

## Getting here

### By bus

There is no dedicated coach park for the museum. The Lothian number 35 bus from Princes Street or Waverly Bridge will drop you off where Jeffrey Street meets the Royal Mile. Once on the Royal Mile, turn left and head towards the Palace of Holyroodhouse. The museum is on your left after you pass New Street. It is opposite the Museum of Edinburgh (yellow building),

The People's Story clock, overhanging the street can be seen as you head down the road.

### By foot

Heading down the Royal Mile, from the Castle towards Holyrood Palace, The People's Story museum is on the left hand side of the street. The museum's clock is visible as you approach. The People's Story museum is opposite the Museum of Edinburgh (yellow building).

## The Museums

- **Please remind your class that the museums are open to everyone and there may be other people using the museums – to be considerate of this.**

It is important to remember that to look after the things in the museums everyone must look with their eyes and not with their hands. Please do not touch things whilst in the museums – this will help to look after them so more people can enjoy them.

- **As you enter the Museum of Edinburgh via the front door you will enter the reception shop. The People's Story also has a fairly small reception hall.**

These small reception spaces can often get busy, please be aware of other visitors.

- **The museums both have interesting and labyrinthine layouts. Please take care to stick together as a group.**

We would suggest a maximum of 15 children per group.

- **We would recommend a teacher pre-visit familiarisation trip due to the nature and layout of both museums.**

We strongly recommend that you have at least 2 adults per 10 children and that a class of 30 should be divided into 2. This should be organised pre-visit.

- **There are narrow staircases and hallways in both**

**museums.** If you meet other visitors using the stairs during your visit please wait until the staircase is clear.

- There are **toilets**.

In Museum of Edinburgh there is **one male bathroom, one female bathroom** and an **accessible bathroom** on the ground floor. There is a **unisex bathroom** on the first floor, after gallery 7 and just off gallery 8.

- In The People's Story Museum there is an **accessible bathroom** opposite the main entrance. There are **male and female bathrooms** on level 1.

- **Museum of Edinburgh is not an accessible building,** the main entrance to the museum are via a spiral staircase.

- **There is limited access in The People's Story Museum** (life access to level 1).

- **Only assistance dogs are allowed in this museum.**

- **No food or drink can be consumed in the museum.** If the children need to have a drink or snack –please contact the Museum of Edinburgh (opposite) on 0131 529 4143. The Museum of Edinburgh has suitable spaces for schools to book – please remember that availability is limited.

- **Please do not lean on the display cases or allow children to draw on the furniture or walls.**

There are seats available to sit on through-out the museum.

## Some identified risks specific to the Museum of Edinburgh and Peoples' Story

### Trip and fall hazards

- **There are many irregular spiral staircases within the museum.** Please encourage children to walk in single file on the widest part of the step, holding on to the handrail.
- **If it has been raining outside there is an increased risk due to wet floors.** Take extra care. Walk and never run in the museum.
- **Changes in flooring type and level.**
- **Low level objects** – could cause people to trip. Take time and be aware of surroundings.

### Other hazards

- **Sharp corners on cases** – some may be at head height, take extra care and limit group sizes.
- **Low level lighting for conservation reasons.**
- **Small staircases and narrow areas throughout the museum** could lead to overcrowding, potential for children bumping into one another.
- **There may be areas in the museum, nooks and crannies, that children could hide in.**
- **Low ceiling height** – taller children and adults could bump heads.
- **Visitor service assistants will be working in the museum.** They are available if you should have questions or need guidance whilst visiting the museum.

TRIPS TO THE MUSEUM ARE FREE BUT DONATIONS ARE WELCOME!

## The Trail - handy hints and how to use this trail

### Before you head to the museum, print out the trail.

- **Please call the museums to book your trip.**

Call Museum of Edinburgh on 0131 529 4143 or The People's Story on 0131 529 4057. Alternatively, please email: [museumsandgalleries@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:museumsandgalleries@edinburgh.gov.uk).

- **Please staple the trail in the top left corner.**

It has been designed as a flip style trail - whilst you look at the page with all the information to guide the trip - the opposite side will have an image for the class to find. If you have a class of 30 you will need at least 3 copies of this trail. When printing, select the option '**Print on the short side**'.

- **Familiarise yourself with the trail**, highlight the parts most relevant to your class.

- **The trail has been devised with a cross curricular approach** but the main curriculum areas are: Social Studies and Literacy and English.

Curriculum links:

SOC 2-01a, SOC 2-02a, SOC 2-03a, SOC 2-04a, SOC 2-06a.

LIT 1-02a, LIT 1-04a, LIT 1-05a, LIT 1-07a, LIT 1-08a, LIT 1-09a, LIT1-10a, LIT 2-02a, LIT 2-04a, LIT 2-05a, LIT 2-06a, LIT 2-07a, LIT 2-09a.

ENG 1-03a, ENG 1-25a, ENG 1-30a, ENG 1-31a, ENG 2-03a, ENG 2-31a.

- **The trail is designed so that it can be done in any order.**

- **It will take approximately 1.5hrs-2hrs.**

- **We would recommend a teacher pre-visit familiarisation trip.**

- **We strongly recommend that you have at least 2 adults per 10 children** and that a class of 30 should be divided into 2. This should be organised pre-visit.

