



Key Stage 1

Sensory Trail (1½–2 hours; 1 class per session)

We explore the Abbey surroundings where you:

- collect natural colours to make your own rainbow
- listen to sounds and record them in pictures (and words)
- use your sense of touch to describe various materials – stone, wood, metal, plants
- feel and smell the plants in the herb garden

Minibeasts to Mammals (1½–2 hours)

We investigate living things, searching for signs and evidence of wildlife. Discover mice, vole and rabbit tunnels through the grass, insects visiting plants and flowers, cobwebs, feathers and fur as we walk along the bridle path to the deer park.

We also explore the idea of food chains. Find out how nature provides food for many different species, which in turn are food for other animals and insects. We catch minibeasts in pots with magnifying lenses to view them.

In the deer park we look at and learn about the deer. We also talk about the trees in the park. Then we hunt for minibeasts amongst the fallen dead trees. At Swanley Grange Learning Centre, you can handle deer skins and antlers.

Key Stage 2

A Day in the Life of a Monk (2 hours)

Don monks' robes to investigate the medieval monks' way of life through role play and discussion. With our Abbot, you will:

- consider entering the monastery as novice Cistercian monks
- think about why it was a good place to build a monastery

- discover how often monks attended services, take part in a typical service and investigate the building
- find out about the chapter meeting, including punishments following confessions/accusations
- discover what a tonsure is and how often monks bathed
- investigate the Lavatorium in the cloister
- consider what the monks could eat
- discuss why Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries and what became of the monks

Sensory Trail (1½–2 hours; 1 class per session)

We explore the Abbey and surroundings where you:

- collect natural colours to make your own rainbow
- listen in silence – make a sound map
- use your sense of touch to describe various materials – stone, wood, metal, plants
- feel and smell the plants in the herb garden

Under the Bridges (2 hours)

Use your map-reading skills and our photos around the river valley and the abbey ruins to assess the primary evidence about the use of water by the monks.

Students will work in pairs or threes sharing a trail pack, in which numbered pictures correspond to map numbers. On the cards, instructions and questions are to encourage thought and discussion. Extracts from various sources provide evidence, information and an explanation or insight into monastic life.

Handling Session (45 mins, complementary to A Day in the Life of a Monk)

Talk about and handle real pieces of medieval pots, jugs and tiles from our site.

Art Workshops

Spend a whole day with us at one of our popular art workshops.

We visit and draw inspiration from various parts of the estate – the abbey ruins and stone carvings, the natural beauty of the Water Garden, and the wonderful colours and craftsmanship inside St Mary's Church.

On return to the workshop at our Education Centre, Swanley Grange, we help the children create works of art to take back to school – the same day, if possible.

We can accommodate around 30 children at each workshop. [Contact us](#) for further details.

Sculpting

Use inspiration from our site to create individual 3D breeze-block (thermalite) carvings, using a small mallet, chisels and files. Working in 3D is a challenge, but provides an excellent learning experience and is very absorbing.

We limit this activity to Years 5 and 6, and can accommodate one class. Available in summer term by arrangement.

Making Mosaics

Use inspiration from sketches of the designs and colours in St Mary's Church to create mosaics to take back to school. The children work in small groups, using mosaic tiles in a fantastic range of colours. The mosaics are excellent for indoor display.

The workshops are usually available in November and are suitable for one class of Key Stage 2 pupils.

Felt-Making

Spend the morning sketching around Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal. After lunch, use your morning's sketches to inspire the design of your felt hanging. We use merino wool tops, which are in a glorious range of colours and unbelievably soft. Children usually work on a larger group piece as well as a smaller individual one.

The workshops are held in the spring term and are suitable for one class of KS2 pupils.

Tudor Theatre

North Country Theatre and Fountains Abbey have worked together for over 10 years to produce participatory theatre of the highest quality.

Nobby Dimon, theatre director, works with actor-teachers to involve the children from the very first moment.

The day continues as 'a fast roller-coaster of drama, history, maths and religious and social education. The actors constantly drop in and out of role, happily breaking off to discuss a history point, question a child, or start a debate. It twists and turns in true Shakespearian style, delighting the children at every scene.' (Times Education Supplement, May 2005).

The children are involved in role-play throughout and their decisions play a part in the final outcome. Don't miss it!

These are all day activities, running from 10am to 2.30pm, and cost around £7.00 per child.

Lady Caroline's Cargo!

A drama workshop where children and actors use Fountains Hall and the Mill to investigate the lives of the mistress of the estate, the miller, the seafaring adventurer and the steward and how they were affected by the Age of Discovery. All with a Shakespearean whiff of intrigue!

Suitable for a maximum of 50 KS2 children per day, these workshops run each year, usually in March. Please call us on 01765 643167 to check dates and prices.

Monastery and Monarch

As monks, and as Henry VIII's courtiers, the children and actors bring alive the events which led to the Dissolution of the Monasteries.

Suitable for a maximum of 60 KS2 children per day, these workshops run each year, usually in September. Please call us on 01765 643167 to check dates and prices.

Key Stage 3

A Day in the Life of a Monk (2 hours)

Don monks' robes to investigate the medieval monks' way of life through role play and discussion. With our Abbot, you will:

- consider entering the monastery as novice Cistercian monks
- think about why it was a good place to build a monastery
- discover how often monks attended services, take part in a typical service and investigate the building
- find out about the chapter meeting, including punishments following confessions/accusations
- discover what a tonsure is and how often monks bathed
- investigate the Lavatorium in the cloister
- consider what the monks could eat
- discuss why Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries and what became of the monks

Under the Bridges (2 hours)

Use your map-reading skills and our photos around the river valley and the abbey ruins to assess the primary evidence about the use of water by the monks.

Students will work in pairs or threes sharing a trail pack, in which numbered pictures correspond to map numbers. On the cards, instructions and questions are to encourage thought and discussion. Extracts from various sources provide evidence, information and an explanation or insight into monastic life.

Key Stage 4+

Customer Care

- Suitable for all students studying Customer Care as part of their course
- Takes place on site
- Lasts approximately 4 hours, including lunch break
- Photocopiable handouts and suggested preparatory tasks are provided

The course starts with a session giving an insight into the 'Focus on Customers' training which the National Trust provides for its staff and volunteers. Techniques such as direct teaching, role play, group tasks and brainstorming are used.

The students are then given a task to carry out on the property requiring them to examine the range and quality of customer service provision.

Later, the practical task is reviewed and we look at how customer care is monitored. Examples of evaluation and monitoring used at the property are included in the teacher pack.

Bespoke sessions

We can provide bespoke sessions to contribute to studies in various areas of the curriculum for Key Stage 4 and beyond. Here are two case studies.

GCSE in Applied Business Unit 1: Investigating Business

Ripon College compared and contrasted us with another local business – a bank.

Using the Assessment Evidence outline (supplied by the teacher), a talk and supporting resource pack were given to the students. The pack included pointers to where and how they could access further information to reach Level 3.

HND in Travel and Tourism Management Unit: Heritage Management

For the Department of Management, Hospitality and Leisure Studies at Bradford College, we delivered a site tour with discussion related to requested specifics on Heritage Interpretation at Fountains Abbey. A supporting pack was prepared for the students. The tutor was delighted with the content of both the talk and the pack, and appreciated the flexibility we were able to bring to the session.