

Early years & Primary



Photo by WWT



LONDON
Wetland
CENTRE

MAYOR OF LONDON

Visiting WWT London Wetland Centre

At WWT London you can find:

- over 100 acres of wild UK wetlands such as ponds, reedbeds and lakes
- 14 naturalistic world wetland habitats with globally threatened wildfowl
- over 180 species of bird as well as numerous species of plant, amphibian, reptile, dragonfly, mammal, butterfly and moth
- multi-storey hides and pond dipping areas
- explore- a wetland-themed playground for 3-11 year olds
- indoor interactive interpretation in our discovery centre
- full access for wheelchair users
- up-close experiences of wildlife and the natural environment



Photo by Martin Senior

Thanks to sponsorship by the Mayor of London, pupils visiting with Greater London state schools can explore the wealth of London's wildlife in safe, spectacular surroundings – **absolutely free.**

The schools' programme is also generously supported by The Berkeley Group.

WWT London is one of nine centres operated by the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), the only UK charity dedicated solely to wetland conservation for wildlife and people.

How to book a visit

Advance booking is essential for all learning groups. When contacting us, please have alternative visit dates in mind in case we cannot accommodate you on your preferred date.

- we offer each group of 30 children one staff-led learning session
- children aged 3-11 yrs can also enjoy one session in explore
- choose a learning session topic from those listed on pages 3 & 4
- call us with some prospective dates and make a provisional booking on **020 8409 4400**. Alternatively email education.london@wwt.org.uk
- to help us plan, please mention any specific learning requirements and special needs
- complete and return the booking form (p6 of this leaflet)
- we will email confirmation once we receive your booking form
- come for a free preliminary visit to familiarise yourself with the site
- payment should be made on arrival where possible (see p7 for details). We prefer not to invoice but if necessary, please request an invoice when booking.
- we can lend you binoculars for use during your visit (subject to availability). Please request when booking. N.B. Credit card details will be taken as a 'deposit' against any damages/ losses.
- to avoid queues we recommend you pre-order items from our shop for collection when you visit. You can use the form at wwt.org.uk/london/schools



Photo by Jerome Favre

"Introduces children to nature and its amazing variety ."
Nursery teacher

Cancellations

We need at least two weeks' notice if you wish to cancel or alter your booking. Please give as much advance warning as possible of any cancellations so we can offer your learning sessions to other schools on our waiting list.



Photo by David Folker

Choose a learning session

Early years (20 minute sessions)

Baby watch

Follow the story of egg to duckling through drama and props. Then meet some of the stars of the show. (March-July only)

Pond explorers

Dipping into safe, raised ponds with nets to meet some of the creatures living under the water.

Key stage 1 (50 minute sessions)

Great pond safari

Use nets to catch a variety of minibeasts and find out about the special plants that make their homes in the ponds.

Minibeast safari

Track down some of the amazing minibeasts that live in the wetlands and in your local environment. Find out why they are so important to humans.

Ducks, ducks, ducks

Find out about all things duck on an interactive walk through our collection of endangered wildfowl. Learn about feet, feathers and feeding.

Close encounters

Take part in a suite of sensory activities to explore the wetlands. Based on a story about five ducklings called Looking, Listening, Big Foot, Beaky and Smelly.

Build your own session

(up to 50 minutes, subject to some limitations)

Let us devise a special session to fit in with your area of study. We have a number of wildlife related props, natural history inspired games and are happy to create science, citizenship, english, art and drama workshops to suit your needs. Just give us a call and have a chat.

Special needs

We are experienced at tailoring sessions for pupils with special needs. Please discuss your requirements when booking and we will work with you to design a session.

Free preliminary visits

We strongly recommend you make a preliminary visit to familiarise yourself with the facilities offered and to help you plan your visit more effectively.

Download our risk assessment at wwt.org.uk/london/schools

Make use of our free learning resources at wwt.org.uk/learn

Why not avoid the busy summer term and consider visiting in the autumn or spring? The wildlife on site is varied and plentiful and our hides and indoor interpretation areas will offer shelter from the weather if necessary.



