



# Education Visit Information Pack





# A Unique Learning Experience underneath the Black Country

Our limestone mines and caverns are absolutely unlike anywhere else you'll have ever taken your students. From awe-inspiring caverns that you could fit entire buildings inside, to the watery tunnels that seem to stretch on forever. We guarantee both teachers and students will go home with memories they'll never forget.

We're looking forward to welcoming you to Dudley!

In this booklet you'll find everything you need to plan your visit to us, including.

- Information on our boat trips
- Workshop session information
- Prices
- How to get here
- Booking information
- FAQs



## Boat Trips

The only way to experience our unique limestone mines and caverns is on one of our boat trips. Our most popular trip lasts 45 minutes.

Our skippers will be your guide with their fascinating commentary as you travel through the tunnels and caverns. Enjoy sound and light shows and the chance for your students (and staff!) to have a go at the art of legging the boat!

Discover the limestone mines that fuelled the Industrial Revolution here in the Black Country and learn how and why the tunnels and caverns were constructed here.

For specialist groups we can also arrange trips through the full length of the Dudley Tunnel. These take two hours; get in touch for details.



## Guided Workshop Sessions

Our 50-minute workshop sessions will make your visit complete. Our workshop leaders will get your students hands on with objects and interactive activities to explore topics that complement your boat trip.

We cover a range of curriculum-linked topics, from science to social history and geography aimed at various key stages. If you're interested in a session for an age group not listed below, then please ask; we're happy to develop alternatives for your students.

	Guided Workshop	KS1	KS2	KS3
1	Life on a Working Boat			
2	Black Country: Canals and Industry			
3	Sedimentary Rocks and Fossils			

KS1 – KS3

### 1. Life on a Working Boat

*What was it like to live on a canal boat? Discover how boat people worked and lived on canal boats in this social history session.*

Students will explore the lives of the people who lived and worked on the working boats, including the importance of roses and castles painting and the practical and decorative uses of their unique objects. Our team will guide you around our very own historic boat, Sagitta.

KS1 – KS3

## 2. Black Country: Canals and Industry

*Why were the canals built? And why was the Black Country so important to the Industrial Revolution? Discover the answers to these questions and more in this introductory session.*

Students explore the science and social history that lead to the Black Country developing as such a vital part of the nation's industry in the 1700s and 1800s. Using handling collections and practical activities, our team will guide your students through this introduction to the importance of the Black Country Region.

KS2 – KS3

## 3. Sedimentary Rocks and Fossils

*How do we know what a dinosaur looked like? What lived in the oceans here millions of years ago? Discover how we know what was going on millions of years ago in this fun interactive session.*

Getting hands-on with objects that are hundreds of millions of years old, students explore the different types of sedimentary rocks and fossils found in the Midlands and learn the importance of what lies beneath our feet to industry, academics and our daily life.


## 2023 Prices

**Students**            £10.30

**Teachers**            FREE!

\*These prices apply for bookings with a minimum of 10 students, because of this we charge that amount as your deposit to secure your date (£100).

### Included in your price:

- Free coach parking
  - Free planning / risk assessment visit for teachers
  - Standard risk assessment
  - Our staff and volunteers to guide your day.
  - Space to store lunch boxes.
  - Qualified first aiders and mental health first aiders on site.
  - Qualified boat skippers and crew
  - Access to our learning spaces for you to use with your class after the lead part of your day with us, to run your own session if you wish.
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## How to get here


Dudley Canal and Caverns is easy to find, being located on the Birmingham New Road between Dudley and Tipton. Our post code is DY1 4SB and we're just 10 minutes from J2 of the M5.

On arrival, your coach or minibus can park for free on our car park. Our staff and education volunteers will meet you on arrival and take you to the first location on your timetable.

Please try and arrive in time for your first activity as shown on your timetable; our boats have a limited capacity so accommodating late groups is difficult, though we will of course always do our best.

Most schools arrive between 10am and 11am, depending how far you have to travel, though we can accommodate your arrival any time between 9am to 2pm. Most schools leave between 2pm and 3pm, allowing time to get back to school for home time.

Our team will discuss the workshops and boat trips you'd like with you and work out a tailored timetable for your visit. Please see the next section for an example timetable.





# Example Timetable

	Arrival	Welcome/ Safety Talk	Workshop	Boat Trip	Lunch	Self-Lead Session	Goodbyes
Group A	10:15am	10:20am	10:30am	11:30am	12:30pm	1pm	2pm
Group B	10:15am	10:20am	12pm	10:30am	11:30m	1pm	2pm





## How to Book

Booking a school trip with us is easy. Just get in touch by giving us a call on 0121 557 6265 or by emailing us at [rhianna@dctt.org.uk](mailto:rhianna@dctt.org.uk) and we'll help you organise your perfect visit.

We'll need to know how many students and adults you want to bring, what date or dates you'd like to come, and which workshops you're interested in (or which topic your class are studying, if you need help choosing a session).

We'll invoice your school directly, so let us know the details of your financial department when you book.

If you'd like to receive our standard risk assessment, please let us know and we'll send them over to you.



## FAQ

### **Where do the workshops take place?**

Our sessions use a variety of spaces around the site. Some of these are beside the canal or elsewhere outside and some are within covered or inside areas. Most sessions will run inside in inclement weather; you will be told if your session has an element which will take place outside regardless.

### **Are the boats covered?**

Our boats are open so that you can see the tunnels and caverns. However, apart from two canal basins, the majority of the trip takes place underground, so there's no need to worry about the weather!

### **How long do the workshop sessions last?**

Our sessions are 50 minutes long.

### **Is there anywhere we can leave our coats, bags, and lunches?**

Absolutely. Our team will show you where you can leave items on the day.

### **Where can we eat our lunches?**

We will always provide you with a space to eat your lunches. On nice days, this might be outside, or even on a boat!

If you have any other questions, please get in touch with us!





