



ENGLISH HERITAGE  
STEP INTO ENGLAND'S STORY

**Osborne House**  
**Information for Visit Organisers**

Thank you for deciding to bring a group of students to visit Osborne House. If you have any questions after reading this information, please contact the Education Bookings Team on 0870 333 0606.

General information on this property - including directions, opening times and facilities - can be found at [www.english-heritage.org.uk/osborne](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/osborne)

**Before your visit**

**Swiss Cottage**

The Swiss Cottage is open now after a major restoration project. The children visiting The cottage and museum are requested to do so in small groups as space is limited.

Please be aware that Swiss Cottage will be closed over the winter period.

**Free planning visit**

To help you organise your trip, we can offer you a free planning visit. Simply print off your booking permit and take it along to the property. If you'd like to look at our on-site learning resources during your planning visit, please ring Osborne House on 01983 200022 to organise. On production of your booking permit, you are entitled to 20% off the guidebook (also available to buy online).

**Health and safety**

To help with your risk assessment we have produced a Hazard Information Sheet for this property - see [www.english-heritage.org.uk/hazardinfo/osborne](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/hazardinfo/osborne)

As parts of the property can be hazardous, it is advisable to ask your students to wear appropriate shoes and clothing.

**Help with learning**

**Teacher's Kit**

The Teacher's Kit will help you understand the property and how you can achieve your learning aims and objectives. As well as covering the history of Osborne House, it has ideas for providing learning opportunities in different subjects.

[www.english-heritage.org.uk/teacherskit/osborne](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/teacherskit/osborne)

**On-site resources**

There is an education room; this must be booked in advance. A variety of activities and resources is available, including prince and princess costumes for younger students to try on.

## **Heritage Explorer**

The Heritage Explorer website ([www.heritage-explorer.co.uk](http://www.heritage-explorer.co.uk)) has a host of free learning resources including images, whiteboard lessons and worksheets. The resources are suitable for use before your visit, on the day itself and/or as follow-up.

## **Discovery Visit**

You can pre-book a Discovery Visit for your group - these offer inspiring, hands-on learning activities. At Osborne House, *Waiting on Hand and Foot* is suitable for students at Key Stage 2. For details, prices and information on booking, view [www.english-heritage.org.uk/dv](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/dv)

## **Approved Education Providers**

If you would like to organise your own interpreter to accompany your group, we can provide you with a list of Approved Education Providers. All of the interpreters on the list have the relevant insurance and have undergone CRB and quality checks. For information, see [www.english-heritage.org.uk/approved-education-providers](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/approved-education-providers)

## ***Heritage Learning* magazine**

*Heritage Learning* is designed for teachers, educators and student group leaders. It is packed with ideas on how to bring heritage to life, both inside and outside the classroom. [www.english-heritage.org.uk/heritage-learning](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/heritage-learning)

## **On the day of your visit**

### **Finding Osborne House**

Address: York Avenue, East Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO32 6JX

You can download a sat nav file from [www.english-heritage.org.uk/satnav](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/satnav)

### **Parking**

There is a free car park, including accessible parking bays, 50m from the admissions centre. Additional parking - for cars and coaches - is available a further 230m from the entrance; we advise that coaches be parked at the back of the car park. With prior permission, students with disabilities - as long as they are not arriving by coach - can be set down at the entrance; please call 01983 200022 to arrange.

### **Toilets**

Toilets are located at the admissions centre, in the main house, at the Swiss Cottage and in the café at the beach. Accessible toilets can be found at the admissions centre and in the main house.

### **Bag storage**

Students will be asked to store their bags whilst at the house.

### **Lunch and refreshments**

There are a number of places where students can buy refreshments. A self-service café at the admissions centre sells snacks, soup, and hot and cold drinks; if you would like to order children's lunch boxes, please call 01983 298052 in advance of your visit. Another café is located next to the beach; this sells light refreshments, drinks, and locally made ice cream. Snacks and cold drinks can be purchased at the refreshment stand at the Swiss Cottage. Full meals can be bought at the restaurant. Students are welcome to bring packed lunches and picnic in the grounds - there are grassy areas and picnic tables.

**Wet weather**

In the case of bad weather, staff will do their best to find somewhere for your students to eat lunch.

## **Shop**

The large shop at the admissions centre sells a range of gifts, souvenirs and books. We ask that you help our staff by supervising your students whilst in the shop. Goody bags can be made up - please order by calling 01983 281784, giving at least 14 days' notice.

## **Access**

The grounds are accessible but the paths in the Walled Garden are heavily gravelled, so access may be difficult for some wheelchair users. Motorised wheelchairs are not permitted in the house, but five wheelchairs are available to borrow. A lift usually allows access to Queen Victoria's private apartments on the first floor of the house.

Unfortunately, access to the second floor (including the nursery) is only by stairs. An adapted minibus can take wheelchair users to the Swiss Cottage area, which is about a 20-minute walk from the house. Wheelchair users can access the museum at Swiss Cottage but not the cottage itself. You can find more information about access at [www.english-heritage.org.uk/access/osborne](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/access/osborne)

## **Supervision**

Whilst at the property, please ensure that your students are supervised at all times. When viewing the house, you will be given a timeslot and your group may be split into smaller groups. Please follow these leader to student ratios:

- for those under the age of 8, 1 leader for every 6 students (1:6)
- for those aged 8-18, 1 leader for every 15 students (1:15)
- for an adult learning group, there are no ratios but there must be an appointed leader.

## **In case of problems**

If you have any problems on the day, contact a member of property staff.

If you can't make the visit for any reason, or if you think you are going to be late, it is important to let us know by calling 01983 200022 or 0870 333 0606.

**We hope that you and your students enjoy your visit to Osborne House.**

*Updated February 2013*