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Red Arrows Set for Hampshire Return in 2026

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The Royal Air Force's (RAF) Red Arrows have wowed Hampshire crowds this year with their jaw-dropping aerial displays, but fans hoping to see them again will need to be patient as the iconic jets aren't scheduled to return to Hampshire skies until 2026.

Officially known as the Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team, the Red Arrows are renowned across the world for their tight formations, colourful smoke trails and split-second precision. Their performances are a summer highlight for many across the U.K., with crowds flocking to catch a glimpse of the team's trademark manoeuvres. This year, lucky residents saw them

take part in the Isle of Wight Armed Forces Day and fly near the Hampshire border during the Goodwood Festival of Speed in West Sussex.

But those living in Hampshire will be waiting a while for the next confirmed local flypast. The Red Arrows are expected to return to the county during the next Farnborough International Airshow, currently scheduled for July 2026. The prestigious event, which draws exhibitors and visitors from around the globe, is one of the few major aviation shows in Hampshire. It typically features the Arrows as part of its flying line-up.

Display Schedule

For those unwilling to wait until 2026, there may still be a final chance to see the Red Arrows in action during the 2025 season. The team is expected to perform a flypast at the Airbourne International Air Show in Eastbourne, East Sussex. This popular seaside event takes place every August and has historically featured the Red Arrows as a headline act. While it requires a bit of travel for Hampshire residents, it remains the closest confirmed appearance in the near future.

Some aviation fans have expressed disappointment over the limited opportunities to see the Red Arrows in southern England this year. Given that the team is publicly funded and considered a symbol of British heritage, there's growing interest in seeing a more balanced schedule across the country. Enthusiasts online have suggested that areas like Hampshire deserve more frequent appearances with its strong RAF links and aviation history.

The Ministry of Defence has yet to release a complete display calendar for 2025. However, sources close to the RAF say the team's commitments are always balanced against operational needs and maintenance. Based at RAF Waddington in Lincolnshire, the Red Arrows also spend a significant portion of the year conducting training, further limiting their availability.

Despite the wait, the Red Arrows continue to be a source of national pride, representing the best of British aviation and military precision. Their appearances at overseas shows, from the Middle East to mainland Europe, have helped to foster international goodwill and support U.K. defence and aerospace interests abroad.

Until they return to Hampshire skies, fans may need to plan a trip further afield to get their next fix of red, white, and blue across the horizon.

