

Dear Teacher,

Thank you for your enquiry regarding a school visit to Howletts Wild Animal Park.

Howletts Wild Animal Park is home to over 450 animals! Including the largest land mammal in the world – the African elephant, the largest ape species – the gorilla, the critically endangered black rhino and many more charismatic animals. With over 50 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 into the wild and protect their natural habitat, including Western lowland gorillas, black rhinos, Javan gibbons, Javan langurs and many others. By visiting Howletts, 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 pack contains information about Howletts Wild Animal Park and our Howlectures. Our sessions are designed on a wide variety of topics fitting into curriculums across the key stages. To book your trip, please complete a booking form which will be provided on request or can be downloaded from our website; [www.aspinallfoundation.org](http://www.aspinallfoundation.org)

Howletts Wild Animal Park is open at 9:30am every day, except Christmas Day. Admission for school children, **up to 15 years old is £9.00 per pupil** and **£10.00 for pupils aged 16 and over**. We offer a one free teacher ticket per five pupils to encourage supervision. Additional teachers or supervisors are **£9.00 each**.

Please do not hesitate to contact us on [zoer@aspinallfoundation.org](mailto: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 2020 and may be subject to change. Please check our website for current prices.

Yours sincerely,

**The Booking Office**

# PREPARATION

## **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 a member of our Ranger Team to meet you and 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**

Howletts Wild Animal Park covers many acres of land. 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.

## **Howlectures**

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, please let us know and we will endeavour to accommodate any changes.

## **Gift Shops**

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 accommodating your school group. Please let a member of the retail team know if you would like the pupils in your group to be prevented from purchasing confectionary.

## **Lunch Facilities**

There are many picnic areas in the park 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.

### **Treetop and Animal Adventure Challenges**

For an added adventure, at a discounted price, book your schools' Treetop or Animal Adventure Challenge. To allow the groups to run smoothly, we ask that you allow enough time to arrive five minutes before the start of the session. If you are delayed, please let us know and we will endeavour to accommodate any changes.

### **Teacher/ Pupil Ratio**

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

### **Accessibility**

Howletts is mostly flat terrain, though there are some gentle slopes. For those needing assistance, the park has wheelchairs and push chairs available to hire throughout the park, subject to availability. Please contact any member of staff if you require assistance.

We have toilets in four different locations around the park (male/female/disabled/baby change). Our main entrance and both our cafés (Deer Park Cafe and The Pavilion) are wheelchair accessible.

Our full access statement can be found on our website.

<http://www.aspinallfoundation.org/howletts#planyourvisit>

### **Refunds**

All fees are non refundable and non transferable.

### **Invoicing**

If you would like us to invoice your school, please state this on the booking form. **Please note that your invoice must be paid two weeks in advance.**



[www.aspinallfoundation.org/howletts](http://www.aspinallfoundation.org/howletts)

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# YOUR VISIT

## **Coaches**

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

## **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 ensure 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 Howletts Wild Animal Park please contact the office on 01303 264647.



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# HOWLECTURES

## **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.

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

Explore the different methods we use to enrich the lives of the animals at Howletts in this hands-on workshop. You'll have the opportunity to help our Rangers make some enrichment items, for either the gorillas or primates and then watch the animals enjoy the enrichment items you have created.

## **Gorilla Talk – 45 minutes – 30 students – £45**

Find out more about the gorillas housed at Howletts, the outstanding level of care they receive and The Aspinall Foundation's aim to return this species back to the wild.

## **Elephant Talk – 45 minutes – 30 students – £45**

Find out more about the elephants housed at Howletts, the outstanding level of care they receive and The Aspinall Foundation's work overseas aiming to prevent the extinction of this amazing species.

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

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

## **Leisure and Tourism Talk – 30 minutes – 30 students – £40**

Howletts Wild Animal Park and Port Lympne Hotel & Reserve 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.

## **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 the habitat of their choice!

## **Guided Tours – 30 minutes – 30 students – £40 / 60 minutes – 30 students – £60**

For more information on the animals housed at Howletts, why not book a guided tour? One of our Rangers will guide you around the 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.



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# ENHANCE YOUR VISIT

## 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. These can either be collected by a supervising adult to be distributed to the pupils, or if you would like the pupils to experience purchasing items, we can arrange for the goody bags to be purchased by each individual in your group.

We currently offer goody bags at a set price of **£3.00**. The £3 Goody bag will contain a TAF notebook, pencil, pen and rubber. If you wish to see the products for the goody bags then please pop in and see one of our retail team members during your pre visit.

## Pinewood

Extend your visit by including an exciting overnight stay in the Pinewood Camping Pods at our sister park; **Port Lympne Hotel & Reserve** near Hythe. A unique getaway with nature right on the doorstep, set close to our Amur tigers and Barbary lions, 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](mailto:shortbreaks@aspinallfoundation.org)



[www.aspinallfoundation.org/howletts](http://www.aspinallfoundation.org/howletts)

[@howlettpark](https://www.instagram.com/howlettpark)

# TESTIMONIALS

“I just wanted to email and say thank you, to you and the team, for what was a fantastic day! The pupils loved it and really appreciate the time and effort that went into supporting us.”

**The Hundred of Hoo Academy**  
**April 2018**

“A big thank you to Zoe for her efficiency in answering emails and all my questions, and to Emily and Sam for preparing an excellent presentation for the children that covered brilliantly all the points we wanted in an informative and entertaining way. Sam delivered the talk at just the right level and pace and had a very good manner with the children.”

**Barham CE Primary**  
**March 2018**

“Just a quick line to say how much the children enjoyed our school visit to Howletts last week. Everything went smoothly and the weather was perfect, with lots of animals out and about.”

**ANON.**  
**March 2018**

“The students found [the Howlecture] very beneficial and the information you provided them was incredibly useful.”

**Writtle College**  
**April 2016**

“Today we brought our Year 5 and Year 6 children to Howletts. I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to all of the staff on site - all of the keepers that we met were extremely welcoming and went out of their way to answer questions and talk to the children about their animals. They didn't even need to be asked but volunteered information and invited questions. They clearly have a passion for conservation and their animals which they shared with us.

All in all an excellent school trip.”

**Molehill Primary School**  
**February 2016**



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