



BRADING ROMAN VILLA

Planning your visit to Brading Roman Villa

Thank you for your enquiry to visit Brading Roman Villa with an educational group. We hope you find the following information useful in planning your visit. If you would like to book an educational visit please read through this pack prior to booking. It contains information about the site, details of our current education provision and suggestions of how we can link to the National Curriculum. We look forward to hearing from you.

Setting the scene

Brading Roman Villa was initially built in 50AD and consisted of a few timber buildings. By 300AD the Villa at Brading had developed into a successful farm, comprising of the main Villa house and several farm buildings including barns, workshops and living quarters for those working on the farm. The main Villa house was built of stone and had fine mosaic floors and colourful painted walls. The Villa was probably owned by a relatively wealthy British or Romano-British family. The main house and buildings were in decline by 400AD and as the decades passed the complex was covered by soil and then cleared for agricultural use. The Villa was re-discovered and excavated in the 1880's.

What is here at Brading Roman Villa?

When you come to Brading Roman Villa today what you will see includes the remains of the main Villa house which is now undercover in the new exhibition centre. In addition to this are the outbuildings such as a well and a hypocaust which was once part of the farm workers buildings. The remains of the Villa house include some 12 rooms, 6 of which have surviving mosaic floors and many of the original stone walls. In the exhibition you will see some of the artefacts excavated from the site which tell the story of life at the Villa in Roman times. Objects such as eating and drinking vessels, jewellery and coins give us an insight into life in Britain in Roman times.

Provision for education groups

We have a wide range of options for educational groups. We can cater for a visit of one hour up to a whole day and develop an itinerary to suit your needs depending on the time you have. Your visit could consist of a guided tour with one of our trained education guides, activity sessions and free time to explore the exhibition and grounds.

Learning links

We encourage visits at all curriculum stages. This is what we offer for each Key Stage:

Early Years

A visit to Brading Roman Villa is a wonderful opportunity for investigating local history and finding out about people that lived in the past. We have a variety of hands-on activities for this age group including a book bag with artefacts and a hide and seek activity in the exhibition.

Key Stage 1 – History - Unit 2 'What were homes like a long time ago?'

What about a visit to Brading Roman Villa to look at evidence and compare our homes today to the homes of people 2000 years ago? We offer a hands-on session using the story of Metra the Villa cat to help re-create the Villa as a home.

Key Stage 2 – History - Unit 6A 'Why have people invaded and settled in Britain in the past?'

We are an excellent resource to support a visit for this unit. Pupils can find evidence for Roman settlement and occupation and explore everyday life in Roman times through examination of the site and artefacts found here. We can offer three types of hands-on activities including:

- Who Am I – an activity session with a focus on finding out who lived at the Villa. Children investigate real and replica artefacts, decide who they belonged to and what their role was in the house.
- Digging up the Past – an activity session where children become archaeologists and investigate life at the Villa using the evidence of the artefacts found there. Children excavate objects from a sand pit, identify and record them.
- Giant Mosaics - an activity session where children can re-create some of the mosaics found at the Villa. Children will make up a mosaic on a board by placing coloured tiles within grid to reveal a picture of a Brading mosaic.

Key Stage 3 – History - 'European Study before 1914'

A visit to Brading Roman Villa can support a study of the Roman Empire at Key Stage 3. This site and the artefacts found here provide a wealth of information about Britain during Roman occupation. We can offer two types of hands-on activities including:

- Archaeology as Evidence - an activity session where pupils work with real Roman artefacts to investigate how the Roman Empire influenced Britain. Pupils take on the role of archaeologists by examining artefacts from this Roman house. They record and discuss their findings. Great links to science as well as history!
- Geocaching - this activity session takes place in the grounds of the Villa. Teams of pupils are provided with a GPS (Global Positioning System) handset. The objective is to use the handset in order to find a number of hidden 'caches' (treasure) around the site. The caches are recorded and the findings discussed back at base. Great links to geography as well as history!
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Key Stage 4 –History - 'History Around Us' (Schools History Project coursework)

Have you thought of using Brading Roman Villa for your GCSE 'History Around Us' local history study? We can provide resources for the classroom as well as accommodate a visit linked to the exam specifications.

Further and Higher Education – We can help to support a visit for A-Level (and equivalent) History, Archaeology, Classics and Leisure and Tourism. The itinerary for your visit will be developed according to your focus. We can offer hands-on workshops, presentations and guided tours.

We are happy to tailor a visit to your needs so please discuss your requirements with us when you call.

Teacher resources and worksheets for pupils

'Roman Vectis' is a comprehensive teacher resource containing information about the Isle of Wight in Roman times as well as historical information specific to Brading Roman Villa and resources to use in the classroom before and after a visit. We also have a range of worksheets to support a visit to Brading Roman Villa. All of these can be downloaded from our website: www.bradingromanvilla.co.uk/education.html.

Free planning visits

We encourage all teachers to come for a FREE planning visit before their education visit. Please contact us to arrange a time for this. This planning visit will allow you to familiarise with the site and facilities here, meet the staff as well to complete your own risk assessment. We can help with your risk assessment by providing you with hazard information guidelines (as recommended by LEA's and DfES) but we cannot complete it for you.

Cost

The cost of an education visit to Brading Roman Villa is charged per pupil at a rate of £2.20 each (2008 prices – are subject to change on an annual basis). Extra activities are charged at £1 per activity. Prices for Further and Higher Education groups vary depending on the requirements. All accompanying adults are free. Our preferred method of payment for your visit is on arrival by cash, cheque and credit or debit card, alternatively we can send an invoice.

Group size and ratios

We can accommodate groups of up to 60 pupils at one time. The ideal group size for a visit is up to 30. If your group is large we may split it into smaller groups for different activities. If your group is larger than 60 please contact us to discuss how we can plan your visit. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times and remain the responsibility of their teachers. We recommend the following adult to child ratios:

Early Years – 1 adult to 2 children.

Key Stage 1 – 1 adult to 6 children

Key Stage 2 – 1 adult to 10 children

Key Stage 3 and above – 1 adult to 15 children

Special/additional needs

The exhibition centre is fully accessible for those with physical and sensory disabilities. There is a loop system for hearing impaired visitors, large print displays for visually impaired visitors and full accessibility for wheelchair users. Please do discuss any additional requirements your group may have when booking.

Opening times

We are open every day all year and can accommodate education groups at any time of the year.

March 1st to October 31st

Open: 9.30am to 6pm

November 1st to February 28th

Open: 10am to 4pm

Education room

We have an education room in our exhibition centre that is available for your use for the duration of your visit. You can use it to store coats and bags and book it for your lunch. It can also be used for activities. Please discuss how you would like to use the room when booking your visit.

Shop

Education groups are very welcome in our shop. The shop has plenty of small items for under £1 and our staff are very happy to help young customers with small amounts to spend. We recommend you split your group into smaller groups when visiting the shop for ease of browsing and purchasing.

How to book a visit

If you would like to book a visit to Brading Roman Villa please telephone us initially on 01983 406223 to discuss your requirements. We will then plan the details of your visit for you. We will then send you a booking confirmation pack with all the details of your visit and information you will need.

Contact details

Brading Roman Villa, Morton Old Road, Brading, Isle of Wight. PO36 0PH.

Tel: 01983 406223

Fax: 01983 407924

Email: info@brading.co.uk

Website: www.bradingromanvilla.co.uk



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