



Secondary and Post 16 Schools Guide 2023-24

For Learning with the National Maritime Museum, Queen's House, *Cutty Sark*
and Prince Phillip Maritime Collections Centre

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Introduction

The National Maritime Museum, Queen's House, *Cutty Sark* and our collections and conservation store the Prince Phillip Maritime Collections Centre are part of Royal Museums Greenwich. Our collections tell stories of people and the sea and relate to themes of exploration, trade, conflict and environment, to name a few! A visit to our sites or a digital session offers learning experiences and activities which develop skills in historical enquiry and critical thinking and inspire creative responses. This guide outlines all you need to know about both our onsite and digital sessions for secondary and post 16 education and includes key information and top tips for making the most of your learning experience with us.

Our Sites

The National Maritime Museum (NMM)

Our exhibitions and displays tell stories of people and the sea and trace links between Britain and the wider world. Secondary Schools Sessions from the NMM cover topics such as migration, empire and enslavement alongside event focused sessions such as the Spanish Armada. Museum collections are a powerful starting point for sparking curiosity, generating ideas and creating discussion.

The Queen's House

Next door to the NMM, the Queen's House is a beautiful example of classical architecture. Designed by architect Inigo Jones and built in the 1630s as a royal residence, it now houses our art collection. Secondary and post 16 sessions here focus on using the artworks to inspire creative projects and as a focus for discussion on themes such as diversity, identity and power.

The *Cutty Sark*

Overlooking the river Thames and a short walk from NMM and the Queen's House, the *Cutty Sark* is a sailing ship that demonstrates a feat of Victorian engineering, being one of the fastest ships of its time. Secondary Schools can book independent tours of the ship, a highlights tour led by one of our Visitor Experience Assistants, or a character actor to explore a specific part of *Cutty Sark's* history. To book, please contact cslearning@rmg.co.uk.

The Prince Phillip Maritime Collections Centre (PPMCC)

Located in Kidbrooke, a bus ride away from the other sites, PPMCC is our collections and conservation store. Here you can see our collections that are not currently on display and discover how they are cared for and conserved. Secondary school sessions focus on the science of materials and their properties and explore our large collection of maps, charts and globes. There are also opportunities to investigate careers with our behind-the-scenes session.

Frequently asked questions

How do I book a school session?

For onsite sessions please complete the online form and our Bookings team will be in touch to confirm details and process your booking.

How much do school sessions cost?

Prices for our onsite sessions can be found with the session information in this guide, many of our secondary and post 16 sessions are free to attend.

How do I pay for a school session?

Please make payment by card by calling 020 8312 6608. We can arrange for payment by BACS if requested. You must pay for your sessions before they begin.

What if I need to cancel a booked session?

Please email bookings@rmg.co.uk at least 28 days in advance of your visit to cancel. **Cancellations made less than 28 days in advance will not be refunded. Free sessions cancelled less than 28 days in advance will incur a fee of £75.00 per class per session or £150.00 per study day booking.**

I'm a home educator, can I book a school session?

Home education groups are welcome to take part in the schools programme. You can book a digital session for a cost of £60 for up to 30 learners (inclusive of all accompanying adults and siblings). Onsite sessions are charged at the same rates as those advertised for schools, again with a maximum number of 30 learners (inclusive of all accompanying adults and siblings) per session.

What adult supervision do I need for an onsite visit?

KS3/4 – one adult for every ten pupils.

Post 16 – one adult for every fifteen pupils

Please be aware you remain responsible for the behaviour of your group in the museum and their interactions with others in public spaces.

What adult supervision do I need for a digital session?

You can read and download our digital safeguarding policy from the digital sessions bookings page

How do I prepare for a visit?

Our websites have [risk assessments](#) and information on the latest [covid guidance](#). These will be updated over time to reflect government and museum guidance.

