

Early years & Primary



Photo by Stephen Staples



LONDON
Wetland
CENTRE

MAYOR OF LONDON

Visiting WWT London Wetland Centre

WWT London is one of nine centres operated by the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), the only UK charity dedicated solely to wetland conservation for wildlife and people.

At WWT London you will find:

- up-close experiences with wildlife and the natural environment
- over 100 acres of wild UK wetlands such as ponds and reedbeds
- over 180 species of bird as well as numerous species of plant, amphibian, reptile, dragonfly, mammal, butterfly and moth
- 14 'World Wetland' habitats with globally threatened wildfowl
- six wildlife hides and pond dipping areas
- a viewing observatory offering spectacular views of wild birds
- 'Explore,' a wetland-themed playground for primary school pupils
- an indoor discovery centre with interactive interpretation and games and an 80-seater theatre showing a 15 minute film 'Planet Water'

The wildlife on site is varied and plentiful all year and our hides and indoor interpretation offer shelter from the weather if necessary.

Free visits for state schools

Thanks to sponsorship by the Mayor of London, pupils visiting from Greater London state schools can explore the wealth of London's wildlife in safe, spectacular surroundings – **absolutely free**. The schools' programme is also generously supported by The Berkeley Group.

We also offer **reduced rates** for independent schools and other groups such as Scouts, Brownies or Sunday Schools booking an educational visit.

Booking your visit (new booking process for 2010)

Advance booking is essential for all groups.

Telephone **020 8409 4400** to make an initial enquiry and arrange your booking. The Education Department Office is staffed Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

Bookings open for the Autumn Term on 1 July, for the Spring Term on 1 September and for the Summer Term on 1 December.

The Booking Process

- Please consider suitable dates you would like to visit before you call
- Choose a Learning Session from those listed on pages 3 & 4
- Book a 30 minute session in 'Explore' for primary groups
- Please mention any specific learning requirements for your group
- Please give an indication of your arrival time

Extra things to consider for your booking

- pre-book free binocular hire (subject to availability).
N.B. Credit card details will be taken on arrival as a 'deposit' against damage/loss
- order copies of our free bird, plant or minibeast spotter sheets
- free teacher previews can be booked to help plan your visit (details p. 4)

Once you have made a booking by phone it will be processed and a 'Booking Confirmation' email will be sent to you. The confirmation needs to be printed and brought with you on the day of your visit to assist your progress through our Admissions desk.

If any details of your booking change please advise us as soon as possible.



Photo by WWT



Photo by Jerome Favre



Photo by Martin Senior

Choose a learning session

If you are booking a learning session, choose one of the titles from those listed below, which are specifically tailored to each key stage, or build your own session, full details below.

Sessions can accommodate between 15 to 30 pupils per group and are scheduled during term time at 10.30, 11.30, 12.30 or 1.30.

Special needs

We are experienced at tailoring sessions for pupils with special needs. Please discuss your requirements when booking. For SEN groups the 15 pupil minimum group size does not apply.

Build your own session (up to 50 minutes)

We can devise a special session to fit in with your area of study. We are happy to create science, citizenship, english, art, local history and drama workshops to suit your class. Please call to discuss your requirements with one of our teachers.

Learning session topics

Early years (30 minute sessions)

Baby watch

An interactive story explaining how ducklings grow, in the egg and after they've hatched. Plus an exciting opportunity to meet some real life ducklings! (session available seasonally, March - July only)

Great pond safari

Pond dipping with nets into safe, raised ponds to discover some of the exciting creatures that live in and around our pond.

Key stage 1 (50 minute sessions)

Great pond safari

Use nets to catch a variety of minibeasts and find out about the special animals and plants that make their home in and around our pond habitats.

Minibeast safari

Discover some of the amazing minibeasts that live at the Wetland Centre and in your local environment. Get an exciting close-up view with a magnifier. Plus, discover why minibeasts are so important to humans.

Ducks, ducks, ducks

An interactive walk through our collection of endangered wildfowl to learn all about ducks including their feet, feathers and how they feed.

Close encounters

An interactive exploration of the five senses linked to plants and animals found at the Centre, through the story of five ducklings. To prepare for this session you may find it useful to read the story (found on our website) with your pupils before you visit.



Photo by Jerome Favre



Photo by Peter Lapsley



Photo by David Cowmeadow

Choose a learning session (continued)

Key stage 2 (50 minute sessions)

Great pond safari

Use nets to catch some of the weird and wonderful animals living in our ponds. Pick one of the following options as the focus for your session:

- habitats and adaptations of pond creatures
- interdependence and food chains in a pond
- lifecycles in animals
- variation in pond plants and animals, using keys for identification

Minibeast safari

A hands-on investigation into minibeasts and where they live. Classify creatures into groups and finding out how they're important to humans.

My great adventure

Discover the hows and whys of migration, one of the greatest phenomena in the animal kingdom, through viewing our collection of endangered wildfowl. Observe wild migratory birds from one of our hides and learn about their journey to reach the UK.

Wetland heroes

Find out about the importance of wetlands and their conservation. Take on the exciting role of a WWT scientist and use fieldwork techniques to save a species. Observe and identify wild birds from one of our bird hides.

Growing and changing

Look at the life cycles of wildlife on site such as frogspawn, caterpillars, birds, eggs and plants.

Wetland soils: Ratty the water vole's burrow

Investigate the characteristics of different soil types in a session themed around the story of 'Wind in the Willows' and try to catch a glimpse of a water vole, the animal who inspired 'Ratty'.

