



Royal Engineers Museum

Information for Group Visits



PLEASE NOTE:

Before your visit you will need to:

- Read the **Teachers Pack** thoroughly.
This includes some rules and guidelines to be observed while in the Museum. It also includes background information, directions to get to the Museum and a plan of the galleries.
- A **Quiz Sheet** will be provided for each child should they be requested upon booking.
- Read the **Teachers Notes**.
Please photocopy Teachers Notes for each group leader. They provide you with background information when you are taking your group around the Museum.



Introduction

Contents

[Background Information](#) on the Museum, its collection and the Royal Engineers.

[Guidelines](#), the Museum would appreciate your co-operation with these guidelines to ensure that you have an enjoyable and successful visit.

[A map](#) giving directions to the museum

[A plan](#) of the Museum and Galleries

Introduction

Welcome to the Royal Engineers Museum's **Schools Service!**

At the Royal Engineers Museum we aim to support your teaching of the National Curriculum through **handling sessions**, **activity sheets** and **talks** on a range of themes and topics. Children have an opportunity on every visit to handle original and replica objects and material and to use the unique setting of the Museum to explore the past.

This **teacher's pack** is designed to help you plan and prepare for your visit to the Royal Engineers Museum and contains all of the information you will need to make the most of your visit.

Your pack also includes:

Teachers Notes

These provide group leaders with additional information for your gallery visit. They contain useful background information, on objects and displays of particular interest to point out in the galleries and questions to discuss with your group.

Please photocopy teachers' notes for each group leader.



Background information

Education at the Museum

The museum provides an excellent environment for learning through direct contact with objects and materials. Our service aims to create sessions in line with National Curriculum targets across the board for pupils from primary school to university level. We are keen to offer a service that suits everyone and with enough notice can adapt any session or develop original ones to cover specific items relevant for your groups.

The collection consists of artefacts, archives and books collected by the Royal Engineers from every conflict they have taken part in and every country they have visited. Through these objects we are able to tell the story of every conflict Britain has been involved in from the end of the 18th century until today. As well as the history of military engineering, dating back to it's earliest beginnings. We are also in a unique position to reflect on the development of technology and engineering, and how it is used in the modern world.

The museum holds many artefacts relating to National Curriculum topics such as the Key Stage 2 Second World War, Key Stage 3 First World War topics and 'A' Level English topics. We also have items relating to the Crimean War and Boar War, and make an ideal setting to explore science and technology.

We offer special sessions through out the year relating to commemorative events such as Remembrance Day, special exhibitions in the museum, National Armed Forces Day or Christmas. These sessions are limited and allocated on a first come first serve basis. Please check our website for details on these sessions or contact the education officer.

The library is also available for research purposes providing it is booked in advance and only in small groups. It houses a wide collection of books, archives and photographs, relating not only to the Royal Engineers, but many other topics as well: For example it contains a set of first edition Charles Dickens novels as well as transcripts of First and Second World War veterans diaries and interviews.

The Collection

The museum displays tell not only the history of military engineering from medieval period to the present day but also of the social history and background of the age. The interpretation of the collection is varied from static display cases to more interactive elements such as the First World War trench, the 1940's house and the night-vision interactive. We also have interactive kiosks to interpret some of the large vehicles we have on display. Only part of the 1,000,000+ items that make up the museum and libraries collection are on display in the museum, many items are kept in storage for conservation reasons. However some of these objects can be brought out and used in talks or object handling session.



The Royal Engineers

The Royal Engineers claim their history all the way back to Norman times, when William the Conqueror employed a monk named Gundulph as Engineer to the King. He was responsible for the building of the White Tower (now part of the Tower of London) and strengthening the defences at Rochester Castle.

The Royal Engineers' nickname is 'Sappers'. One of the mottos of the Royal Engineers is 'Ubique' (Latin for 'everywhere') to show that the 'Sappers' have been involved in nearly all of Britain's conflicts and have worked in many countries around the world during peacetime. The Royal Engineers help the Army to live, move and fight, by building accommodation, roads and bridges and by providing equipment and vehicles. They are also involved in survey and map making, mine clearing, railways, Army postal service, bomb disposal and architecture.

The Royal School of Military Engineering (RSME) has been at Brompton since 1812. Soldiers from the Royal Engineers now come to the school for training and to complete civil engineering, construction and electrical courses.

The museum itself was founded in 1813 and was originally located in Brompton Barracks on the Regimental Parade Square. It moved to its current location, the Ravelin Building, in 1986.

