

Dear Teacher,

Thank you for your enquiry regarding a school visit to Port Lympne Reserve.

Port Lympne Reserve is home to over 700 animals! Including the largest cat species in the world - the Amur tiger, the fastest land mammal - the cheetah, the critically endangered black rhino and many more charismatic animals. With over 80 different species of rare and endangered animals we are the perfect place for your school’s adventure!

Working in conjunction with The Aspinall Foundation we have reintroduced a number of animals back out into the wild and protect their natural habitat, including western lowland gorillas, black rhinos, Javan gibbons, Javan langurs and many others. By visiting Port Lympne Reserve not only will you and your pupils be learning about these rare and endangered animals you will also be supporting the fantastic work of The Aspinall Foundation!

This school pack contains information about Port Lympne Reserve, our education sessions and our booking form. Our sessions are designed on a wide variety of topics fitting into curriculums across Key stages 1 -3. For older students we are able to offer a variety of bespoke sessions on request, subject to availability.

Port Lympne Reserve is open at 9:30am every day, except Christmas Day. Admission for school children, up to 15 years old is £8.00 per pupil and £9.00 for pupils aged 16 and over. We offer a one free teacher ticket per seven pupils to encourage supervision. Additional teachers or supervisors are £8.00 each.

Please do not hesitate to contact us on zoer@aspinallfoundation.org or 01303 264647. We will be delighted to help organise your visit or discuss any specific requirements for your group.

Please note prices shown are correct for 2017 and may be subject to change. Please check our website for current prices.

Yours sincerely,

**The Booking Office**



**Schools Booking Pack**

**2017**

# Information For Your Visit To Port Lympne Reserve

Preparation For Your Visit

**Pre visit tickets:**

We are pleased to offer two free familiarisation tickets for teachers to visit the park and pre plan the best routes to take and complete risk assessments.

All we need to know are the names of the teachers and the date of visit, at least one week in advance. Please note we can only offer complimentary pre-visit tickets if you have already completed a booking form for your school group. We can also arrange for one of our Education Team to meet you to discuss your visit.

**Risk Assessment:**

We have completed our own comprehensive risk assessments to assist you with your visit. Risk assessments are available upon request and with your booking confirmation.

**What to wear:**

Port Lympne Reserve covers many acres of land, some of which is quite hilly. Sensible footwear for lots of walking and rucksacks for carrying packed lunches are advised. Children need to come to the park prepared for all weathers. Please note that covered areas are limited at the park.

**First Aid:**

We have qualified first aiders on site. If you require a first aider during your school visit please contact the nearest member of staff.

The administration of any medication is the responsibility of the group organisers. If anyone in your group does have severe allergies, please inform the park before your arrival so that the first aiders can be notified. Please also ensure that you are carrying all necessary medication for the child in question.

**Dietary Requirements**

Please let us know if your children or supervisors have any dietary requirements prior to your visit.

**Education Talks:**

If you have booked one of our fun and fact filled talks then please double check the location and time of the talk. To allow the talks to run smoothly we ask that you allow enough time to arrive five minutes before the start of the talk. If you are delayed them please let us know, and we will endeavour to accommodate any changes.

**Gift Shop:**

We do ask that teachers supervise pupils in our gift shop at all times. Numbers may need to be limited if you are attending in a large group. Our staff will be happy to assist in a accommodating your school group.

**Lunch Facilities:**

There are many picnic areas in the park are available on a first come first served basis. If you have any special requirements for lunch, or require a packed lunch please let us know and we’ll be delighted to arrange.

**Safari:**

Our trucks run on a tight schedule so we will pre-book a time for your group to fit in with your day. Please note that the truck will **not** stop at the Discovery Zone. It takes about 15 minutes from Gatehouse to the boarding point. If you are delayed please let us know so that we can rearrange the time.

**Teacher/ Pupil Ratio:**

As a guideline, we would advise a minimum of one teacher with every seven pupils, regardless of age. If you wish to have fewer teachers in your party, please let us know before your visit.

**Accessibility:**

Port Lympne Reserve is a combination of flat and hilly terrain. For those needing assistance, the park has an on-call minibus service for those having difficulties we can transport you to any area required. Please contact any member of staff if you require assistance and this will be arranged.

We have toilets in four different locations around the park (male/female/disabled/baby change). Our main entrance and both our cafés (Basecamp and Carnivore Territory) are wheelchair accessible. A number of our safari trucks also have a wheelchair lift should this be required please let us know.

Our full access statement can be found on our website.

<http://www.aspinallfoundation.org/port-lympne>

**Refunds:**

Please note that we are unable to refund unused pupil places below £25. Please also note that if your ratio of pupils to teachers changes, you may have to pay for extra teacher places.

**Invoicing:**

If you would like us to invoice your school please state this on the booking form. Invoices are issued after final headcount on the day of your visit.

### Your Day at Port Lympne

### Coaches: We have ample space for coaches in our visitor car park. Parking is free and coach drivers have complimentary access to the Reserve.

Supervision

You are offered free adult places to ensure that your school group has adequate supervision and we do not allow groups of unaccompanied children in the park. Therefore we ask that you ensure that all children / students are supervised by an adult at all times.

To assist in maintaining a safe and comfortable environment for all our visitors we ask that all pupils are effectively supervised at all times.