Key information for planning a visit to the National Maritime Museum



Making the most of your day

As well as booking an onsite session at NMM you can schedule a whole day of activity by adding a lunch slot or a [trail](#). Please let the bookings team know which you would like to book and they can create a timetable for your day.

Trails

You can download and print our gallery trails from the website, or you can request pre-printed versions to collect on the day of your visit.

Supporting resources

There are lots of classroom [resources](#) and videos on our website to follow-up or prepare for a session with us.

Other Museum highlights

- Thousands of collections items on display ranging from art to everyday personal objects telling the story of Britain and its relationship with the world through the sea and seafaring.
- The Great map – A giant floor map highlighting the five oceans and seven continents of the world which contrasts with the museum's incredible collection of maps and charts on display around the galleries. (Closed in spring and summer terms)
- Exploration galleries - Polar Worlds, Pacific encounters, Tudor and Stuart seafarers and Sea Things – A must-see if your theme or topic relates to exploration or migration and home to many of our star objects.

Supervision

Please ensure you have sufficient staff with your group throughout the visit
KS3/4 – one adult for every ten pupils.
Post 16 – one adult for every fifteen pupils

Arrival and departure

NMM has two entrances: the Sammy Ofer wing entrance which looks out onto Greenwich Park; and the Stanhope entrance, flanked by two giant anchors, on Romney Road. This is the best entrance to arrive at for groups. When you arrive at the Stanhope entrance a visitor assistant will meet you and you'll leave your coats and bags in the group space or the learning space.

Storage facilities for bags and coats

Coats and bags can be stored in trolley bays in either the Group Space or the Learning Space on the Ground floor. Please do not leave valuables in the bays.

Lunch facilities

If you need a lunch space, please make sure you book one before you visit. Lunch slots are 30 minutes and are in the Group Space or the Learning Space on the Ground floor of the Museum. Please make sure you arrive promptly at the lunch time specified on your visit timetable and leave tables tidy for the next group. In good weather, many groups choose to picnic outside on the lawns.

Toilet facilities

There are toilets suitable for groups located on the ground floor next to both entrances. These facilities are also used by the general public. There is a changing places toilet located next to the shop in the Sammy Ofer Wing.

Shops and Cafés

There are two shops at NMM situated next to the entrances on the ground floor. There are also two cafes: one next to the Sammy Ofer Wing (park side) entrance; and another on the mezzanine level next to the Great Map.

Self-guided visits

You are welcome to visit the National Maritime Museum without booking one of our facilitated sessions. When exploring the galleries, please split into smaller groups of no more than 8 people and follow relevant guidance as directed by our Visitor Assistants. Please be aware that we cannot guarantee a cloakroom or lunch facility for self-guided school groups. [There is more information on our website.](#)

National Maritime Museum spring and summer 2024

We are making significant improvements to the building at the National Maritime Museum from spring 2024 to spring 2025. This will include the closure of the Great Map. We are still welcoming schools during this time but please check the website for more information about how this will affect your visit.

Key Information for Planning a Visit to the Queen's House



Making the most of your day

As well as booking an onsite session at the Queen's House you can schedule a whole day of activity by adding a lunch slot or a [trail](#) next door at the National Maritime Museum. Please let the bookings team know which you would like to book and they can create a timetable for your day. Please see the key information for the National Maritime Museum for more details.

Supporting resources

There are lots of classroom [resources](#) and videos on our website to follow-up or prepare for a session with us.

Gallery highlights

- Contemporary Collections like Kehinde Wiley's Ship of Fools
- The Tulip stairs spiralling up to the roof
- The famous Armada portrait of Elizabeth I

Supervision

Please ensure you have sufficient staff with your group throughout the visit

KS3/4 – one adult for every ten pupils.

Post 16 – one adult for every fifteen pupils

Arrival and departure

Please arrive at the Stanhope entrance to the National Maritime Museum on Romney Road before your session. A visitor assistant will meet you and you'll leave your coats and bags in the group space or the learning space at the Museum before walking across the lawns to the Queen's house.

