



NATIONAL
TRUST *for*
SCOTLAND

What's on for schools

ROBERT BURNS
BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM



Robert Burns
Birthplace Museum

nts.org.uk/learning





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Introduction

Visiting Robert Burns Birthplace Museum with your class is an exciting opportunity to explore local and national heritage by recreating the life of the Burns family in their actual 18th-century cottage. We prioritise authentic, experiential learning which the children will not forget!

Interactive workshops full of fun and laughter mean history is taken 'off the page' and put into a meaningful and memorable context. Whether you're exploring objects, costume, dramatic scenarios, Burns's poetry or a love of nature, the sessions will ignite a passion for history and its relevance to everyday life.

As well as the museum space, the site offers many amazing examples of built heritage: Burns Cottage, Alloway Auld Kirk, Burns Monument and the Brig o' Doon. An attractive walkway – the Poet's Path – links the museum and cottage. And no visit to our museum would be complete without spending time in our Burns and Scots language themed play park.



Planning your visit

Teaching and learning at Robert Burns Birthplace Museum is about discovering the life of Burns and how it has impacted on people around the world. Through practical workshops, we aim to bring history to life.



Our workshops offer creative, engaging ways in which to explore poetry. Our sessions are both proactive and reactive, so if you wish them to be tailored to suit the needs of your class, this can be discussed at booking stage. Prominent themes include Literacy, Scots Language, Social Studies, Outdoor Learning and Health and Wellbeing. Staff are experienced at adapting lessons to suit different audiences. Each session will be unique to your class.

Teachers are given a new toolkit to extend the learning beyond the visit and build on a cross-curricular, sustainable way to investigate Robert Burns, Scots language and life in the 18th century.

Where to find us

Robert Burns Birthplace Museum
Murdoch's Lone
Alloway
Ayr
KA7 4PQ



Charges

RBBM-led session and tour | 90-min session | 1 hour guided site tour | £6 per head

RBBM-led session | 90-min session | £5 per head

Self-led | £3 per head

A 1 hour guided site tour can be added to your self-led visit for an additional £1 per head.

All pre-booked visits can request full access to the RBBM site & lunch facilities.

Accompanying adults are free of charge in the following ratios:

1 adult : 5 pupils for Primary 1–2

1 adult : 8 pupils for Primary 3–7

1 adult : 10 pupils for Secondary Schools



Practicalities

Booking

All visits must be booked in advance, including self-led visits to the site.

Once you have booked, we will send a confirmation email with further pre-visit information, including an itinerary. Please ensure you have read this before your visit.

How to book

Complete our booking form which can be found here: nts.org.uk/schoolform and email the completed document to Burns@nts.org.uk

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss anything further before booking, contact us on **01292 443700**.

Travel subsidy

Thanks to generous support from the Scottish Government, we're able to offer a travel subsidy to Scottish schools wishing to visit Robert Burns Birthplace Museum.

The subsidy covers **75%** of transport costs up to a maximum of **£300**. Funding is limited and priority will be given to schools in areas with high indicators of multiple deprivation.

We will provide more information, including an application form, once you book.

Cancellations and amendments

Please let us know as far in advance as possible if there are significant changes to your anticipated pupil numbers, arrival time or if you will no longer be able to attend.

Parking

If you are arriving by coach, follow the signs to the car park. Please note that some pupils may start their visit at the museum, and some at Burns Cottage – depending on which session you have booked. It is important you read your itinerary thoroughly to ensure you know where to drop off your group(s).

There is ample coach parking at both the museum and the cottage.



Inclement weather

Your sessions take place indoors. If requested, they can feature a guided walk. These walks are conducted across the broader site, so please ensure that your pupils bring weather-appropriate clothing.

Toilets

There are toilets, including accessible toilets, in the museum and at Burns Cottage.

Where you can eat

Lunch spaces are available for the eating of packed lunches, if requested, when you pre-book a session (RBBM-led or self-led).

Visiting the shop

Pupils are welcome to visit our shop – we ask that they are supervised whilst doing so.

Accessibility



Dedicated accessible parking bays are available at the nearest parking points to the museum and the entrance to Burns Cottage.



Wheelchairs can be borrowed from the museum and the entrance kiosk at Burns Cottage.



Accessible toilets can be found in the museum and at Burns Cottage.



