

THUNDERBIRDS 2017

By Gideon Grudo, Digital Platforms Editor



By the time its show season ends in November, the Thunderbirds team will have traveled a distance more than a third of the way to the moon.

Shows span the country from the Thunderbirds' home at Nellis AFB, Nev., to almost two dozen states and two other countries, all over the course of 10 months. *Air Force Magazine* crunched the data from Nellis to each airfield the Thunderbirds use before their air shows and reached a few interesting conclusions.

MILES COVERED

82,082 Total miles traveled (that's farther than flying three times around the planet)

4,424 Farthest trip, from RAF Fairford, UK, for the Royal International Air Tattoo, to Great Falls, Mont.

53 Shortest trip, from Atlantic City Arpt., N.J., to Dover AFB, Del.

3,157 Average miles traveled per trip



MILES UNCOUNTED

To calculate the distance of the Thunderbirds, *Air Force Magazine* focused on the actual distance between bases and airfields. Some distances that didn't make it into the calculus were miles traveled:

- During shows, which varies depending on weather
- Between airfields and shows, which are usually no more than five miles apart
- During media tours, of which there are about 80 in any given year
- During training sorties

26 Trips for the 2017 season

22 States hit during the show season

4 Shows in both Texas and Florida, which tie for highest multiple shows this season

UNITED STATES



EUROPE



There still are opportunities to see the Thunderbirds this year. Visit afthunderbirds.com.

Source: USAF public affairs

Photos: SSgt. Nieko Carzis; SSgt. Jason Couillard. Adobe Stock images