Storage facilities for bags and coats

Coats and bags can be stored in trolley bays in either the Group Space or the Learning Space on the Ground floor of the National Maritime Museum. Please do not leave valuables in the bays.

Lunch facilities

If you need a lunch space, please make sure you book one before you visit. Lunch slots are 30 minutes and are in the Group Space or the Learning Space on the Ground floor of the National Maritime Museum. Please make sure you arrive promptly at the lunch time specified on your visit timetable and leave tables tidy for the next group. In good weather, many groups choose to picnic outside on the lawns.

Toilet facilities

There are toilets on the ground floor of the Queen's House at the bottom of the Tulip stairs. There is a changing places toilet located next to the shop in the Sammy Ofer Wing of the National Maritime Museum next door.

Shops and Cafés

There is no shop or café at the Queen's House but there are two next door at the National Maritime Museum.

Self-guided visits

You are welcome to visit the Queen's House without booking one of our facilitated sessions. When exploring the galleries, please split into smaller groups and follow relevant guidance as directed by our Visitor Assistants. Please be aware that we cannot guarantee a cloakroom or lunch facility for self-guided school groups.

Key Information for Planning a Visit to the Cutty Sark



Making the most of your day

As well as booking a visit to the *Cutty Sark*, you can schedule a whole day of activity by adding a lunch slot or a trail at the National Maritime Museum. Please let the bookings team know which you would like to book and they can create a timetable for your day. Please see the key information for the National Maritime Museum for more details.

Supporting resources

There are lots of classroom [resources](#) and videos on our website to follow-up or prepare for a session with us.

Ship highlights

- Explore under the hull - Reach up and touch the copper hull of the ship that made Cutty Sark the fastest of its day. The Dry Dock is one of the most dramatic locations in London, with the ship hovering in mid-air above you.
- Enjoy the view - Look out at the London skyline, spot the landmarks and imagine you were sailing on the Cutty Sark 151 years ago. How would this view have changed?
- Visit the Captain's Cabin - The beating heart of the ship, where decisions made that would affect the lives of everyone on board. Can you plot the route of one of *Cutty Sark's* famous journeys?

Supervision

Please ensure you have sufficient staff with your group throughout the visit

KS3/4 – one adult for every ten pupils.

Post 16 – one adult for every fifteen pupils

Arrival and departure

Please arrive at the main entrance of *Cutty Sark*. A visitor assistant will meet you and you'll leave your coats and bags in a trolley in the Sammy Ofer Gallery before starting your tour.

Storage facilities for bags and coats

Coats and bags can be stored in trolleys in the Sammy Ofer Gallery. Please do not leave valuables in the bays.

Lunch facilities

There are no lunch spaces at *Cutty Sark*, but there are spaces available at the National Maritime Museum. If you need a lunch space, please make sure you book one before you visit. Lunch slots are 30 minutes and are in the Group Space or the Learning Space on the Ground floor of the National Maritime Museum. Please make sure you arrive promptly at the lunch time specified on your visit timetable and leave tables tidy for the next group. In good weather, many groups choose to picnic outside in the Naval College Gardens.

Toilet facilities

There are toilets on the ground floor of *Cutty Sark* in the Sammy Ofer Gallery. There is a changing places toilet located next to the shop in the Sammy Ofer Wing of the National Maritime Museum.

Shops and Cafés

There is a shop and a café at *Cutty Sark*.

Self-guided visits

Self-guided visits to the *Cutty Sark* are charged and will need to be pre-booked. You can find more information about a self-guided tour in the onsite sessions section.

Key Information for a Visit to Prince Phillip Maritime Collections Centre



Go Behind the scenes

The Prince Philip Maritime Collections Centre is a cultural hub like no other, offering learners first-hand experience behind the scenes of a national collection. With all access to the stored collection and conservation studios being supported from our specialist team of learning facilitators, we make the inaccessible accessible.

