



ENGLISH HERITAGE  
EDUCATION

KS2

KS3

## DISCOVERY VISIT GUIDE

### Whitby Abbey

This guide provides teachers with everything they need to know about our expert-led Discovery Visit at Whitby Abbey. Your students will go on an interactive tour to discover what life was like for the people who lived and worked at Whitby Abbey, through object handling and imaginative role play.

GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR EDUCATION BOOKINGS TEAM:

☎ 0370 333 0606

✉ [bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk)

📌 [bookings.english-heritage.org.uk/education](https://bookings.english-heritage.org.uk/education)

Share your visit with us on Twitter @EHEducation



Step into England's story

# WELCOME

This guide for Whitby Abbey has been designed to support teachers and group leaders on a Discovery Visit at the site. We know that each class and study group is different, so we have collated all the information into one guide so you can prepare for your upcoming Discovery Visit.

You can **download a ready-made Risk Assessment** for this Discovery Visit from our **Schools page**. For practical information and activity ideas to help support a free self-led visit, **download the Teachers' Kit** from the same place.

We hope you enjoy your visit and that you find this Discovery Visit Guide useful. If you have any queries please don't hesitate to get in touch with a member of our team either via [bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk) or on 0370 333 0606.

English Heritage Learning Team

## ICON KEY

The icons below will help you quickly identify which key stage each Discovery Visit is for.



## SUMMARY

MONKS, MONASTERIES  
AND MEDIEVAL LIFE

KS2

KS3

**Recommended for**

KS2 and KS3 (History, Geography, Drama)

**Learning objectives**

**WHAT:** Understand when and why Whitby Abbey was founded here and how it has changed over time. Explore what life was like in the Anglian and Benedictine monasteries.

**HOW:** Participate in an interactive expert-led tour to explore the objects, buildings and people associated with the site and imagine what it was like to be a Benedictine monk.

**OUTCOME:** Identify the key features of Benedictine monastic life and make some comparisons with life in the earlier, Anglian monastery.

**Duration**

1 hour 15 minutes

**DISCOVERY VISITS AT ENGLISH HERITAGE**

Our Discovery Visits are award-winning, hands-on, expert-led, site-based activities, which combine inspiring experiences with quality learning outside the classroom. At just £100 a session at selected sites, these visits are delivered by our experts and have been designed to meet the needs of different groups across the key stages. Led by specialist educators, site staff and volunteers, with knowledge and expertise across the curriculum, these visits enable students of all ages and abilities to step into England's story.

**MONKS, MONASTERIES AND MEDIEVAL LIFE DISCOVERY VISIT**

What was life like for the people who lived and worked at Whitby Abbey? Find out on an interactive tour of the abbey, including object handling, dressing up like a Benedictine monk, and lessons on how to behave in the monastery. Examine replica objects, take part in hands-on activities and explore the architecture of the abbey to imagine what life was like on the headland hundreds of years ago.

Please note: this Discovery Visit takes place entirely outside so please check the weather forecast and ensure everyone dresses accordingly.

**BEFORE YOUR VISIT**

We recommend you do the following before the Discovery Visit:

- Use the Teachers' Kit (on our **Schools page**) to introduce students to Whitby Abbey's history and check their chronological understanding of the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods.
- Download the ready-made Risk Assessment for this Discovery Visit from the **Schools page**.



Students exploring Whitby Abbey.