- **The way that the visit has been structured avoids children passing on the stairs.** There may be other visitors using the stairs but please wait until they have finished.

### The Trail

- **We strongly recommend that you have at least 2 adults per 10 children** and that a class of 30 should be divided into 2.

- **This should be organised pre-visit.**

- **'Helping adults' should be briefed ahead of the trip.**

- **To access the Museum of Edinburgh, you have to walk through the gift shop.** Please be aware that the shop is often a place of congestion.

- **In The People's Story, there is a reception area**, this is also a space which can easily become congested.

- **There are several galleries to explore** – decide pre visit which order the groups are going to go in. This will help to avoid congestion and overcrowding.

- **You could split the class** so that one group would start in the Museum of Edinburgh and the other group would start in The People's Story.

- **If you feel that your children would prefer to have a trail sheet to complete**, these are available to download from the website.

## Things to do before, after or during your visit to the Museums

- **Contact the museum to book in your trip**, you can do this by calling the museum on **0131 529 4143** or emailing them at [museumsandgalleries@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:museumsandgalleries@edinburgh.gov.uk).
- **If you need somewhere to leave bags and/or eat lunch**, please contact the Museum of Edinburgh on **0131 529 4143** or email [museumsandgalleries@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:museumsandgalleries@edinburgh.gov.uk).
- **Other places to visit close by:**

**Museum of Childhood:** 0131 529 4142

**Scott Monument:** 0131 529 4068

**Museum of Edinburgh:** 0131 529 4143

**Writers' Museum:** 0131 529 4901

**City Art Centre:** 0131 529 3993

**The People's Story Museum:** 0131 529 4057

Please contact the venues directly to book.

Email: [museumsandgalleries@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:museumsandgalleries@edinburgh.gov.uk)

or call the museums directly.

- **Don't forget to share your feedback with us**, it is great to see your photographs and any work you may complete back at school. This can be shared either on social media (facebook/ twitter/ Instagram) with the hashtag: **#museumofedinburgh** or by emailing: [museumsandgalleries@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:museumsandgalleries@edinburgh.gov.uk).
- **Or tweet about your visit** directly on **@EdinCulture**.

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## Checklist

- Camera
- First aid kit
- EV2 forms / parental permission forms
- Group lists
- Emergency contact list
- School contact number
- Wet wipes
- Snack, drinks and lunch (if applicable)
- Note paper and pencil for groups to make notes as they explore the museums
- Clipboards
- And remember to fully charge the camera

- **Why not borrow one of the museum's handling boxes – for more information please visit:**

[www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk/engage/outreach](http://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk/engage/outreach)

Handling boxes are free and can be borrowed for up to 2 weeks. Book early to avoid disappointment by emailing:

[MuseumsandGalleries.Outreach@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:MuseumsandGalleries.Outreach@edinburgh.gov.uk).

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## Useful links and ideas

- **Research where you live** - how does your house fit into the picture of Edinburgh?
  - **Read the story of Greyfriars Bobby.**
  - **Walk to the statue of Greyfriar's Bobby** (please do not touch the nose, it is not lucky and actually causes damage to the statue).
  - **Visit the graveyard** and see where Bobby waited.
  - **Look at the Sedan shed in Tweeddale Court.**  
How many Sedan chairs do you think could fit in there?
  - **Have a look and see the remnants of the Water stations** - from when water was pumped into the city.
  - **Walk from the castle to the Palace of Holyroodhouse – what can you see, are there any signs of the past?**  
If you look at the ground where the old gates (crossing between Jeffrey Street and the Royal Mile) used to be you will see some gold cobbles marking out where the gates were.
  - **Sketch a scene from the Old Town**, inspired by the things you have seen in the museums (like the sedan, the town crier, a finely dressed lady with shoes, an old house (possibly with someone throwing the waste out of a window).
  - **Write a story or newspaper report** about the museums or their past lives.
  - **Make/ design a crest** – like the one outside The People's Story. What would your crest look like?
  - **Make a timeline** of the two buildings.
  - **The Museum of Edinburgh and The People's Story are close to several other museums** - why not check them out too...  
**City Art Centre, Museum of Childhood, the Scott Monument and the Writers' Museum.**
  - **You can look at the Scott Monument** whilst walking through the Princes Street Gardens.
  - Take a look at the website:  
[www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk](http://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk) for more ideas.
  - **There are lunch spaces available** at Museum of Edinburgh and City Art Centre subject to booking and availability.
- City Art Centre:** 0131 529 3993  
**Museum of Childhood:** 0131 529 4142  
**Scott Monument:** 0131 529 4068  
**Writers' Museum:** 0131 529 4901
- Or email:** [museumsandgalleries@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:museumsandgalleries@edinburgh.gov.uk)
- **Don't forget to share your feedback with us**, it is great to see your photographs and any work you may complete back at school. This can be shared either on social media (facebook/ twitter/ Instagram) with the hashtag **#MuseumofEdinburgh #People'sStory** or by emailing: [museumsandgalleries@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:museumsandgalleries@edinburgh.gov.uk)
  - **Or tweet about your visit** directly on **@EdinCulture**.

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