Bees: the insect pollination story

Learn all about the lives of these extraordinary insects and spot the different types found on site. Have a go at bee communication and find out how they help humans. (session available seasonally, March-October only)

Flight

How do birds fly? Observe wild birds in their natural habitats, consider their different types of flight and the adaptations different bird species have which allow them to fly.

Free teacher preview visits

We strongly recommend that you make a **free preliminary visit** to the Centre to familiarise yourself with the layout of the site and the facilities available. A well planned visit will help you get the most out of your day. The preview must be booked **in advance** - call 020 8409 4400 or e-mail info.london@wwt.org.uk

Download our risk assessment at wwt.org.uk/london/schools



Photo by WWT



Photo by David Foker



Photo by David Cowmeadow

On the day

Arrival at WWT London Wetland Centre

When possible, one of our volunteers will meet you on arrival, they will give a brief orientation to the centre and help with the following:

- check in at admissions and payment (when necessary)
- collection of any pre-ordered binoculars or gift items
- collection of any pre-ordered spotter sheets
- storage of bags and coats in storage bins (at own risk)
- allocation of covered lunch areas in the event of bad weather

Learning sessions and 'Explore'

If you have booked a learning session or the adventure area 'Explore' please:

- ensure you keep to your allocated time slots (see confirmation)
- meet our teachers in the courtyard approximately **five minutes** before your allocated learning session start time
- allow **ten minutes** for your group to walk to 'Explore' from the courtyard as it is located at the far end of the site

Self-guided time

When you are not having a learning session or enjoying 'Explore', you are free to investigate the site on a self-guided basis. Feel free to produce your own worksheets or make use of our free learning resources in the downloads section at wwt.org.uk/london/schools

Behaviour code

We will make every effort to make your visit enjoyable. You can help by making sure pupils are adequately supervised at all times. Behaviour and discipline of pupils on site is the responsibility of teachers and adult supervisors. Please ensure all adults understand the aims of the visit and their role in supervising and supporting pupils in the group. Please agree with pupils on the following code of behaviour during your visit:

- observe signage and stay on footpaths
- treat wildlife kindly
- do not feed birds as they are on highly specialised diets
- keep quiet when in hides
- walk, don't run
- respect other visitors enjoying their visit
- dispose of litter in the bins provided
- stay with your group at all times
- please remember to wash your hands before eating your lunch

We reserve the right to eject from the site any groups breaking this code.

Visiting our shop

Pupils may visit our shop to purchase souvenirs and study aids.

Please supervise your pupils during their time in the shop and limit their numbers to ten pupils at a time.

Primary groups may be interested in pre-ordering items for collection on the day - see our pre-order details at wwt.org.uk/london/schools



Photo by Philip Briggs



Photo by John Day



Photo by Amanda Brown

Useful information

Admission

Pupils visiting with state funded schools in Greater London **visit free of charge.**

For all other schools and education groups the admission charge is **£4.90** per pupil up to age 11.

Learning and Explore sessions are free to all pre-booked school groups.

We require a **minimum group size of 15 pupils** to book a learning session with our staff. However, smaller groups of SEN pupils may book learning sessions (subject to availability).

Free adult : pupil ratios

Nursery & Reception
1 : 3

Primary (Year 1 - 6)
1 : 5

Essential carers for children with special needs also visit free of charge.

Adults in excess of the above ratios pay the reduced educational visit rate of **£8.45** per adult.

Payment should be made on arrival by credit/ debit card, cash or cheque (made payable to WWT).
Please note we do not invoice.

Travelling to WWT London

Underground

Hammersmith tube station (Piccadilly, District, Circle and Hammersmith & City lines).

Buses

From Hammersmith take the 283 bus (stand K) which terminates at the Wetland Centre. Buses 33, 72 and 209 stop nearby (alight at Red Lion Pub).

From Barnes Station take bus 33 or 72.

From Barnes Bridge take bus 209.

Trains

From Waterloo, Clapham Junction or Richmond alight at Barnes Station. The centre is ten minutes walk from Barnes Station and buses are frequent (see above).

Free coach parking

Coach spaces are available but need to be reserved in advance.

Free disabled parking

There are ten spaces available for Blue Badge holders.

Free travel

Schools in Greater London can apply for free public transport for their visit. For information and to apply online visit;

www.tfl.gov.uk/schoolparty

Cancellations

We need at least two weeks notice if you wish to cancel or alter your booking. Please give as much advance warning as possible of any cancellations so we can offer your learning sessions to other schools on our waiting list.

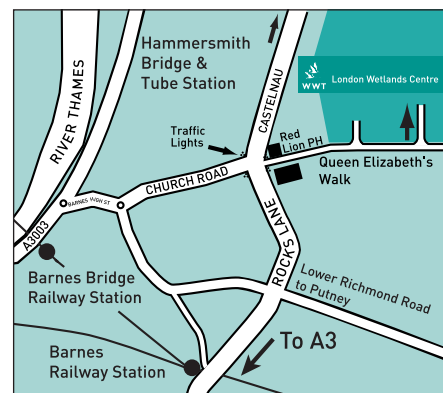


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WWT London Wetland Centre, Queen Elizabeth's Walk, London SW13 9WT

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) registered charity in England & Wales, no. 1030884 and Scotland, no. SC039410

T 020 8409 4400/ 4419

E info.london@wwt.org.uk

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