



September 11, 2001

[Marking the 25th Anniversary | National September 11 Memorial & Museum](#)

Remembrance and Service

A quarter century after the September 11, 2001 attacks, 100 million Americans are too young to remember the day that changed our city and nation forever. It is our shared promise — made

25 years ago — to never forget so those born after 9/11 learn its significance and enduring legacy. As we commemorate this anniversary, a new generation will learn about the unimaginable loss we experienced and the inspiring stories of bravery, compassion, unity, and service that we witnessed, and have rippled through the decades.

Twenty-five years later, we invite you to remember, reflect, and learn with us — at the National September 11 Memorial & Museum in lower Manhattan, through our many online programs, or by acting in your own community. [Download our anniversary toolkit](#) for opportunities to be part of the 9/11 Memorial & Museum mission in 2026.

COMMEMORATE



Commemoration Ceremony
Disney Entertainment Multiplatform
Commemoration: Uniting the Nation
in Hope
Tribute in Light
Remember the Sky
Remembrance Wall
Plan Your Own Observance

EDUCATE

INSPIRE

Visit the Museum

The Museum is currently open Wednesday through Monday and [many Tuesdays](#) from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Visitors are invited to explore at their own pace, but should plan on spending 45-90 minutes here.

[Get tickets](#)





Resources

Access Museum resources including interactive timelines, oral histories, digital exhibitions, and 9/11 primary sources to learn more about the February 26, 1993 World Trade Center bombing, 9/11 and its aftermath. [Learn more](#)



Colour photograph of the Manhattan skyline following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre.

On September 11, 2001, 19 terrorists from the Islamic extremist group al Qaeda—founded by [Osama bin Laden](#)—hijacked four commercial passenger airplanes and carried out coordinated suicide attacks against targets in the United States. Two of the planes were flown into the twin towers of the [World Trade Center](#) in New York City. Within two hours, both towers had collapsed into rubble, demolishing a large section of lower Manhattan. A third plane hit the [Pentagon](#) in Arlington, Virginia, just outside Washington, D.C. The passengers and crew of the fourth plane fought back, and the hijackers crashed the plane in a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Almost 3,000 people were killed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks, including the 19 al Qaeda terrorists. The shocking events of September 11 were televised globally and left much of the world reeling in horror. The administration of President George W. Bush responded by declaring a “war on terror” and launching the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan. The attacks also led to a sweeping

reorganization of the federal government, including the creation of the Department of Homeland Security.

World Trade Center

On September 11, 2001, at 8:46 a.m. on a clear Tuesday morning, American Airlines Flight 11, a Boeing 767 carrying thousands of gallons of jet fuel, crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center in [New York City](#).

The impact left a gaping, burning hole between the 93rd and 99th floors of the 110-story skyscraper, instantly killing hundreds of people and trapping hundreds more on higher floors.

As the evacuation of the tower and its twin got underway, television cameras broadcast live images of what initially appeared to be a freak accident. Then, 17 minutes after the first plane hit, a second Boeing 767—United Airlines Flight 175—appeared in the sky, turned sharply toward the World Trade Center, and sliced into the South Tower between the 77th and 85th floors.

The collision caused a massive explosion that showered burning debris onto surrounding buildings and onto the streets below. It immediately became clear that the United States was under attack.

The hijackers were members of al Qaeda. Fifteen were from Saudi Arabia, two were from the United Arab Emirates, one was from Egypt and one was from Lebanon. The attacks were orchestrated by al Qaeda leader [Osama bin Laden](#), who cited America's support of Israel, its involvement in the [Persian Gulf War](#) and its continued military presence in the Middle East as grievances.

Some of the hijackers had lived in the United States for more than a year and had taken flight training at American flight schools. Others had slipped into the country in the months before September 11 and acted as the “muscle” in the operation.

Where Did the 9/11 Planes Take Off From?

The 19 terrorists smuggled box-cutters and knives through security at three East Coast airports—Logan International Airport in Boston, Washington Dulles International Airport in Virginia and Newark International Airport in New Jersey—and boarded four early-morning flights bound for California, chosen because the planes were loaded with fuel for the long transcontinental journey. Soon after takeoff, the terrorists commandeered the four planes and took the controls, transforming ordinary passenger jets into weapons.

Pentagon Attack



As millions watched the events unfolding in New York, American Airlines Flight 77 circled over Washington, D.C., before crashing into the west side of the Pentagon military headquarters at 9:37 a.m.

Jet fuel from the Boeing 757 ignited a devastating inferno that led to the structural collapse of a portion of the Pentagon's giant concrete building, which is the headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense.

All told, 125 military personnel and civilians were killed at the Pentagon, along with all 64 people aboard the airliner.

Flight 93

Meanwhile, a fourth California-bound plane—[United Airlines Flight 93](#)—was hijacked about 45 minutes after leaving Newark International Airport in New Jersey. Because the plane had been delayed before takeoff, passengers and crew members learned of the attacks in New York and Washington during [calls to the ground](#).

After learning about the earlier attacks, a group of passengers and crew members decided to fight back against the hijackers.

The [passengers and crew fought back against the four hijackers](#) and may have tried to breach the cockpit using a fire extinguisher. As the counterattack continued, the hijackers rolled the plane onto its back and sent it into a steep dive. The plane crashed in a rural field near [Shanksville](#) in western Pennsylvania at 10:03 a.m., traveling about 563 mph.

All 44 people aboard were killed. Evidence indicates that the hijackers [were headed](#) for Washington, D.C., most likely targeting the U.S. Capitol, although the White House has also been identified as a possible target.

How Many People Died in the 9/11 Attacks?

A total of 2,996 people were killed in the 9/11 attacks, including the 19 hijackers aboard the four airplanes. The victims included citizens of more than 90 countries.

At the World Trade Center, 2,753 people were killed in the attacks, including 343 FDNY firefighters, 23 New York City police officers and 37 Port Authority police officers who were struggling to complete an evacuation of the buildings and save the office workers trapped on higher floors.

At the Pentagon, 189 people were killed, including 64 people aboard American Airlines Flight 77, the airliner that struck the building. On Flight 93, 44 people were killed when the hijackers crashed the plane in Pennsylvania.

[September 11 Attacks: Facts, Background & Impact | HISTORY](#)