Supporting resources

There are lots of classroom [resources](#) and videos on our website to follow-up or prepare for a session with us.

Highlights

- The globe collection is considered one of the world's largest, richest and most important. The collection contains nearly 300 globes and globe gores from 1537 to the present day.
- Our painting store contains over 3,700 paintings, of which about 2,700 are easel paintings and approximately 1,000 are oil sketches (on wood, canvas and board).
- See our skilled conservators at work as they care for a range of materials ranging from organic/inorganic, paintings, paper, frames and textiles
- See history without the glass. Come face to face with unique historical objects such as objects from the Titanic, Battle of Trafalgar and stories of migration, to name a few

Supervision

Due to the nature of the venue, please ensure you have sufficient adult support with your group (see the ratios in the FAQ section). Please note that all groups over 15 will be split into two groups.

Arrival and departure

On arrival inform us of your arrival by calling the reception on the intercom attached to the entrance. Your facilitator will welcome you at the reception and support your group store their coats and lunches before starting the session.

Storage facilities for bags and coats

Coats and bags can be stored in Coat racks and lockers in the foyer or the Learning Space. No bags or coats are allowed into the collection centre unless they are designed to carry medical supplies.

Lunch facilities

If you need a lunch space, please make sure you book one before you visit. Lunch slots are 30 minutes and are in the PPMCC seminar room or in the PPMCC Learning Space. Please inform your facilitator on arrival that you intend to eat lunch on site. In good weather, groups may choose to picnic outside on the lawns.

Toilet facilities

There are none gender specific toilets close to the PPMCC learning space. There is a wheelchair accessible Toilet on the ground floor.

Shops and Cafés

There are no shops or cafés at the PPMCC. Lunch areas have water fountains accessible to all visitors. All supporting staff will be offered a complimentary cup of tea or coffee during lunch time.

Our School sessions

Onsite sessions at the National Maritime Museum, Queen's House and Cutty Sark

Transatlantic Enslavement Enquiry Day	
Location:	National Maritime Museum
Key Stage:	KS3
Curriculum links:	History, Citizenship
Session times:	Tuesdays, 10.00- 14.00
Capacity:	60 pupils per session
Price:	FREE
<p>How did enslavement and the Transatlantic Slave Trade change life around the Atlantic? This enquiry day supports students to use a range of primary and secondary sources and museum handling collections in order to explore the history of the transatlantic slave trade, its impact around the Atlantic and the ongoing legacies of enslavement.</p> <p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop historical enquiry skills in the unique context of the Museum • handle replica objects, investigate rare manuscripts and examine historic artefacts in our 'Atlantic Worlds' gallery • reflect upon the significance of this shocking history and the legacies in the present. 	

Spanish Armada Enquiry Day	
Location:	National Maritime Museum
Key Stage:	KS3, KS4 and Post 16
Curriculum links:	History
Session times:	Tuesdays, 10.00- 14.00
Capacity:	60 pupils per session
Price:	FREE
<p>How did England defeat the Spanish Armada? Are there other explanations for its failure? This enquiry day supports students to delve into the Museum's unique collections and archives to question why the Spanish Armada failed and if the English actually won. KS3 students will investigate the myths behind the Armada and use these to question whether England actually did defeat Spain. GCSE students will seek to evaluate why the Armada failed with reference to key themes highlighted in their course specification and use different forms of evidence, including the 'Armada Portrait', Spanish court documents and handling objects, to acquire multiple perspectives on the Armada and ultimately explain its failure and legacies.</p> <p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop historical enquiry skills using primary and secondary sources including original archives and artefacts • have the opportunity to get up-close to the iconic 'Armada Portrait' of Queen Elizabeth I and explore the 'Tudor and Stuart Seafarers' gallery • debate and discuss the evidence they gather with their fellow classmates 	

