



DINOSAUR MUSEUM

Schools Information

Although dinosaurs became extinct nearly 65 million years ago, they are very much alive in the hearts and minds of today's children the world over.

What makes dinosaurs so popular with children? Nobody really knows for sure, but children from a very early age seem fascinated by these primordial beasts. They quickly learn their names, and all the facts (and fantasies) associated with them. Dinosaurs have become a unique vehicle to harness the child's early interest and channel that interest into the study of science and other subjects on the curriculum.

This is recognised in the National Curriculum. Dinosaurs can be used to explain many biological and geological processes. Many of these are explained on the reverse of this sheet.

In Britain, due to geological factors, we do not have the remains of the spectacular dinosaurs such as those found in the badlands of the United States, China and Mongolia. British dinosaurs, while occupying the same ecological niches as their American cousins, have not been found in so complete a state. The dinosaur-bearing geological

strata in Britain is limited to a few areas. One of those areas is Dorset, and it is in Dorset that Britain's first dinosaur museum was established in 1984.

The award winning Dinosaur Museum in Dorchester is not a dusty and dry museum. It is very much a



'new age' museum, bright and exciting and fun to be in. It is designed to break down barriers between visitor and exhibits and thus realise the museum's full potential. Visitors to **The Dinosaur Museum** are positively encouraged to touch and use all their senses in their quest to experience the world of the dinosaurs.



At **The Dinosaur Museum** the story of the dinosaurs is told thematically through displays dealing with all the many aspects of these enigmatic beasts. Actual fossils, skeletons and life-size reconstructions combine with audio-visual and hands-on displays to inform and entertain. We firmly believe that learning should be fun. A visit to the Museum is a total experience. Displays are always changing thus enabling us to present the very latest on dinosaurs - there is always something new to see.

Since we opened in 1984 we have welcomed schools from all over the south as well as London! The Museum has been featured extensively on radio and television, including children's programmes such as *Blue Peter* and *The Really Wild Show*.

If you have any particular needs or requirements please contact us, we are always pleased to help. But remember, **The Dinosaur Museum** is an extremely popular teaching resource for schools, so if you are thinking of coming, try to book well in advance.

National Curriculum:

SCIENCE AT 2-4. The Variety of Life - the diversity and classification of past and present life forms, and of the relationships, energy flows, cycles or matter within ecosystems. Processes Of Life - the organisation of living things and of the processes which characterise their survival and reproduction. Genetics and Evolution - natural selection and evolution. Key Stage 1. Awareness for pupils of the variety of other life-forms including those which have become extinct a long time ago (fossils, dinosaurs, etc.). Topic examples: insulation - large and small dinosaurs; Archaeopteryx - modern day birds as dinosaurs; Comparison of dinosaurs and mammals; Hot and cold blooded - which were the dinosaurs? Also AT1, AT9, AT17. Ancillary uses - Cross Curricular Elements - ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION. How environments are shaped. ART.

Introductory Video & Talk:

There is an introductory video which tackles many of the important issues concerning dinosaurs in a lively, fun and educational way. This can be supplemented by an introductory talk, for groups on arrival, if required. The talk is free and is given by the Museum's curator Tim Batty, but must be pre-booked.

Teacher Reconnaissance Visits:

Free of Charge. Please telephone in advance and identify yourself on arrival.

Worksheets:

Free worksheets are available for all children on arrival. There are two levels. Samples are available on request and are automatically sent on confirmation of booking.

Location:

The Dinosaur Museum is situated in the centre of Dorchester, in Icen Way, just off High East Street, and near the main car parks. There is pedestrian signposting from these car parks.

Coach & Car Park:

The nearest coach park is at the 'Top of Town' roundabout, about 800 metres walk from the Museum. Coaches can easily 'drop off' and 'pick up' outside The Dinosaur Museum in Icen Way. The closest car park is about 40 metres away. The main car parks are about 100 metres.

Getting to Dorchester:

Dorchester is centrally situated on the intersection of the A35 and the A37 and is within comfortable distance of the M27, M3, and M5. There are excellent rail links by Intercity on the Waterloo to Weymouth line stopping at Dorchester South. The Sprinter links Bristol to Dorchester West Station. The Museum is about a 10-15 minute walk from either station.

Open:

All year, daily, 10.00-17.00 (April - Sept)
10.00-16.00 (Oct - March) Closed 13-26 December.
Open all other Bank Holidays.

Prices:

(for 15 or more in a group) £4.20 per pupil. One adult is admitted free for every ten pupils. £5.20 per extra adult. Special joint rates are available for groups visiting both

The Dinosaur Museum and either The Tutankhamun Exhibition or The Terracotta Warriors Museum on the same day.

Disabled:

The Museum is suitable for those with impaired mobility on the ground floor only. There is just one step at the entrance. Other special needs:- Hearing Impaired - All information is clearly labelled. Partially Sighted - There are few barriers between visitor and exhibits and feeling and touch is encouraged.

Party Size and Organisation:

The ideal size of a group is between 30 and 40 pupils. It is however possible to have up to about 100 pupils at a time in The Museum, and therefore two groups can be accommodated at once. We always try to avoid mixing groups from two different schools.

Duration of Visit:

In general about 90 minutes should be allowed for a visit, but this can be varied to meet individual requirements. After a short introductory video the group is free to explore at their own pace. Everything is fully labelled, and there are many hands on displays.

Shop:

The Dinosaur Museum has a gift shop with a wide range of souvenirs, models, and gifts with a dinosaurian theme. There are many dinosaur books for adults and children. Mail order is available online at www.whshop.co.uk

Catering:

Refreshments can be had from many outlets in Dorchester, or there are two parks - Salisbury Fields or The Borough Gardens - suitable for picnics nearby.

Toilets:

Toilets are available at The Museum and at the Coach Park.

How to Book:

It is advisable to telephone to see whether the date and time of your proposed visit is available. We will then make a booking, either provisional or definite. Once you have confirmed this booking we will send you written confirmation plus any other information required.

Payment:

Payment should be made on arrival preferably by a cheque made payable to World Heritage Ltd. Cash or credit cards are equally acceptable.

Governing Body: World Heritage Ltd

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