

What's on for families

September 2008 – February 2009

free events
for all ages



Explore...

The National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, has three separate sites to explore.

The Museum Galleries

Uncover exciting stories of people crossing the seas and exploring the world through famous heroes, brave explorers and ordinary seamen.



The Royal Observatory, Greenwich

Find out about the history of accurate standard timekeeping for people across the world, the Greenwich Meridian Line, and visit a state-of-the-art planetarium to discover more about the planets, stars and our universe.



The Queen's House

View the history of our relationship with the sea through paintings displayed in this beautiful former royal villa designed by the famous architect Inigo Jones.



Free regular activities for all ages

Find out about people and the sea, ships, time, stars, land and journeys in family activities every weekend, and activities for under-5s every Tuesday.



sea



stars



ships



land



time



journeys

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A quick guide to activities and information

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Look out for...

- ★ Activities every school holiday
- ★ Special events throughout the year



Walk & talk Saturdays

Meet Neptune, the king of the seven seas, and follow him through the galleries in this exciting performance to find out how sailors tried to win his favour.

12.00 | 13.00 | 14.00 | 15.00

Museum: entrance

Suitable for ages 6+

Make & do Sundays

(except 28 September)

Make a magical mask or headdress based on the fantastical stories sailors created about sea monsters and mermaids.

11.30 – 13.30 | 14.00 – 16.00

Museum: Mess Deck

Suitable for all ages



Play Tuesdays



Tiddlers

(except 2 September)

Activities for tiny ones to explore and learn. Please bring a change of clothes as some sessions involve messy play.

10.15 – 10.45 | 11.00 – 11.30

Museum: Activity Room

Suitable for under-3s

Nippers

Activities filled with myth and magic for little ones to explore the mysteries of the sea.

13.15 – 14.00 | 14.15 – 15.00

Museum

Suitable for ages 3 – 5



Friday 26 September

Come to the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, to uncover the secrets of the universe and ask an astronomer your big questions. Find out what a horologist does and watch them at work. Visit the UK's largest refracting telescope and discover panoramic views of London through the tricks of a real camera obscura.

11.30 – 16.00

Observatory

Suitable for all ages

Sunday 28 September

A fascinating day of workshops, performances and demonstrations exploring the people's history of Greenwich, past and present. Join the fun in the 'mini-Olympics' for under-6s organized by Greenwich dads. Learn how to conserve your family archives, add to the giant timeline and tell us about your memories of this important World Heritage Site and key Olympic borough.

11.30 – 16.00

Museum

Suitable for all ages





Walk & talk Saturdays

(except 11 October)

Meet Brunel, a man before his time. From gigantic steam-driven ships to large bridges and the world's first underwater tunnel, hear about the pioneering work of the man who created affordable public transport in Britain.

12.00 | 13.00 | 14.00 | 15.00

Museum: Propeller

Suitable for ages 6+

Make & do Sundays

Also October school holidays 25 October

Design and make a sailing ship for you and your family to explore the world. Where will you travel to first?

11.30 – 13.30 | 14.00 – 16.00

Museum: Mess Deck

Suitable for all ages

Play Tuesdays

(except 28 October)

Tiddlers

Activities for tiny ones to explore and learn. Please bring a change of clothes as some sessions involve messy play.

10.15 – 10.45 | 11.00 – 11.30

Museum: Activity Room

Suitable for under-3s

Nippers

Swashbuckling activities for little ones looking for adventure on the high seas.

13.15 – 14.00 | 14.15 – 15.00

Museum

Suitable for ages 3 – 5



October school holidays



Revisit seaside culture of yesteryear through *Beside the Seaside*, a special exhibition of historic photographs. Activities will reveal our changing attitudes to the British seaside

Here comes the Sun

25 – 30 October

Reminisce on times spent at a British seaside; the sights, sounds and people, and make objects to recreate your favourite family holiday photographs.

Drop-in workshop

11.30 – 13.30 | 14.00 – 16.00

Museum: Upper Deck

Suitable for all ages

'Your Ocean' puppet show

27 – 30 October

Our actions can cause destructive long-term effects on our environment. Find out more in the 'Your Ocean' gallery and create an alternative seaside puppet show to inspire your friends and family to make a difference.

