



Bring your school group to Exeter Cathedral

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Call today to start planning your visit.

Updated September 2018



Exeter
Cathedral



A warm welcome awaits

A towering gothic jewel in the Westcountry's crown

Exeter Cathedral is one of the oldest and most beautiful Cathedrals in England. Located in the centre of the city, there has been a Cathedral on the present site for nearly one thousand years.

The imposing towers of today's Cathedral date from the early 12th century. They form the majority of what remains of the Norman Cathedral which was replaced from 1270 -1340 by the beautiful Gothic building we see today with its famous West Front and elegant Nave. It is a rich resource of art, craft, symbolism and architectural detail. The Cathedral is, as it always has been, the jewel in the heritage crown of the county of Devon, as well as the seat of the Bishop and the Mother Church of the Diocese.

The building itself is a remarkable feat of engineering, design and craftsmanship. It has the longest stretch of unbroken Gothic vaulting in the world, stunning stained glass windows and an intricately carved image screen on the West Front.



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Themed Tours at a glance

Links to units of study

Tour	RE	History	English	Art	Drama	DT	Science	Maths
Explore Exeter Cathedral	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
A Special Place	✓	✓						
Signs and Symbols	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	
Art in the Cathedral	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
Pilgrimage	✓	✓			✓	✓		
Medieval Murder Mystery		✓	✓		✓			
Medieval Minds	✓	✓					✓	
The Exeter Book		✓	✓					

Suitability of tours for different age groups

Tour	EYFS	KS1	KS2	KS3	KS4
Explore Exeter Cathedral	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
A Special Place	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Signs and Symbols			✓	✓	✓
Art in the Cathedral	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pilgrimage			✓	✓	
Medieval Murder Mystery			✓	✓	✓
Medieval Minds				✓	✓
The Exeter Book			✓	✓	✓

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Planning your visit

Guided tours with Cathedral Entry (£2.50 per pupil)

We have a wide range of themed tours on offer for all schools who visit. Our trained guides will tell you about the life, history and community of the Cathedral, focusing on your chosen topic area which might include signs and symbols, faith in art, medieval history and architecture. They are the ideal way to make the most of your visit and they are devised to complement the curriculum. A guided tour lasts between 45 mins to 1 hour (except for Pilgrimage & Medieval Murder).

Workshops (£2.50 per pupil)

Give your pupils a memorable day by accompanying their guided tour with a workshop. Most sessions give the opportunity to make something that the pupils can then take home with them (e.g. brass rubbing or mini stained-glass design)

Roof and tower tours (£5/£3.50 per pupil)

Your visit to Exeter Cathedral isn't limited to the ground floor! Our guides can take you on a true behind-the-scenes tour of the upper levels of the Cathedral. Climb high above the Nave, walking the length of the famous ceiling. Visit the bellringing chamber and North tower before emerging onto the roof with its stunning views over the city.

Suitable for ages 8 and over, booking essential. A Roof tour is £5 per child and a Tower tour is £3.50 per child. Maximum group size is 15.

Lunch room (£30 per hour, max 40 pupils)

Lunch can be eaten on the Cathedral Green or in one of our indoor spaces, subject to availability. Booking essential.

Cathedral Entry only (£1.50 per pupil)

Activity booklets (50p) and quiz trails (20p) which enable children to explore the building in groups or individually are available for different key stages. Please phone to reserve these for your group, so that we have the relevant booklets available.





On the day of your visit

Arrival and departure

There is no coach parking at Exeter Cathedral, although arrangements can be made to accommodate a small minibus for disabled visitors. Please discuss this at the time of booking.

Drop off/pick up points are available in South Street (EX1 1DZ) opposite the cut/walkthrough to the Cathedral next to Connells Estate Agents available at any time.

Parking for coaches is available at Haven Banks Car Park, EX2 8DP.

Facilities

Toilet facilities are available in the Pearson Education Centre. There are also more toilets in the Cloister area. These are available to schools but we advise supervision as they are accessible to the general public. There is also a café in the Cloisters and a shop inside the Cathedral which groups are welcome to visit in small numbers under supervision.