Photo by WWT



Photo by Peter Lapsley

"...thank you for helping with pond dipping. We learnt new things like the diving beetle breathing with the air bubble."
Yr 2 pupil



Photo by Martin Senior

Choose a learning session (continued)

Key stage 2 (50 minute sessions)

Great pond safari

Use nets to catch some of the weird and wonderful animals that live in our ponds. (Pick one of the following options).

- habitats and adaptations of pond creatures
- interdependence and food chains in a pond
- lifecycles in animals
- variation in pond plants and animals, using keys for identification

Minibeast safari

Walk around the wetlands for a hands-on investigation into where minibeasts live. Classifying creatures into groups and finding out how they live.

My great adventure

Discover the hows and whys of one of the greatest phenomena in the animal kingdom using our collection of endangered wildfowl. Observe wild migratory birds from a hide.

Wetland heroes

Find out about the importance of wetlands and their conservation. Take on the role of a WWT scientist and use fieldwork techniques to save a species. Observe and identify wild birds.

Growing and changing

Look at the life cycles of flowering plants and birds using the plants and animals found on site.

Wetland soils: Ratty the water vole's burrow

Investigate the characteristics of different soil types in a session themed around the story of 'Wind in the Willows'. Try and catch a glimpse of Ratty the elusive water vole in his wetland habitat.

Wetland rocks

Learn about how rocks are formed, look at some real rocks and find out which rocks are underneath WWT London.

Bees: the insect pollination story

Learn all about the lives of these extraordinary insects and spot the different types found on site. Have a go at bee communication and find out how they help humans. (March-July only)

Flight

How do birds fly? A look at forces in action. Observe wild birds, their different types of flight and the adaptations made to master it.

Build your own session

(up to 50 minutes, subject to some limitations)

Let us devise a special session to fit in with your area of study. We have a number of wildlife related props, natural history inspired games and are happy to create science, citizenship, english, art and drama workshops to suit your needs. Just give us a call and have a chat.



Photo by Heather Tait



Photo by Philip Briggs

"Our Yr 6 summer science topic is 'adaptation and interdependence' so this fits perfectly."
Yr 6 teacher



Photo by Ron Mitchell

On the day

Arrival

Where possible, one of our volunteers will meet you on arrival. They will give a brief orientation to the centre and help with the following:

- check in and payment (where necessary) at admissions
- collection of any pre-ordered binoculars or gift items
- storage of bags and coats in storage bins (at own risk)
- allocation of covered lunch areas in the event of bad weather

Booked sessions

If you have booked a learning session or session in the explore adventure area please:

- ensure you keep to your allocated time slots (see confirmation)
- meet our teachers in the courtyard approximately **five minutes** before your allocated learning session start time
- allow **ten minutes** for your group to walk to explore from the courtyard as it is located at the far end of the site

Free time

When you are not having a learning session or enjoying explore, you are free to investigate the site on a self-guided basis. Please make use of our free learning resources at www.wwt.org.uk/learn

Supervision

We will make every effort to make your visit enjoyable. You can help by making sure pupils are adequately supervised at all times. Behaviour and discipline of pupils on site is the responsibility of teachers and adult supervisors. Please ensure all adults understand the aims of the visit and their role in supervising and supporting pupils in the group. Please agree with pupils on the following code of behaviour during your visit:

- observe signage and stay on footpaths
- treat wildlife kindly
- do not feed birds as they are on highly specialised diets
- keep quiet when in hides
- walk, don't run
- respect other visitors enjoying their visit
- dispose of litter in the bins provided
- stay with your group at all times

We reserve the right to eject any groups breaking the above behaviour code from the site.

Shopping

When using the shop, we would be grateful if you could limit groups to **no more than ten pupils at a time** to avoid overcrowding. We recommend pre-ordering items from the shop using the order form at www.wwt.org.uk/london/schools
Your order will be ready for collection on the day.