Timed workshop

11.00 | 12.30 | 14.00 | 15.30

Museum: Mess Deck

Suitable for ages 5+



Magical voyages

Tuesday 28 October

Join 'Sail-Away Jo' on an action-packed interactive tour for young sailors looking for an adventure.

Interactive performance

11.30 | 12.30 | 13.30 | 14.30

Museum: 'Explorers' gallery

Suitable for ages 2+

Discover: a seaside past

Thursday 30 October

Beside the Seaside captures quiet observations of Victorians at the seaside. Find out about the exhibition, conserving historic photographs and make your own photographic version of an image on display.

Behind-the-scenes session and workshop

11.00 – 12.30 or 14.00 – 15.30

Museum: Quarter Deck

Suitable for ages 7+



Bookstart Day

Friday 10 October

Fun-filled action for swashbuckling pirates with Greenwich Libraries. Join in with sea shanties, stories, workshops and meet the Bookstart bear.

Event

10.00 – 12.00

Museum

Suitable for under-5s



Bookstart



Family Learning Festival

Saturday 11 | Friday 31 October

Family learning fun takes over the Museum with a range of workshops and performances for all the family to enjoy together. Discover all the exciting activities taking place in the borough of Greenwich throughout the year.

Event

12.00 – 16.00

Museum

Suitable for all ages



Big Draw: Halloween spooky stories and scary shapes

Sunday 26 October

Explore the galleries in the Queen's House in your Halloween costume and find out about its haunted past. Be inspired by these stories to draw the paintings on display, but with ghostly figures hidden within them.

Storytelling and drawing workshop

11.30 – 13.00 | 14.00 – 15.30

Queen's House

Suitable for all ages





Walk & talk Saturdays

Meet Ruth Belville, the woman who brought time to everyone in London and hear about the first public clock in the world to show Greenwich Mean Time.

12.00 | 13.00 | 14.00 | 15.00

Observatory

Suitable for ages 6+

Make & do Sundays

Make and decorate a sundial to help you measure time passing throughout the day, with your breakfast, lunch and dinner times marked on it.

11.30 – 13.30 | 14.00 – 16.00

Museum: Mess Deck

Suitable for all ages

Play Tuesdays

Tiddlers

Activities for tiny ones to explore and learn. Please bring a change of clothes as some sessions involve messy play.

10.15 – 10.45 | 11.00 – 11.30

Museum: Activity Room

Suitable for under-3s

Nippers

Activities on timekeeping for busy little ones with things to do and places to be.

13.15 – 14.00 | 14.15 – 15.00

Museum

Suitable for ages 3 – 5



Diwali celebrations

Saturday 1 November

Come together to celebrate the cultural influence of Diwali in the borough of Greenwich, with colourful workshops and vibrant performances. This event is part of a day of activities for audiences of all ages to celebrate Diwali, the festival of lights.

Event

11.30 – 16.00

Museum

Suitable for all ages

Interactive galleries at the Museum

Open throughout the year

All Hands

A gallery for children of all ages. Try your hand at underwater exploration, load a cargo ship, send a semaphore signal and fire a cannon.

The Bridge

Discover the art of navigation and communication at sea. Become the captain of a ship manoeuvring into port using the state-of-the-art bridge simulator.

'All Hands' and 'The Bridge' galleries are open to families at weekends, on Tuesdays and during school holidays.

Making Waves

What's in a wave? How do they form, move around the world and impact on our coastline? Try your hand at making your own waves and see the action of tides and whirlpools.

Your Ocean

The ocean covers 70% of the Earth and helps to control the entire planet's climate. Discover how we are all affected by the ocean and what you can do to help the environment.



Open throughout the year

Walk & talk Saturdays

Also school holidays 28 | 29 December

Be part of our interactive solar system. Take a spin with Saturn and jump on to Jupiter.