More information about the Museum and Corps of Royal Engineers can be found on our website at www.remuseum.org.uk

What We Offer

- × FREE preliminary visits for teachers
- × FREE admission for teachers and accompanying adults
- × FREE web based resources on: www.remuseum.org.uk
- × Storage space for bags and coats
- × Space in the school room to eat your packed lunches (or outdoors—weather permitting)
- × Toilet facilities
- × FREE parking
- × Disabled access throughout the museum – please let us know in advance if any of your group have special needs or requirements
- × Museum Shop selling souvenirs, gifts, postcards and books. Please allow time for your party to visit the shop in small groups of 10
- × Refreshment area with vending machines selling hot and cold drinks, as well as a selection of cakes sold from the Museum Shop
- × Other educational attractions in the local area—the museum is close to Chatham Historic Dockyard and Fort Amherst



Charges 2009

Self-Directed Visit

| | |
|----------------------|------------|
| First 30 Children | £2.57 each |
| Every Child Above 30 | £2.33 each |

Learning Workshop

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| Flat rate cost | £22.93 |
|----------------|--------|

Guided Tour

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|-----------------------------------|------------|
| First 30 Children | £2.57 each |
| Every Child Above 30 | £2.33 each |
| +£22.93 flat rate for guided tour | |

Scouts/Guides, Cadets;

| | |
|----------------------|------------|
| First 30 Children | £2.57 each |
| Every Child Above 30 | £2.33 each |

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|---------------------|------------|
| Students (unbooked) | £4.66 each |
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Outreach Session w Education Staff

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| One Hour | £14.22 |
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Loans Box Service

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| 2 weeks | £27.50 |
|---------|--------|

The museum welcomes visitors with special needs and disabilities and is fully accessible for those in wheelchairs, with the exception of the World War One trench. Education session can be tailored to those with special needs please ask when booking for any special requirements.

The museum is open to schools through the week Tuesday – Friday 9am – 5pm the last taught session is available at 3pm and the last admittance to the museum is at 4pm.

For further information, enquiries and bookings please contact the
Education and Events Officer:
Telephone: 01634 822312
E-mail: education@re-museum.co.uk
Monday – Friday 10am – 4pm



How to get to the Royal Engineers Museum

M25 Eastbound –

M26 – M20 – A229 – A230 to Chatham.

M25 Westbound –

A2 – M2 – A229 – A230 to Chatham.

From Dover –

A2 – M2 – A229 – A230 to Chatham.

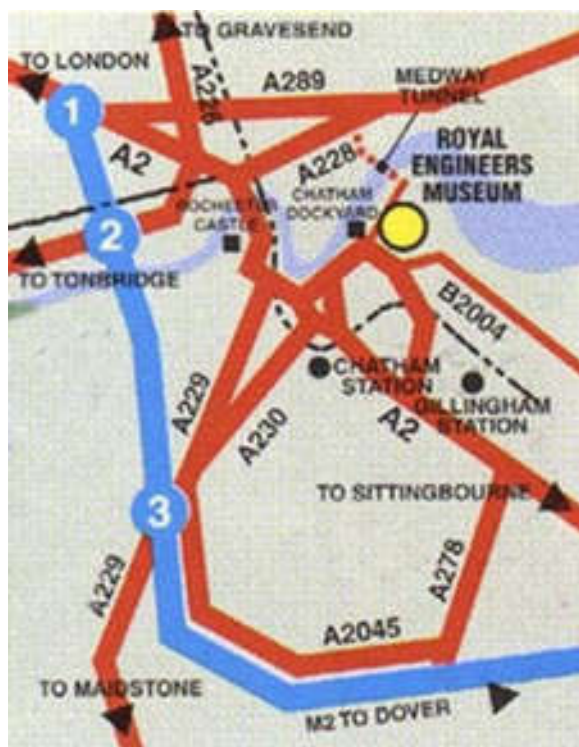
From Chatham centre –

Take the A231 (Dock Road) to Gillingham, follow the A231 into Wood Street at the roundabout, turn left at the traffic lights into Prince Arthur Road (B2004). The entrance to the Museum is on the left.

From Gillingham town centre –

Take the A231 (Brompton Road), turn right at the traffic lights into Prince Arthur Road.

***There is a large coach and car park.**



Plan of the Royal Engineers Museum

- The Museum galleries are all on the ground floor.
- As you enter the building the Medal Galleries are through the door to your left and the Main Galleries through the door to your right.
- The Main Galleries are a circular route – follow the galleries around until you come to the Courtyard.
- The Schools Room is by the Harrier Jet in the Courtyard.
- The Exit from the Courtyard is behind the Harrier Jet.
- The entrance foyer contains the shop and reception desk.
- From the entrance foyer go up the 2 steps in front of you to the refreshment area and toilets.