Photo by WWT



Photo by Jerome Favre

"The tunnels in the adventure park were COOL!" Yr 2 pupil



Photo by Anne Algar

Learning group booking form

Please complete one booking form per class/group (max. 30 pupils per group). **Please photocopy this form as necessary.**

In signing our booking form you agree your group will abide by our behaviour code (see p5) whilst visiting the centre. Please ensure all adults accompanying your group are aware of the code and that children are well supervised throughout their visit.

School name:

School address:

Postcode:

Tel no. (+ STD code):

Fax no.:

Email address:

Is your school state or independently funded?:

DCSF number:

Date of visit:

Number of coach spaces needed:

Time of arrival:

Time of departure:

Number of: Adults:

Pupils:

Pupil age range:

Learning session - topic:

Select learning session start time: 10.30 11.30 12.30 13.30 14.30

Select Explore session start time: 10.00 10.30 11.00 11.30 12.00 12.30 13.00 13.30 14.00 14.30
(Max. 60 pupils per session. Age range 3-11 year olds. Sessions last 30 minutes)

Please give details of any special needs:

Please indicate how your visit fits in with your scheme of work:

N.B. Learning sessions are allocated subject to availability. Schools may visit WWT London Wetland Centre on a self-guided basis subject to capacity limitations. **All visiting schools, whether self-guided or not, must book in advance.** To make an initial booking, please call the number below. We will allocate time slots and try to accommodate your wishes.

Name of teacher contact:

Free teacher preview visit preferred date:

Signed:

Date:

Please return this form to:

Education Department, WWT London Wetland Centre, Queen Elizabeth's Walk, London SW13 9WT

T 020 8409 4400/4419 F 020 8409 4401 E info.london@wwt.org.uk

MAYOR OF LONDON



Useful information

Admission

Children visiting with state funded schools in Greater London and all children under 4 come in **free of charge**.

For all other schools the admission charge is **£4.25** per pupil.

Learning and explore sessions are included in admission costs.

We require a **minimum group size of 12 pupils** in order to book a learning session with our staff. However, smaller groups of SEN pupils will be offered learning sessions (subject to availability).

Adults supervising education groups are free of charge at the following minimum expected ratios:

Nursery & reception 1:3
Primary (KS1 & 2) 1:5

Essential carers for children with special needs also come in free.

Adults in excess of the above ratios pay the reduced group rate of £5.50 per adult.

Students in year 12 and above pay a student concession fee of **£5.50**.

Payment should be made on arrival by credit/ debit card, cash or cheque (made payable to WWT).

Please note we prefer not to invoice.

Travelling to WWT London

Underground

Hammersmith tube

Buses

From Hammersmith tube take the 283 bus which terminates in the centre. Alternatively, buses 33, 72 and 209 stop nearby (alight at the Red Lion Pub). From Barnes mainline station take bus 33 or 72, or from Barnes Bridge take bus 209.

Trains

From Waterloo, Clapham Junction or Richmond alight at Barnes. The centre is ten minutes' walk from Barnes Station and buses are frequent (see above).

Free coach parking

Coach spaces are available and must be booked in advance.

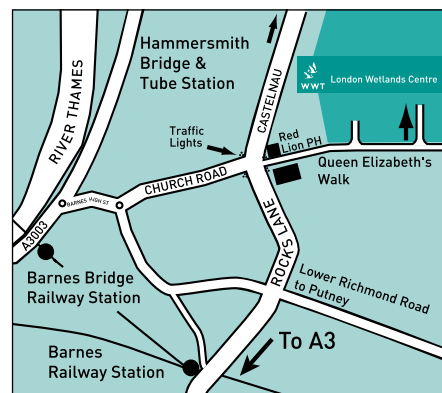
Free disabled parking

There are ten spaces available for Blue Badge holders.

Free travel

Schools in Greater London can apply for free public transport for their visit. For information and to apply online visit

www.tfl.gov.uk/schoolparty



WWT London Wetland Centre, Queen Elizabeth's Walk, London SW13 9WT

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) registered charity in England & Wales, no. 1030884 and Scotland, no. SC039410

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W wwt.org.uk/london/schools

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