

Booking a museum visit: tips for teachers

Portsmouth Museums warmly welcomes school visitors. Our staff and volunteers are keen to make your time with us enjoyable and educational. Whether you're planning a self-directed visit or a facilitated workshop, we ask all schools to book in advance to make sure your visit runs as smoothly as possible. To book a visit, pre-visit or workshop please call our admin team on **02392 834744** or email us at mvs@portsmouthcc.gov.uk. Please be ready to give your name; school name; contact phone number and email address; number and age of children in your group; which museum or exhibition you would like to visit; and your preferred dates and times.

For The D-Day Story, please visit the website to fill in an online visit enquiry form:

<https://thedaystory.com/plan-your-visit/tickets/>.

If you want to discuss your ideas or visit further, please contact Learning Officer Tracy Teasdale via tracy.teasdale@portsmouthcc.gov.uk or 02392 834752.

Cumberland House Natural History Museum

Address: Cumberland House, Eastern Parade, Southsea, PO4 9RF

Opening Times: Tuesday – Sunday 10.00 – 17.00

Free admission

Maximum group size: 32 - we recommend dividing pupils into groups of 6-10

Minimum ratios: KS1 and KS2 (1:6) - KS3 and KS4 (1:12)

Typical visit time: 1 to 1 ½ hours

Ideal for: Natural history, living things, habitats, local geography, fossils, butterflies and bees.

Parking: Free on-street parking nearby.

Facilities: The museum has flexible spaces for quiet research, reading and observational drawing. Pupils are welcome to have their lunch in the museum garden.

Useful Information: Butterfly Season is May to September. Please note there is a working beehive on site. If you're allergic to bee stings please bring your own treatment/EpiPen as none are kept at the museum. The ground floor can be accessed by a ramp. Visitors with a mobility impairment who cannot use the staircases are limited to two visitors at any time. To facilitate your visit we have an Evac+Chair as well as a trained member of staff available. For more information please contact the museum.

Nearby: Canoe Lake, children's play area, South Parade Pier, Southsea rose garden, Southsea model village (fee applies) and Eastney Beach.

The D-Day Story

Address: Clarence Esplanade, Portsmouth, PO5 3NT

Opening Times: Open daily 10.00 – 17.00 (10.00 – 17.30 April – September)

Fee Applies: The school rate is £3.65 per pupil. Please complete an online visit enquiry form:
<https://thedaystory.com/plan-your-visit/schools-and-groups/schools/>

Maximum Group Size: 60 - we recommend dividing pupils into groups of 6-10

Minimum Ratios: KS1 and KS2 (1:6) - KS3 and KS4 (1:12)

Typical visit time: 1 ½ to 2 hours

Ideal for: Second World War; local, British, European and world history; technology and innovation (STEM)

Parking: Public parking nearby (fee applies)

Facilities: An education room and lunchroom facilities are available for schools attending pre-booked workshops. Pupils are welcome to eat lunch in the public areas outside the museum.

Useful Information: There are no steps in the museum. The majority of floors are completely level and all ramps are designed for wheelchair users. We have a free audio guide of the Overlord Embroidery gallery specifically designed for blind and visually impaired visitors. To borrow a guide, ask the staff at reception when you arrive. There is an induction loop at the main reception to the museum and throughout all the museum displays. Each month we hold a 'Chilled Out Museum' for visitors who would like a more relaxed experience.

Nearby: Southsea Castle, seafront, Rock Garden, Southsea Common and the Royal Navy Memorial.

Charles Dickens' Birthplace Museum

Address: 393 Old Commercial Road, Portsmouth, PO1 4QL

Opening Times: Friday – Sunday 10.00 – 17.30 April to September only. Plus 7th February to mark Dickens' birthday.

Free entry for UK schools

Maximum Group Size: 15 - we recommend dividing into smaller groups of 6 – 8 pupils

Minimum Ratios: KS1 and KS2 (1:6) - KS3 and KS4 (1:12)

Typical visit time: 1 hour

Ideal for: Author study, the Georgians, the Victorians, local history, Portsmouth past and present

Parking: Public parking nearby (fee applies)

Facilities: Attic room ideal for small group work, reading and discussion

Useful Information: Due to the number of narrow steps up to and within this historic Grade I-listed building it is not accessible to people with walking difficulties and those who use wheelchairs.

Nearby: Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery, and Old Portsmouth are a short drive away.

Eastney Engine Houses

Address: Henderson Road, Eastney, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO4 9JF

Opening Times: Open Days on selected Sundays throughout the year. See the website for the latest dates.

Free entry

Maximum group size: 15 - we recommend dividing into two smaller groups

Minimum Ratios: KS1 and KS2 (1:6) - KS3 and KS4 (1:12)

Typical visit time: 1 hour

Ideal for: STEM, innovation and technology, the Victorians, public health and hygiene

Parking: Free on-street parking is available nearby

Facilities: Chairs and tables are available for quiet small group work in the Mezzanine Gallery

Useful Information: There is limited access for people using wheelchairs due to the number of steps in this historic site.

Nearby: Bransbury Park and Eastney Beach.

Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery

Address: Museum Road, Portsmouth, PO1 2LJ

Opening Times: Tuesday – Sunday 10.00 – 17.00 (10.00 – 17.30 April – September)

Free entry

Maximum group size: 60 - we recommend dividing pupils into smaller groups of 8 – 12 as you explore the museum to avoid overcrowding and give everyone a clear view of displays.

Minimum Ratios: KS1 and KS2 (1:6) - KS3 and KS4 (1:12)

Typical visit time: 1 to 1 ½ hours

Ideal for: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes; the history of Portsmouth; houses and homes; art; craft and design

Parking: Free parking onsite (first come first served). On-street car and coach parking nearby (fee applies).

Facilities: Pupils are welcome to eat lunch in our enclosed garden which has a small play area. To make the most of your visit you may wish to book one of our Toys, Games & Pastimes workshops, a Talking Pictures workshop or CPD session.

Useful Information: Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery has a lift to all galleries on its three floors. A wheelchair is available for use by visitors. Induction loops for visitors with impaired hearing are installed in reception and the Victorian room setting. Visitors with mobility impairments who cannot use the staircases are limited to one visitor at any time on the first and second floors. To facilitate your visit we have an Evac+Chair and a trained member of staff available.

Nearby: Old Portsmouth, Portsmouth Cathedral, John Pounds Church, Hotwalls and Southsea Seafront.

Southsea Castle

Address: Clarence Esplanade, Southsea, PO5 3PA

Opening Times: Tuesday – Sunday 10.00 – 17.00 (10.00 – 17.30 April – September)

Free entry

Maximum group size: 60 – a teacher/pupil ratio of at least 1:12 is essential. Once inside the castle you will need to split into groups of around 15 to explore the site in comfort.

Minimum Ratios: KS1 and KS2 (1:6) - KS3 and KS4 (1:12)

Typical visit time: 1 hour

Ideal for: Henry VIII, the Tudors, the Mary Rose, castles, local history

Parking: Public parking nearby (fee applies)

Facilities: Pupils can eat lunch in public areas nearby e.g. Castle Field or Southsea Bandstand Field

Useful Information: Southsea Castle is an ancient monument. Some areas are paved with cobbles and are uneven and some steps are worn with age. Please take particular care with the supervision of your party. In the interests of safety children must not climb on guns or the walls and should walk at all times. There are stairs within the keep and walls and limited access for visitors using wheelchairs.

Nearby: The D-Day Story, Southsea Seafront and the Royal Navy Memorial