SPOTTER'S GUIDE TO...

ROMAN FORTS

Top things to look out for on a visit to our Roman sites!

Tick the empty boxes as you go!

1 BATH-HOUSES

The Romans liked being clean. Every fort had a bath-house, each with cold baths, warm baths, and steam rooms to enjoy. The hottest room was located directly above the furnace. The floor was so hot that sandals needed to be worn!

See me at: **Chesters Roman Fort**

2 IMPOSING WALLS

A well defended fort needed strong and durable walls. They were usually in a rectangular 'playing card' shape and protected the people inside from any outside attacks. Small towers at each corner allowed guards to see who was approaching.

See me at: **Birdoswald Roman Fort**

3 PRINCIPIA

You can't keep track of hundreds of soldiers without being organised. The Principia (headquarters) was where the commanding officer made important decisions. It had a treasury to store the soldiers' money, and a shrine, as the Romans believed it was vital to keep the gods on their side.

See me at: **Chesters Roman Fort**

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4 GRANARIES

Granaries stored enough food for the entire fort's population. They had thick walls and raised floors to keep rodents away and to stop damp from spoiling the grain – or breakfast would be ruined! The soldiers also ate various meats such as pork, mutton and venison.

📍 See me at: **Ambleside Roman Fort**

5 GATEWAY

When the Romans landed at Richborough, they quickly built defensive ditches, ramparts and a gateway. These protected the invading fleet by exposing attackers to javelins and arrows hurled from above.

📍 See me at: **Richborough Roman Fort and Amphitheatre**

6 GATES

Gates controlled the entrances into forts, towns – and the empire. A fort had at least four gates, with large wooden doors that allowed visitors to enter – or keep enemies out. They were also heavily guarded. Hadrian's Wall had more than 80 gateway fortlets called milecastles.

📍 See me at: **Hardknott Roman Fort**

7 TOILETS

Did you know that Roman toilets had no privacy? Everyone sat side by side on a long bench with holes. The waste would fall into a sewer below. While this meant you could chat and gossip with the person next to you, it was probably very smelly.

📍 See me at: **Housesteads Roman Fort**

8 LIGHTHOUSE

Land-ho! The sea was an important way to travel during Roman times. The lighthouse at Dover Castle – also known as a Pharos – helped sailors to avoid the rocks at night and arrive safely in the harbour. By day, it was an important landmark visible in all directions.

📍 See me at: **Dover Castle**

LOL!
What was the Roman emperor's favourite food?
Caesar salad!

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