The museum is all on one level and is wheelchair accessible throughout. The Poet's Path, which runs between the museum and Burns Cottage, is wheelchair accessible, as is Burns Cottage.

Find out more in our accessibility guide, which includes images and more detailed information, at nts.org.uk/accessibility

Sessions can be adapted to meet the needs of your group. Please contact us to see how we can best meet your needs.

We welcome Special Schools and ASN units and are developing new resources to support your visit. Please contact us for further information.

Resources

At Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, we have developed Curriculum for Excellence-linked resources for teachers and pupils, from Early to Third Level, depending on which workshop you choose.

These include discussion ideas to prepare your class for their visit to the museum and cottage. These planners also give a summary of the school workshop you have booked and expectations around it. Follow-up lesson plans provide opportunities to extend the teaching and learning based on focal points from the in-house workshops.

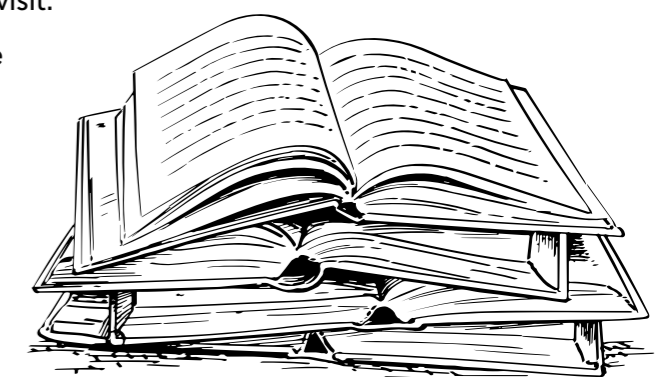
Our cross-curricular approach allows for flexibility. Please adapt the lessons to best suit your young learners.

Teacher Planners can be found here: nts.org.uk/teacherplanners

Sustainability

Sustainability is a key tenet of the National Trust for Scotland. Our sessions are designed to reuse materials and avoid waste. We provide recycling facilities for you during your visit.

Please think about environmental concerns before printing our resources, and consider recycling them appropriately.



Primary school sessions

Property-based sessions

Tim'rous Beasties

Using storytelling, drama and Scots language, children will explore the museum dressed as Burns's wee tim'rous beasties to learn more about his much-loved poem 'To a Mouse'.

This workshop is ideal for building movement and language skills through imagination and performance.

Suitable for Early Years & P1

90 mins

Curriculum for Excellence:

LIT 0-01c | LIT 0-11a | LIT 0-20a | EXA 0-14a



When Burns was a Bairn

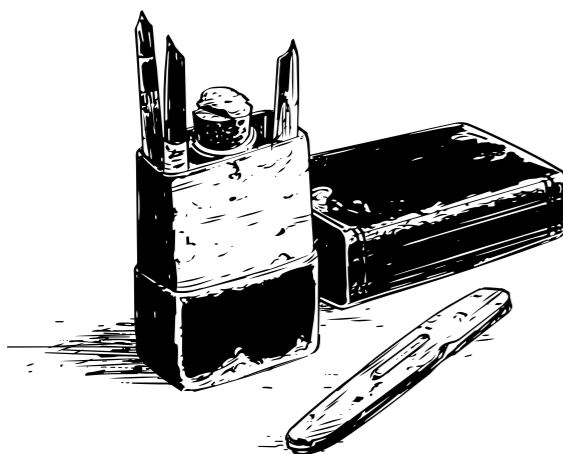
Pupils will explore Burns Cottage to discover more about the Bard and his family through the objects they used and the chores they carried out. They'll even compete to make butter using historical methods. This session is an interesting fusion of history and technology.

Suitable for P2–P4

90 mins

Curriculum for Excellence:

SOC 1-02a | MLAN 1-05a | LIT 1-09a



Being Burns

Wearing traditional 18th-century costume, pupils will explore Burns Cottage to understand how Robert Burns became a poetic genius in a time before compulsory education. This workshop develops pupils' Scots language skills and brings history to life using re-enactment and drama in an authentic historical setting.

