

## **School Visits to the Roman Baths – Top Tips & What to Expect for Autumn 2021**

Thank you for booking a teaching session at the Roman Baths! We aim to make your day as pleasant and stress-free as we can. Though some COVID-19 restrictions have been eased in recent months, we are aware of the continuing need to do everything we can to keep visitors and staff safe during their time with us. This means that the museum has reduced capacity and has made some changes to the way we operate.

Numbers are limited in each 15-minute timeslot. This means that for the smooth running of your day good timekeeping is essential.

### **Before You Arrive**

- At the time of booking, you will be asked to provide a contact detail for
  - The member of staff leading the group on the day
  - The member of staff responsible for payment
- Split your class into smaller groups before you arrive, each with an accompanying adult (depending on the age of the students). We advise a ratio of 1 adult per 6 children.
- Most car/ coach parks are at least a 10-minute walk to the Roman Baths. There is a pick-up/drop-off point at Terrace Walk/ North Parade, approx. 5-minute walk. The coach park is on Avon Street, approx. 10-minute walk.
- Arrive at the Baths (Abbey Churchyard entrance) in plenty of time. Report to either Security or Roman Baths staff at the Entrance. You will be asked to go to the tills where you will be issued with tickets.
- Please prebook the number of children and adults you have at least 48 hours before your arrival. You can confirm the number when you reach the tills.
- No food or drink can be consumed anywhere in the museum (except water). Please finish any snacks outside before entering.
- Please let us know beforehand if you have any access requirements – we can prepare audio-guides (in multiple languages), BSL guides, and ear defenders for when you arrive.
- If you believe that you will be late arriving at the Roman Baths, please contact Group Bookings on 01225 477785

### **COVID-19**

While we are looking forward to life returning to normal, we are also aware of the continuing need to do everything we can to keep visitors and staff safe. For this reason, we have decided to maintain social distancing and other mitigation measures until further notice.

- Face coverings must be worn by adults and secondary aged students in all indoor areas, unless they have a special exemption. You will not be required to wear a face covering in open outdoor areas such as the Great Bath and the Terrace.
- We ask all visitors to distance from other visitors and not overtake while in the museum. Please note that there may be some increased queuing and wait times during your visit.
- There is a one-way route, with markers throughout.

- There is signage and signposting to help you navigate around the site safely
- Protective screens on the reception desk and PPE for staff; all staff have been trained in physical distancing and hygiene protocols.
- There is an increased cleaning regime across the site, including hand sanitiser at key points for you to use.
- We are continuing to operate with additional safety measures, including asking everyone to wear face masks indoors and social distancing, to keep visitors and staff safe. For up-to-date information please read [our COVID-19 safety measures](#) in advance of your visit.

### What you need to bring

- Have you booked a teaching session with us? Bring along your booking confirmation and timetable of your day. This will tell you where to go and at what time.
- For your visit to the museum, you might like to bring clipboards, activity sheets (there are some on the Roman Baths website), plain paper and pencils. Photography is permitted but please, no tripods.
- Make sure the students have warm clothes, coats with hoods, sturdy shoes and plenty of water. You can bring packed lunches with you if you like (if you have booked the lunchroom with your teaching session you can eat there). You can store coats, bags and lunchboxes securely at the entrance. Take anything you think you might need in the museum with you as you will not be able to access the storage from the museum.
- Although many staff at the museum are First-Aid trained, it is advised to bring your own First-Aid kit and medication for any students who require it. The museum has a defibrillator.

### How your Roman Baths visit will work

- Toilets for the Baths are located at the beginning and exit of the museum. It is strongly advised that they are used before and/or after the visit as it is difficult to arrange movement to them from the centre of the museum. There are accessible toilets at the beginning and centre of the museum. Please ask for assistance.
- There are sanitiser stations located around the museum for public use. Please feel free to use at any time.
- If you have booked a teaching session you will meet your Workshop Leader at Reception who will help you with the day. They will be happy to answer any questions. For a single teaching session, you will begin by having your session before you explore the museum. If you have two or more teaching sessions your group will be divided so some visit the museum first and some have a teaching session. We advise the group visiting the museum to take the free audio-guides.
- Audio-guides are free of charge to all visitors and are available in 12 languages. Children's versions of the audio guide are available in English, French, German and Mandarin. Guides run for 1-1.5 hours, but you can choose what to listen to. Type in a number (orange numbers area special trail for children) to listen to 1-2 minutes of commentary.
- For size reasons it may be necessary to split some groups, so they start the museum outside by the Great Bath, then explore the inside of the museum whilst others will look at the inside of the museum then the Great Bath. Everyone will see everything!
- Visitor Experience Hosts are stationed at regular intervals inside the museum to help you.

- Please be aware that it may be necessary for staff to control the flow of visitors for safety and comfort.
- The museum can get very busy, so please be mindful of other visitors. Keep the children within each group together with their adult. Please allow distance between each group so your class doesn't end up going round as one. To help with identification it may be helpful for all adults in your group to wear high-vis jackets.
- We can provide safe & quiet spaces for students with sensory requirements, taking of medicines, and for prayer. Please ask a member of staff who can assist you. These spaces are not for eating packed lunches.

### By the Great Bath

- The water in the Great Bath is not treated – please do not touch it, it could make you very ill.
- The paving stones are 2000 years old so are very slippery and uneven. Please do not run.
- There may be Roman re-enactors around the Great Bath for you to talk to. They will stay in character and chat to you about their Roman lives. They will also pose for photos.
- The Great Bath is a loop; the museum exit and shop are located via a set of steps in one corner. The East Baths, Roman Gym and Circular Bath are all routes which lead back to the Great Bath.
- Some areas have low levels of light and can be wet and slippery. Some of the projections show Romans having massages and treatments – nudity is implied but not explicit.

### The Shop

- The shop is located at the exit of the museum and at present is only accessible from the museum. Schools are welcome to visit the shop, but it may be necessary to limit numbers as appropriate.
- Pocket money items include Roman themed stationary, replica coins and jewellery, gemstones, postcards and keyrings.
- If you prefer, you can pre-order items on our school visit booking form.
- Once your group has visited the shop please return to the Abbey churchyard entrance. Exit the shop and immediately turn to your right. Keep the Roman Baths building to your right until you come to a set of pillars with a view of the Abbey. Walk towards the Abbey where you will see the entrance to the Roman Baths on the right. Please make yourself known to Security or Roman Baths staff who will contact your Workshop Leader ready for you to begin your teaching session. You might be asked to wait until the whole of your group has arrived before you are able to re-enter the building.

### Lunchroom

Your lunchroom is located adjacent to the Upper Teaching Room in the Drawing Room. It has limited space so it may not be possible for your entire group to fit in at one time.

### Useful links

Information on our teaching sessions – in museum and virtual:

[Schools | The Roman Baths](#)

Walkthroughs and Maps of the Roman Baths

[Discover | The Roman Baths](#)

Finding Us

[The Roman Baths | Bath Travel Information](#)

Accessibility Information

[Accessibility | The Roman Baths](#)