profits to benefit the Children's Cancer Foundation and the Chen Su Lan Methodist Children's Home.

Where? Booth 120, Integrated Land Defence Pavilion



10. Retail therapy

Get the official Singapore Airshow 2008 T-shirts, pins and aviator teddy bear at The Singapore Mint (Booth 124). For the more serious aviation enthusiasts, realistic scale models of fighter planes, bombers, luxury jets, helicopters, and commercial jets can be purchased at LUPA (Booth 118) and Prestige Productions International (Booth 122).

Lots of paraphernalia available at nearby stalls too.

Where? Booths 224, 125, 124, 122, 120, 118, 116 and 114, Integrated Land Defence Pavilion



- 10 things to do at the S'pore Airshow 2008 (Part I)

Fly like a Black Knight and literally get your hands on the latest military technology in Singapore. Find out more!

Photos by Adrian Lim

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