Suitable for P5–P7

90 mins

Curriculum for Excellence:

SOC 2-04a | EXA 2-13a | LIT 2-07a

Self-led visit

Your class can enjoy a visit to Robert Burns Birthplace Museum led by you. We'll provide resources beforehand to help you prepare for the visit. Explore the museum, Burns Cottage, Alloway Auld Kirk, Burns Monument and the Brig o' Doon. Undertake outdoor learning by visiting our attractive walkway – the Poet's Path – and our Burns and Scots language themed play park.

This is a cross-curricular learning experience that you can adapt for your own class.

Add an optional guided tour to your self-led visit

Suitable for P1–S6

Flexible duration

Curriculum for Excellence:

SOC 2-02a | SOC 2-06a | LIT 2-07a



Outdoor learning

Wee Tweets

Through exploring Burns's poetry and his relationship with nature, pupils will learn about species of birds and Scots language names for them. They will become birdwatchers, using binoculars and identification charts.

The Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC) will be discussed, familiarising pupils with respecting the interests of others, caring for the environment and taking responsibility for their own actions.

'Leave only footprints, take only photographs!'

Available April–June

Suitable for P5–P6

90 mins

Curriculum for Excellence:

SCN 2-01a | MLAN 2-11c | HWB 2-19



Woodcraft Weans



Using Burns's nature poetry, pupils will examine how important an outdoor education is today. We'll explore mental health and wellbeing benefits, as well as learning skills for life including shelter building, wood whittling and fire lighting.

Pupils will discuss the importance of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC), ie respecting the interests of others, caring for the environment and taking responsibility for their own actions.

'Leave only footprints, take only photographs!'

Available April–June

Suitable for P6–P7

90 mins

Curriculum for Excellence:

HWB 2-19a | TCH 2-10 | ENG 2-19a

Secondary school sessions

Property-based sessions

Tam o' Shanter

Experience the story of Tam o' Shanter through film and then bring the story into the 21st century through dramatic interpretation and analysis of the characters. This workshop will develop dramatic, analytical and creative writing skills.

Suitable for S1–S6

90 mins

Curriculum for Excellence:

MLAN 3-05a | LIT 3-07a | SOC 3-16a | Supports Higher and Advanced Higher



Self-led visit

Your class can enjoy a visit to Robert Burns Birthplace Museum led by you. We'll provide resources beforehand to help you prepare for the day. Explore the museum, Burns Cottage, Alloway Auld Kirk, Burns Monument and the Brig o' Doon. Undertake outdoor learning through visiting our Poet's Path and exploring our garden and park areas. This is a cross-curricular learning experience you can adapt for your own class.

Add an optional guided tour to your self-led visit

Suitable for P1–S6

Flexible duration

Curriculum for Excellence:

SOC 2-02a | SOC 2-06a | LIT 2-07a



Evaluation

We'd love you to share your experience of visiting with your class. Please complete our online survey after your visit: nts.org.uk/schoolsurvey

Visiting other Trust places

You can also visit other Trust places using the Scottish Government Travel Subsidy. Both places below have engaging, interactive sessions you can book for your class:



Culloden

Culloden Moor
Inverness
IV2 5EU

Email:

culloden@nts.org.uk



The Battle of Bannockburn

Glasgow Road
Whins of Milton
Stirling
FK7 0LJ

Email:

LearningAtBannockburn@nts.org.uk

Our 10-year strategy

From historic castles to natural landscapes, the special places in the National Trust for Scotland's care offer exciting opportunities to enhance learning and inspire exploration and engagement. Our 10-year strategy, launched in 2022, explains our vision to provide access and enjoyment of Scotland's nature, beauty and heritage for everyone. We are committed to being a leading provider of inspiring heritage visitor experiences, and a learning organisation championing skills to support conservation in Scotland.



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ason opening blossom,
reading leaf. 'Twas a
t for a Poetic heart.'

Miss Wilhemina Alexander, 18 November 1786

pouring their
hand, with
red regard.'

Alexander, 18 November 1786

Contention
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e the Center!!!

's Lodge, Tarbolton, 23 August 1787

oses, and
us book.'

ers, 12 December 1787

m.
my
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The subject is LIBERTY: you know,
my honored friend, how dear the theme is to

Robert Burns to Mrs Dunlop, 25 June 1794

'What my private sentiments
find out without an Inter

Robert Burns to Mrs Dunlop, 6 December 1792

'My heart was comple

'O, what a peacemak

Robert Burns to Robert Ainslie, 3 March 1788

'[He has] a
narrow lin
chain it



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