Behaviour

Please remind students that they are entering a **place of worship**. Services take place daily and many people visit to pray and light candles privately. **Cathedral Green and the Cloister Garden are both burial grounds.** We ask that students behave respectfully inside and outside the Cathedral.

Please do not allow pupils to eat, drink, run or shout in the building. It might be worthwhile preparing children for the presence of tombs to make sure that they are comfortable with the idea of visiting a place where the dead are laid to rest.

Risks and Hazards

The Cathedral is around 900 years old and there are a number of potential hazards including worn, uneven paving and lit candles. In addition to this the Cathedral can get very busy with visiting public and schools particularly during Christmas, Easter and the Summer months. Accompanying adults must stay with pupils throughout their visit (including tours and workshops) and are responsible for their welfare and safety. During some tours we may invite a student to light a candle or taste unconsecrated wafer. Please let us know in advance if this may be a problem.

We recommend that all visitors keep a close eye on their belongings. The Dean and Chapter of Exeter cannot take responsibility for any lost items. In the case of an emergency please approach a member of staff or steward (identifiable by their red sashes).

We can provide a risk assessment which you can use to supplement your own. We recommend that teachers make a preliminary visit free of charge for the purpose of completing risk assessments.



Any other questions?

Do we need to book in advance?

All visits must be pre-booked to enable us to plan your visit and to ensure you arrive at a time when the Cathedral is not closed or busy.

Please fill in the booking form ([download online](#)) in the first instance. We will contact you with any queries and then to confirm your booking.

Tel: 01392 285983
Email: groupbookings@exeter-cathedral.org.uk

We encourage teachers to make a free preliminary visit. Please call or email us in advance to arrange access and to meet one of our team if possible.

How many students can I bring?

We recommend bringing a group of around 30 pupils for the best possible experience. We can accommodate larger groups but they will need to be divided into more manageable sized groups with different visiting/tour times throughout the day.

We expect a ratio of 1 teacher to every 10 pupils. Accompanying adults must stay with pupils throughout their visit (including tours and workshops) and are responsible for their welfare and safety. Disruptive behaviour will not be tolerated inside the Cathedral.

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How do we pay?

We can accept payment on arrival by cash or cheque or we can invoice you after the visit. Please let us know how you would like to pay when you make your booking.

Are there access issues?

We make every effort to ensure that all visitors enjoy their visit to Exeter Cathedral. Wheelchairs are able to access all areas on the ground floor of the Cathedral. Wheelchair access to the Library & Archive is via the Palace Gate entrance and entry to the Chapter House for wheelchair users is via the Cloister Garden.

What about food and drink?

The Cathedral Café can cater for groups of all sizes, offering everything from welcome drinks and Devon Cream Teas to light lunches, buffets and canapés.

Please note that food and drink must not be consumed in the Cathedral. Please ask us about booking a lunch room.

Can we take photographs?

Yes! Please feel free to take photos inside the Cathedral. We would also love to see your photos so please feel free to send them in or share on social media @ExeterCathedral.

Big LEGO® Build

We're rebuilding the Cathedral

The first bricks in our Big LEGO® Build were laid on Thursday 11th February 2016 at a special ceremony to launch the project, which aims to build a scale-model of Exeter Cathedral out of LEGO bricks.

The final model, made up of 300,000 LEGO bricks, will be an impressive 3.6m long, 2m wide and 1m high.

Everyone is invited to get involved in the build and for every £1 donated people can add a brick to the model. Exeter is one of just four Cathedrals in the country to have its own LEGO model.

A great team of volunteers will be on hand to assist you and tell you about the project and what we hope to achieve.

Money raised will help us preserve and conserve the fabric of Exeter Cathedral.

How to get involved

If you would like to visit the Lego Cathedral as part of your visit, please allow an extra 15 minutes on to your visit time.