As well as the welfare of our visitors, we have the welfare of our animals to look after too. All of our animals are on carefully prepared and balanced diets. Please can you ensue that your group does not feed them as it could lead to the animals becoming ill.

As a conservation charity we also like to do our bit to look after and protect the environment so we do ask that all visitors put any litter in the bins provided around the park.

**Further Information:**

If you require any more information on any other issues regarding your visit to Port Lympne Reserve please contact the office on 01303 264647.

# Education Talks & Workshops

Add to your visit by booking fun and fact packed animal talks, hands on workshops, guided tours and even an overnight stay! Choose exciting activities including private safaris, dinosaur discovery sessions, archery, zorbing and more at Port Lympne and the thrilling Treetop and Animal Adventure Challenges at Howletts plus, discover what badges we offer for Scout and Guide groups and what we can offer in a goody bag.

**Monkey Mayhem Talk – 45 minutes – 30 students - £45**

Find out more about the fantastic range of primates housed at either Howletts or Port Lympne.

**Hungry Hunters Talk – 45 minutes – 30 students - £45**

Find out more about the amazing carnivores that call our parks home.

**Adaptations Workshop – 45 minutes – 15 students - £45**

Learn about different habitats and how various animals have adapted to live in their habitat. Once you’ve learnt all about habitats and adaptations, students can create their very own animal, adapted to their habitat of choice!

**Conservation Talk – 30 minutes – 30 students - £40**

This talk covers a variety of conservation topics including; the role of wildlife parks and discussing various methods of conservation. Find out how Howletts, Port Lympne and The Aspinall Foundation work together to try to prevent the extinction of wild animals and increase the population of many species both in captivity and in the wild.

**Habitats and Adaptations Talk – 30 minutes – 30 students - £40**

Animals have adapted to live in particular habitats. During this session we’ll look at some of the animals housed at our parks and students will discover how we adapt our methods to ensure their lives are as natural as possible.

**Leisure and Tourism Talk – 45 minutes – 30 students - £40**

Howletts and Port Lympne are visitor attractions dedicated to conservation. Your students will be able to examine some of the ways we combine our conservation projects with providing a fun day out, for over 450,000 visitors a year.

**Enclosure Talks – 45 minutes – 30 students - £45**

For more information about a specific species housed at our parks, we recommend our enclosure talks which take place at the animal enclosure of your choice. We suggest gorilla, rhino or tiger talks. Learn about their habitats in the wild and their diet and discover how we are helping to save these species.

**Enrichment Workshop – 30 minutes – 15 students - £40**

This session aims to teach students about the different ways that Howletts and Port Lympne use enrichment as part of the day to day care of many species in the park. Have a go at creating your own enrichment for our gorillas, monkeys or small cats. (Schools are welcome to request a specific species, subject to availability).

**Guided Tours – 30 students – 30 minutes - £35, 1 hour - £50 or 2 hours - £75**

For more information on the animals housed at Port Lympne, why not book a guided tour? One of our education presenters will guide you around areas of your choice, giving you in depth information on the individual animals, how we care for them and how we are helping to conserve the species.

**EXCLUSIVE TO PORT LYMPNE**

**Dinosaur Guided Tour – 60 minutes – 30 students - £60**

**Enhance Your Visit to Port Lympne Reserve**

**Goody Bags**

If you want to spend more time around the park, but still want your pupils to have something to remember their day, we offer goody bags that can be collected from the Gatehouse..

We currently offer goody bags at set prices of £2.50, £3.00 and £5.00. If you wish to discuss other options then please contact us. Depending on age of the pupils, price and availability the goody bags may contain items such as: notebooks, pencils, pens, masks, key rings, magnets and small toys. We are able to theme goody bags to particular animals if requested. If you wish to choose the products for the goody bags then please contact us, or pop in and see one of our Retail Team during your pre visit.

Example Goody Bags\*

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*£3.00 £5.00*

*\*Please note that items may vary*

**Pinewood**

Make your visit to Port Lympne Reserve totally wild by including an exciting overnight stay at our Pinewood Camping Pods. A unique getaway with nature right on the doorstep, set close to our Amur tigers, wolves and painted dogs, you’ll get the real feeling of camping in the wild!

Pinewood pods are heated and have two single beds with comfy mattresses and a double futon. The site also has a communal room with pool table, separate shower and WC facilities and a large fire pit – perfect for toasting marshmallows. You can choose a self catering option, enjoy a tasty selection of home cooked meals in the Club House or cook up a BBQ feast with one of our BBQ packs.

For more information give our Short Breaks team a call on **01303 234112** or email them on **shortbreaks@aspinallfoundation.org**

**Testimonials**

“Just to say we had a fantastic day at the zoo, went home with exhausted but very happy children, who declared it was the best school trip they’d ever had.  Andrew and Lucy did a splendid job with the children.  Lucy handled them admirably, whilst Andrew’s knowledge was excellent.  Good use of iPad to show pictures in support of fossil handling and info.  They went above and beyond to help the children enjoy and get the most from the experience, with some great learning!  The fossil dig was very well organised to enable all to be successful by the end.  Also, felt they did very well with such young children (5-6 yr olds) as this isn’t easy for all adults!  In addition, your 2 rangers were very helpful with general questions and ideas.”

**Lorenden Prep School**

**April 2016**

“Just to let you know we had a fantastic day. The children loved everything -even the walk from the bottom to the top! They were particularly excited by the dinosaurs.”

**Sellindge Primary School**

**June 2016**