

School visits to the National Army Museum

Pre-booking information for teachers

This guidance aims to give you all the information you need to plan and book a visit to the National Army Museum with your school. If you have a question that is not answered here please contact the Learning department at learning@nam.ac.uk.

What we offer

The National Army Museum's new learning service includes taught workshops, self-guided visits, gallery trails, and a bookable lunch space.

All of our workshops and resources have been designed in consultation with teachers to connect young people with the stories, impact, and innovations of the British Army from the 1640s to present day.

Workshops

We offer interactive, curriculum-linked workshops in our new Foyle Centre for Key Stages 1 to 5, where pupils can explore History, Citizenship, Geography, and Science and Technology with our Learning team. Our workshops are practical and hands-on, allowing pupils to use our extensive handling collection of artefacts.

A full list of these workshops and what they involve is available on our website www.nam.ac.uk/schools/attend-workshop.

Workshops are designed for up to 30 pupils; larger groups will be accommodated in multiple workshops.

Workshops are an hour long and can be booked Monday to Thursday, from 10.00 to 14.00, during term time.

Booking a workshop

Workshops can be booked by contacting the Learning team at learning@nam.ac.uk. In order to ensure a quicker response please include the following information in your email:

- Your name and the name of the school
- Your contact details (preferably email)
- The date you wish to visit the museum, and an alternative date
- The number and age of the pupils you will bring to the museum. If you have more than 30 pupils they will need to be split into multiple groups and swap between a workshop and a gallery visit (see below).
- Which workshop(s) you want to do
- Your estimated arrival time at the museum (workshops start at 10.00 and you will be allocated a workshop that starts after your arrival)
- Whether you wish to book the lunch room for your pupils (see below)

Workshops must be booked at least three weeks in advance, but we recommend booking as early as possible to avoid disappointment. Multiple workshops can be booked for the same group if you wish to do more than one topic.

Self-guided visits and trails

We also welcome schools that prefer a self-guided visit, or wish to combine a workshop with self-guided time. The National Army Museum has five new galleries which deal with different themes and raise a number of questions about the Army and its impact at different times in history.

We also offer free downloadable gallery trails designed specifically for schools on themes relating to our taught workshops. The trails support teachers and pupils to find and interpret the gallery displays that are most relevant to them. These will be available from August 2017 to download from www.nam.ac.uk/schools/learning-resources.

There is no charge for self-guided visits and admission to the Museum is free. However, you still need to inform the Learning department in advance of when you will be visiting. This will ensure our Visitor Experience team is expecting you and that you can be made aware of any scheduling conflicts or closures. Self-guided groups are welcome at the Museum on any day during our normal opening hours.

Schools can do either taught workshops or a self-guided visit, or a combination of both.

Lunch room

Whether you want to do a taught session or a self-guided visit, school groups are welcome to use our lunch room to store coats and bags, and/or eat packed lunches while they are in the Museum.

Lunch room availability

The lunch room can accommodate up to 60 people and can be booked for half an hour, Monday to Thursday. You will be allocated a time slot when we confirm your booking.

If your group is small you may be asked to share the lunch room with another group. If your group is larger than 60 you will need to book multiple slots in the lunch room.

Please note use of the lunch room is subject to availability and we ask that schools keep to their allocated time.

Booking the lunch room

The lunch room must be booked if you wish to use it, even if the rest of your visit does not involve a booked workshop.

If you book a workshop with us, you will be asked as part of your booking whether you want to book time in the lunch room.

Schools that wish to use the lunch room but are not booking a workshop should email learning@nam.ac.uk, stating that they wish to book the lunch room and giving the following information:

- Your name and the name of the school
- Your contact details (preferably email)
- The date and time you wish to visit the museum, and an alternative date
- The number and age of the pupils you will bring to the museum.

NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM

Packed lunches or other food and drink (unless purchased and eaten in the café) must not be consumed anywhere else in the Museum.

Where we are and getting here

We are located next to the Royal Hospital Chelsea in central London, with good bus, Underground, and train links. Visit (www.nam.ac.uk/plan-visit) for more information about our location and local transport links.

Please note that we do not have coach parking. Coaches may enter the museum car park for drop off and pick up but schools will need to make their own parking arrangements. Further information is available from www.tfl.gov.uk.

Further information

If you have any questions about bringing a school group to the National Army Museum our Learning team will be happy to help. Please contact us at learning@nam.ac.uk.

The new museum has completely changed from before the closure period and, even if you have visited us before, we strongly recommend a preliminary visit so you can familiarise yourself with the new galleries and layout, as well as to help inform your planning and risk assessment. Our Learning team would be happy to give you an overview of what to expect. If you would like us to meet with you during your preliminary visit please contact us to arrange this.