East India Company and Empire Enquiry Day	
Location:	National Maritime Museum
Key Stage:	KS3, KS4 and Post 16
Curriculum links:	History
Session times:	Tuesdays, 10.00- 14.00
Capacity:	60 pupils per session
Price:	FREE
<p>How did the East India Company change the lives of people around the world who came into contact with it? This enquiry day supports students to explore this complex history through handling objects and investigating unique archive collections to consider its contemporary legacies, with a particular focus on India and the East India Company.</p> <p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use enquiry and critical thinking skills to ask how and why the East India Company expanded from trade to imperial control • consider the consequences of the British Empire for individuals, communities and cultures in Europe and Asia • analyse museum archives, artefacts and gallery content as part of their research process 	

Migration Enquiry Day	
Location:	National Maritime Museum
Key Stage:	KS4 (But also available to KS3 on request)
Curriculum links:	History, Citizenship
Session times:	Tuesdays, 10.00- 14.00
Capacity:	60 pupils per session
Price:	FREE
<p>This session is designed to support students studying Migration as part of their GCSE History Course and will include the chance to investigate archival materials and objects relating to different migrant communities over 1000 years.</p> <p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use enquiry and critical thinking skills to ask how maritime migration and movement has shaped Britain and how Britain has responded to different migrant groups • consider the consequences of migration and movement for individuals and communities • analyse museum archives, artefacts and gallery content as part of their research process 	

A Level History Enquiry Days	
Location:	National Maritime Museum
Key Stage:	Post 16
Curriculum links:	History
Session times:	Tuesdays and Fridays, 10.00- 14.00
Capacity:	60 pupils per session
Price:	FREE
<p>These sessions are a chance to work with a member of our learning team and consider A level topics and units by investigating handling collections, original archival materials and museum collections. Sessions can be adapted to meet specific specification needs.</p> <p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use enquiry and critical thinking skills to address their topic • consider how historians can use different forms of evidence • analyse museum archives, artefacts and gallery content as part of a research process <p>Contact learning@rmg.co.uk directly if you are interested in discussing a topic.</p>	

Diversity, Art and Citizenship	
Location:	Queen's House
Key Stage:	KS3
Curriculum links:	Art - use techniques to record observations, as a basis for exploring ideas English- Communicate and present ideas effectively through creative writing and spoken word History- Analysing historical sources and Broaden understanding of Black British History and Britain's Colonial History Citizenship - discuss and express views on topical issues and events
Session times:	Tuesdays, 10.15 -11.45 and 12.30 - 14.00
Capacity:	30 pupils per session
Price:	FREE
<p>Discover how contemporary Black artists such as Kehinde Wiley and Yinka Shonibare CBE convey important messages about diversity and citizenship in their work. Analyse famous artworks up close and make comparisons between historical and contemporary pieces around themes of equality and representation. Respond to artworks through creative written and spoken tasks and collect ideas together to create a collaborative outcome.</p> <p>Pupils will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • analyse famous artworks. • Discuss how leading contemporary artists are exploring issues of diversity and citizenship. • communicate and present ideas effectively through practical creative tasks. • Broaden understanding of Black British history. 	

Cutty Sark Guided Tours	
Location:	Cutty Sark
Key Stage:	KS3, KS4, Post 16
Curriculum links:	History, Geography, Science, Engineering, Careers
Session times:	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10:15-11:15, 12:30-13:30
Capacity:	30 pupils per group
Price:	Up to 30 pupils £150 Up to 15 pupils £100
Led by one of Cutty Sark's learning team, the guided tour covers Cutty Sark's past, life on board and Cutty Sark as a significant place in local history today.	

Want to see behind the scenes?

Our Collections and Conservation Store the Prince Philip Maritime Collections Centre in nearby Kidbrooke is open to visitors. If you want to take a tour of our collections not currently on display and learn about conservation science, contact ppmcc@rmg.co.uk.