12.00 | 13.00 | 14.00 | 15.00

Museum: Upper Deck

Suitable for ages 6+

Make & do Sundays

Also school holidays 27 | 29 December

Make a space mobile with the planets and stars to take home, and find out about our solar system.

11.30 – 13.30 | 14.00 – 16.00

Museum: Mess Deck

Suitable for all ages

Play Tuesdays



Tiddlers

(except 23 | 30 December)

Activities for tiny ones to explore and learn. Please bring a change of clothes as some sessions involve messy play.

10.15 – 10.45 | 11.00 – 11.30

Museum: Activity Room

Suitable for under-3s

Nippers

Twinkling activities on stars in the night sky for little ones.

13.15 – 14.00 | 14.15 – 15.00

Museum

Suitable for ages 3 – 5



Festive fun

Sunday 14 December

Make gifts for your family and friends, sing carols and find out about Christmas in the Queen's House. Get in the festive spirit with a day of activities at the Old Royal Naval College and the Museum.

Event

11.30 – 16.00

Queen's House

Suitable for all ages



Weller Astronomy Galleries

Discover all about astronomy and our place in the universe. Spectacular interactive displays will help provide answers to big questions, show how astronomers study space, and explain recent developments in modern astronomy.

Time Galleries

Explore the importance of time in our lives through the interactive exhibits in the galleries on 'Time and Longitude', 'Time and Greenwich' and 'Time and Society'.





Walk & talk Saturdays

(except 3 January)

Hear the experiences of a real polar explorer, Tom Crean. His incredible story of survival in Antarctica will surprise and inspire.

12.00 | 13.00 | 14.00 | 15.00

Museum: entrance

Suitable for ages 6+

Make & do Sundays

(except 4 January)

Draw a colourful map with a compass, mountains and rivers, and find out about map-making.

11.30 – 13.30 | 14.00 – 16.00

Museum: Mess Deck

Suitable for all ages

Play Tuesdays



Tiddlers

Activities for tiny ones to explore and learn. Please bring a change of clothes as some sessions involve messy play.

10.15 – 10.45 | 11.00 – 11.30

Museum: Activity Room

Suitable for under-3s

Nippers

Activities for intrepid little ones to explore countries of the world.

13.15 – 14.00 | 14.15 – 15.00

Museum

Suitable for ages 3 – 5

X marks the spot

Friday 2 January

Pirates have taken over the Museum! Join the dastardly crew and come dressed in your best pirate's outfit for map-making, a secret treasure hunt and stories of female pirates.

11.30 – 16.00

Museum

Suitable for all ages



Walk & talk Saturdays

(except 7 February)

Meet Bunty, a shipboard stewardess, and find out about life on board a 1930s cruise liner, from dressing up for dinner and deck games to crossing-the-line ceremonies.

12.00 | 13.00 | 14.00 | 15.00

Museum: 'Passengers' gallery

Suitable for ages 6+

Make & do Sundays

Also school holidays 14 | 21 February

Make a suitcase and imagine you are travelling to another country. Fill your case with all the special things you will need for your journey and at your destination.

11.30 – 13.30 | 14.00 – 16.00

Museum: Mess Deck

Suitable for all ages

Play Tuesdays



(except 17 February)

Tiddlers

Activities for tiny ones to explore and learn. Please bring a change of clothes as some sessions involve messy play.

10.15 – 10.45 | 11.00 – 11.30

Museum: Activity Room

Suitable for under-3s

Nippers

Activities for little ones on travel and adventure.

13.15 – 14.00 | 14.15 – 15.00

Museum

Suitable for ages 3 – 5





Chinese New Year brings a customary vibrancy and energy to the Museum. Join us for activities to explore Chinese culture and astronomy, with special events as part of the 2009 International Year of Astronomy.



Make a banner

14 – 22 February

Find out about the animal of your birth year and Chinese flags in the Museum, to make a banner to welcome the new Chinese year.

Drop-in workshop

11.30 – 13.30 | 14.00 – 16.00

Museum: Upper Deck

Suitable for all ages

Magical voyages

Tuesday 17 February

Join 'Sail-Away Jo' on an action-packed interactive tour for young sailors looking for an adventure.