Pupils and teachers may bring £1 with them on visits to purchase bricks.

Alternatively, a brick per pupil can be included in to the cost of your visit. Please ask for more information when booking.





How to find us

Travelling by coach

No parking is available at the Cathedral but a drop-off facility for coach drivers is available at South Street (EX1 1DZ), adjacent to Cathedral Green.

15 minutes from Junction 30 of the M5

50 minutes from Torquay

2 hours from Stonehenge

2 hours from Bath

Travelling by rail

Trains run regularly to Exeter St Davids (from London Paddington and London Waterloo, from Cornwall, journeys via the Midlands) and Exeter Central (from London Waterloo).

Both stations are within walking distance of the Cathedral, with Exeter Central being the closest.

For more information please visit www.nationalrail.co.uk or telephone 08457 484950

Travelling by bus

National Express and Megabus coaches use the bus and coach station at Paris Street in the centre of the city. The Cathedral is a 10 minute walk.

Explore Exeter Cathedral

Find out about Exeter Cathedral! This tour incorporates all the elements of the other themed tours. Pupils will hear about the history and architecture of the building, as well as finding out what goes on in the Cathedral as a place of worship. There'll be interesting stories, fun facts, and chance to spot symbols and animals around the building.

- Discover how old the Cathedral is, and learn about the times in which it was built.
- Explore the building and find out about the different spaces and what goes on there.
- Find out about what goes on in the Cathedral as a place of worship.
- Listen to true stories about things that have happened in the Cathedral over time.

Aims of the visit:

- To find out about the Cathedral as both a place of worship and a historic monument
- To get a sense of how the Cathedral is used in its many ways in our modern day



A guided tour around the Cathedral that explores the building as a place of worship. Using artefacts and costumes, pupils will discover why the Cathedral is a special place, and gain a deeper understanding of the Christian faith.

- Explore the special space, and find out about the special furniture used in churches.
- Find out about the special events and celebrations throughout the Church year.
- See and touch special objects used at the Cathedral, and find out what they are for.
- Light a candle and reflect upon the visit at the end of the tour.

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A Special Place

Signs and Symbols

A guided tour around the Cathedral pointing out a host of Christian symbols and explaining why they are used.

- Spot the visible symbols like the cross, the Chi-Rho, scallop shell & statues of the apostles.
- Light a candle and handle artefacts. What do different colours mean?
- Learn symbolic words and phrases.
- Explore the stained glass depictions.
- Try on our clergy or chorister robes.

Duration: 45 - 60 minutes.

Aims of the visit:

- To gain an understanding of the Christian faith
- To learn about the Cathedral as a place of worship
- To pose questions about religious beliefs, identify and understand symbols and how individuals may choose to express a belief.



Pupils will be met by a medieval pilgrim character who will tell them about the importance of a pilgrimage, why it was taken, by whom and what the journey entailed.

- Pupils will be suitably robed and find out which character they will portray; a knight, a king, a musician, a peasant etc.
- A procession around the Cathedral will take place as the group are lead to Bishop Lacy's tomb.
- An offering of gifts; music, prayers, speeches etc. are made.
- KS3 students can invent their own characters from information provided and have a more formal talk/discussion instead of a procession.

Duration: 90 minutes

Aims of the visit:

- To understand why pilgrimage was so important to medieval people and why it is a practice that still goes on today.
- To find out about Holy places and why they are important to people
- To learn about the Cathedral as a place of worship
- To reflect upon life as a 'journey'

