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a place for everyone

# J M Barrie's Birthplace

## Teacher's information



J M Barrie, writer and creator of *Peter Pan*, was born at 9 Brechin Road, Kirriemuir in 1860. He lived there until he was 10 years old. Barrie eventually settled in London where he became a successful playwright. The most famous of his works has always been his children's story of the magical Peter Pan.

The upper floors of the House are furnished as they may have been when Barrie lived there (he was one of 10 children), in mid-Victorian times. Downstairs, is some Barrie memorabilia while, in the adjacent house, there is an exhibition of Barrie's life and work. Displays include original manuscripts, a selection of Peter Pan costumes - and don't miss 'the most uncomfortable seat in the whole of (London) city'! The outside wash-house, said by Barrie to be his first theatre, may also be the original 'Wendy House'. Barrie invented the name of Wendy for his story of *Peter Pan*.

In 1930, Barrie presented a cricket pavilion and Camera Obscura to the town. The Camera Obscura is one of only 3 in the country and provides a fascinating experience for visitors. (On a clear day it is possible to see over 70 miles away.) It is situated on Kirrie Hill where there is also a picnic area and children's play park.

Schools visiting Barrie's Birthplace can also book a visit to the Camera Obscura. This works well since both places can be seen easier in smaller groups (15–20 pupils). A class can be split in two – with one group at the House and one at the Camera Obscura, and then they swap round. Please note that the two places are about 2 miles apart - so your pupils will need to be taken by coach. On a fine day, the class could meet to picnic on Kirrie Hill at lunch-time.

### **A school visit offers opportunities for cross-curricular work and engaging with the Curriculum for Excellence:**

- A chance to see a Victorian home.
- A tour of the house where J. M. Barrie was born.
- A visit to the exhibition about Barrie's life and work.
- Pupils can see the wash-house which was Barrie's first 'theatre' and the original 'Wendy house', and relax in the garden.
- They may visit the amazing Camera Obscura (please book).

### **Resources for schools:**

- Peter Pan and Tinkerbell replica costumes (to view).
- There are books about Peter Pan or J. M. Barrie in the shop.

### **Planning your Visit**

- To book: please contact the House of Dun for a booking form (see below).
- Book well in advance to avoid disappointment.
- Maximum number: up to 30 pupils, with a ratio of 1 teacher/adult to 10 pupils.
- Access: We regret that the ground floor of the House and the garden only are accessible to wheelchair users.

**For more information, visit [www.nts.org.uk/Learn](http://www.nts.org.uk/Learn)**

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### Planning your Visit (continued):

- Toilets: There is one toilet within the garden; this is not fully accessible. There are also toilets in the public car park, about 150 metres from Barrie's Birthplace.
- Refreshments: There are no refreshments for sale but pupils are welcome to picnic in the garden. There is no wet weather area (though small groups might use the Workshop - please check with the property staff).
- Clothing: should be appropriate for outdoors, if walking to the Camera Obscura.
- The site has been risk assessed. Teachers should prepare their own RA for the visit.
- There is more information about planning a visit to a Trust site on the NTS Learn website:  
[www.nts.org.uk/Learn/schools\\_plan.php](http://www.nts.org.uk/Learn/schools_plan.php)
- For more information about Barrie's Birthplace, please go to our web pages:  
<http://www.nts.org.uk/Property/J-M-Barries-Birthplace/>

### Charges:

- Normal opening hours: No admission charge for schools with NTS educational membership (tours are teacher led).
- Non-members are welcome but there is an admission charge of £3 per pupil.
- For schools visiting outwith normal opening hours (when tours will be led by NTS staff): there is a charge of £2 per pupil (to help cover costs), for schools with NTS educational membership. For schools without membership, the charge is £3 per pupil.
- Accompanying adults are admitted free.
- All class teachers are encouraged to make a free preparatory visit to the site.
- Membership: please apply at Barrie's Birthplace – or go to the NTS Learn website:  
[www.nts.org.uk/Learn/schools\\_membership.php](http://www.nts.org.uk/Learn/schools_membership.php)

### During your class visit:

- Tours of the House are teacher led during normal opening hours (NTS staff member will be on site). Tours are led by NTS staff when the House has been opened especially for a school visit.
- If visiting Barrie's Birthplace only, the class should be split into 3 groups; each group must be accompanied by a teacher/school helper. The visit will last up to 1 hour (depending on your pupils' requirements).
- If booking both Barrie's Birthplace and the Camera Obscura, your class should be split into two groups. One group will visit one place and the second, the other – they then swap round. You will need 2 teacher/adult helpers per group, for a class of 30 pupils (15 pupils per group). Please allow up to 2.5 hours for the whole visit. Teachers are responsible for pupils and their behaviour.
- Photos cannot be taken within the House – but can be taken in the wash-house and garden.
- Coats and bags can be left in the Workshop area.
- There is a small shop – pupils are welcome to visit in small groups and with teacher supervision.
- On arrival, please report to the reception desk in the House.

### Getting to J. M. Barrie's Birthplace:

- The Birthplace is within Kirriemuir, 6 miles from Forfar
- Address: J M Barrie's Birthplace, 9 Brechin Road, Kirriemuir, Angus DD8 4BX  
Telephone : 0844 493 2142
- When booking, please check arrangements for your coach or minibus

### For more information and a booking form, please contact the property manager based at the House of Dun:

Property Manager, House Of Dun & Montrose Basin Nature Reserve, Montrose, Angus DD10 9LQ  
Telephone: 0844 493 2144 Email: [houseofdun@nts.org.uk](mailto:houseofdun@nts.org.uk)