Interactive performance

11.30 | 12.30 | 13.30 | 14.30

Museum: 'Explorers' gallery

Suitable for ages 2+

Ribbon dance

16 – 20 February

Find out about the traditional Chinese ribbon dance and learn some dance steps. Please wear comfortable clothing and shoes to take part.

Dance workshop

11.00 | 12.30 | 14.00 | 15.30

Museum: Mess Deck

Suitable for ages 5+

Discover: Chinese astronomy

Friday 20 February

Find out about the Chinese astronomical objects in the collection and calendars to make a star map to take home.

Behind-the-scenes and workshop

11.00 – 12.30 or 14.00 – 15.30

Observatory: Activity Space

Suitable for ages 7+



Chinese New Year celebrations

Saturday 7 February

Discover the cultural significance of Chinese New Year in a range of activities for all the family to celebrate the new Year of the Ox. This day of activities is for audiences of all ages, to celebrate Chinese New Year in the Museum.

Event

11.30 – 16.00

Museum

Suitable for all ages



Astronomy and Time at the Royal Observatory



Guide for families

Peter Harrison Planetarium

Let a real astronomer take you on a journey through time and space at London's only public planetarium. The state-of-the-art planetarium featuring Europe's first digital projector offers a range of daily live and pre-recorded shows suitable for families with very young and older children. All shows are hosted by Royal Observatory astronomers who are available to answer questions after the main programme. Visit nmm.ac.uk for further information or to book online.

Admission

£6 adults

£4 children and concessions

£16 family ticket (two adults and two children or one adult and three children)

Meridian

Saturdays in September

Sundays in November

Saturdays & 2 January

Hear the fascinating story of the search for longitude and the history of the Royal Observatory.

Performance

12.00 | 13.00 | 14.00 | 15.00

Observatory: courtyard

Suitable for ages 6+

All the Time in the World

Saturdays & 26 | 29 | 30 October

Saturdays & 28 | 29 December

Saturdays & 15 | 18 | 19 | 22 February

Hear the history of the Greenwich site as you stand near the Prime Meridian Line.

Performance

12.00 | 13.00 | 14.00 | 15.00

Observatory: courtyard

Suitable for ages 6+



All activities for families are FREE

Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult at all times

Facilities

Buggy parks are available at the entrance to each site on a first-come, first-served basis

Baby-changing facilities at each site

Lift access to all levels

On-site meter parking at weekends

Food & drink

Children's meals, snacks and high chairs are available

Regatta Restaurant and Paul Café

at the Museum Galleries

Observatory Café

at the Royal Observatory

Open 10.00 – 16.30

Packed lunches can be eaten in the

Museum: Mess Deck at weekends

Shops

Children's books, clothes and toys are available

Museum Shop at the Museum Galleries

Meridian Shop and Astronomy Shop

at the Royal Observatory

Open 10.00 – 17.00



National Maritime Museum

Greenwich
London
SE10 9NF
Telephone 020 8858 4422
Recorded information 020 8312 6565
Fax 020 8312 6632

Free admission to all sites

The Museum Galleries
The Royal Observatory
The Queen's House
An admission fee is charged for some special exhibitions and planetarium shows

Opening times

10.00 – 17.00 daily
last admission is 30 minutes before closing

Getting to Greenwich

London travel information
020 7222 1234

Bus

177, 180, 188, 199, 286, 386

Docklands Light Railway

Cutty Sark or Maritime Greenwich

Rail

Central London to Greenwich
20 minutes from Charing Cross, Waterloo
East and London Bridge

River

From Westminster, Waterloo, Embankment
or Tower Piers



- 1 ROYAL OBSERVATORY GREENWICH
- 2 NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM
- 3 THE QUEEN'S HOUSE
- 4 CUTTY SARK
- 5 GREENWICH MARKET
- 6 OLD ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE
- 7 ROMNEY GATE
- 8 ROYAL GATE
- 9 ANCHOR GATE
- 10 BLACKHEATH GATE