Pilgrimage

The Exeter Book

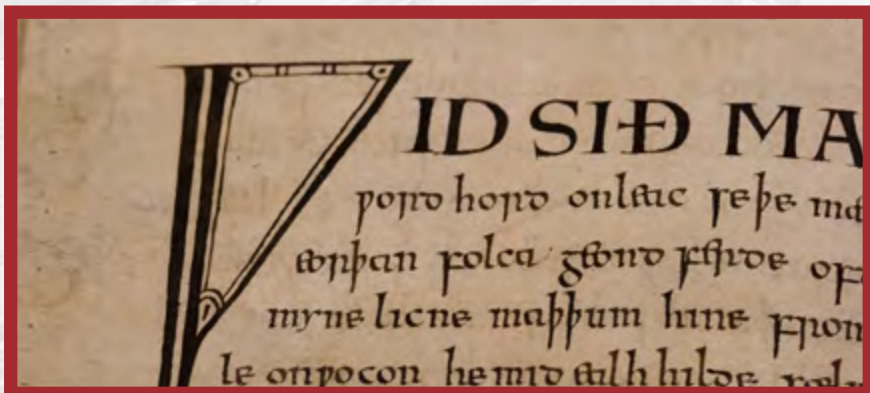
Find out about The Exeter Book - one of the great treasures in our library! Dating from the 10th century, the Exeter Book is a collection of Anglo-Saxon poems. The book was donated by Bishop Leofric to the Cathedral library in 1072.

- Discover more about the Exeter Book and what is inside it. See the Exeter Book for yourselves in the Library & Archives. Talk to the people who help to preserve it.
- Explore the Cathedral and find the Exeter Riddles - can you solve them? Pupils can create their own riddles as a group or individually
- Find out how parchment and ink was made back in the 10th century, and use a quill and ink to write a riddle down on 'parchment'.

Duration: 2 x 1.5 hour sessions (all day) The morning session involves a tour of the Cathedral, a hunt to find the Exeter Riddles, and a trip to the Library & Archives to see the Exeter Book. The afternoon session consists of a poetry workshop in which pupils will be able to create their own riddles and write it out using quill and ink on 'parchment'.

Aims of the visit:

- Aims of the visit:
- To discover one of the great treasures of Exeter Cathedral
- To find out about the role of Library & Archives



The tour will take you on a guided trail around the Cathedral where children and students will be encouraged to observe and respond to a variety of carvings, objects, paintings, patterns, symbols and designs.

- Explore how decorative art forms help Christians to pray and worship.
- Find out what is the relevance of the icon and how it is made.
- Look at the images depicted in the stained glass windows. How do they tell or story, how can we work out who made them or how old they are?
- Explore the furnishings such as the lectern, altar, pulpit, Bishops Throne, and tombs.

Duration 45-60 minutes

Aims of the visit:

- To be able to appreciate the many examples of art and design in the Cathedral through observation, immersion and response.
- We also aim to encourage a discussion on the value of art in a sacred place and its possible influence.

Art in the Cathedral

Medieval Murder Mystery

This is a Murder Mystery tour, where students will be called upon to question various 13th century characters in order to make reasoned judgements.

They will take part in a role-play of the precentor's murder in 1283. Students will hear the story behind the murder then set off to find the characters that played a part in the story.

They will meet and collect evidence from the defence and the prosecution. Edward 1 will help them to collate supporting statements and together make a decision on the fates of the accused.

Duration: 90 minutes

Aims of the visit:

- The role-play will help the students to gain an understanding of what medieval Exeter would have been like, the importance of the Cathedral to the local area and crime, justice and punishment during this era.
- To develop an understanding of medieval attitudes towards the clergy, political power, crime and punishment.
- To gather key information in order to make an informed judgement on the suspects presented.



Cathedrals were of huge importance to medieval society, where religion dominated the lives of all – be they rich or peasants. By exploring Exeter Cathedral, pupils will gain an insight into the society, economy and culture of the Medieval world.

- See original examples of medieval art and architecture, and find out the impact of the Black Death during the rebuilding of the Cathedral
- Learn about the struggle between Church and Crown, illustrated through the Becket Boss.
- Find out which Bishop meets a sticky end when he gets too involved with politics.

Aims of the visit:

- To develop an understanding of society, economy and culture during the Medieval period
- To discover what daily life would have been like in Medieval Exeter - for both the rich and the poor.
- To find out about the role of the Cathedral in Medieval Exeter

Medieval Minds