



USS Lexington (CV-16) Facts

- Commissioned on Feb 17, 1943, and decommissioned on Nov 8, 1991, USS Lexington set more records than any other Essex Class carrier in the history of naval aviation - steaming more miles, landing more aircraft and staying in service the longest.
- USS Lexington, the fifth ship to carry that name, was originally to be named USS Cabot. During World War II, final construction was being completed at Massachusetts' Fore River Shipyard when word was received that the previous carrier named USS Lexington (CV-2), had been sunk in Battle of the Coral Sea. The Shipyard workers petitioned the Secretary of the Navy, and the new carrier's name was changed to Lexington.
- During World War II, USS Lexington participated in nearly every major operation in the Pacific Theater and spent a total of 24 months in combat. Her planes destroyed 372 enemy aircraft in the air, and 475 more on the ground. She sank or destroyed 300,000 tons of enemy cargo and damaged an additional 600,000 tons. The ship's guns shot down 15 planes and assisted in downing five more.
- The Japanese reported USS Lexington sunk no less than four times, yet each time she was present at the next battle. This, combined with the Lexington's blue/gray paint scheme, led the propagandist Tokyo Rose to nickname her "The Blue Ghost." The ship's crew embraced the name with pride.
- After the war, USS Lexington was briefly decommissioned (1947-1955). When recommissioned after extensive modifications to operate jet aircraft, she operated primarily with the Seventh Fleet out of San Diego, California. Although not involved in actual combat, USS Lexington kept an offshore vigil during tensions in Formosa, Laos, and Cuba.
- In 1962, she sailed into Pensacola, Florida, and began operations as the Navy's training carrier. She was officially designated as a training carrier (CVT-16) in 1969, and then as an auxiliary carrier (AVT-16) in 1978.
- In 1980, USS Lexington became the first aircraft carrier with women assigned as part of the crew.

USS Lexington Museum Facts

- The USS Lexington arrived at Corpus Christi beach in 1992, with first guests on board in October that year- one of the fastest turnarounds from active ship to museum ship.
- "The Blue Ghost" has remained self-sufficient, and without regular government funding. The revenue that keeps this national treasure open has come from grants, donations, admissions, Ship's Store sales, special events, and the Camp LEX Overnight Adventure program.
- On May 27, 2023 the 9 millionth visitor was welcomed aboard.
- Five tour routes are open to the public, covering 100,000 square feet and eleven decks.
- In addition to self-guided tour routes, there are five guided tours available to schedule: Flight Operations Tour, Hard Hat Tour, Guided Tour along the regular public routes, Ghost Tour and Paranormal Investigation.
- There are three Escape Rooms aboard the USS Lexington that include elements of history involving the ship; Beat the Blast, Face Your Fears and Save Our Ship.
- Organized youth groups can participate in the Camp LEX Overnight Adventure program, staying aboard the ship for 1 - 2 nights.
- Space can be rented to host special events such as weddings, corporate events, community events, and many other types of celebrations.

USS Lexington Museum
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