



HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES

TOWER OF LONDON

COMMUNITY ACCESS SCHEME

RESOURCE GUIDE

SPACE TO STIR AND BE STIRRED

TOWER OF LONDON • HAMPTON COURT PALACE • BANQUETING HOUSE
KENSINGTON PALACE • KEW PALACE • HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE AND GARDENS

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INTRODUCTION

The Tower of London is a 1,000-year-old castle that protects the Crown Jewels. It was a royal palace, a secure fortress, and an infamous prison. Kings and Queens demonstrated their power from here, shaping society and influencing our world.

The Tower of London has long been a place for international visitors, as a royal palace and now as a world famous tourist attraction.

To celebrate and involve our local community we run a Community Access Scheme. This aims to enable people to make personal connections with our palaces and help everyone explore the story of how monarchs and people have shaped society, in some of the greatest palaces ever built. This resource guide will enable community groups to access stories about the Tower by providing guidance and activities to support their visit.

COMMUNITY ACCESS SCHEME

The Community Access Scheme at the Tower of London is for community groups based local to Tower Hamlets, Southwark, City of London, Lewisham, Greenwich, Hackney, Islington, Newham and Enfield. In addition to providing free access to the Tower, this programme aims to engage local audiences with stories and historic spaces in ways that are meaningful and relevant to them. We do this by training up and supporting group leaders and adult learning tutors to lead visits for their groups.

Through this programme, we hope local community members gain a sense of ownership and belonging at the Tower, especially those who might not normally visit the Tower or see it as a place of interest for them.

The Community Access Scheme is a free programme. It consists of a one-day training for group leaders and adult learning tutors, free group visits, discount entry tickets and staff support to help group leaders and tutors plan visits. Training sessions are available twice a year (spring and autumn). For more information, or to register your interest, email: communities@hrp.org.uk

HOW TO USE THE TOWER OF LONDON RESOURCE GUIDE

This resource aims to help group leaders independently visit the Tower of London and engage their groups with the Tower's unique stories and spaces as part of the Community Access Scheme.

HRP's Public Engagement team worked alongside local community partners to design and test this resource guide. This resource contains a range of pre-visit, during visit and post-visit activities for groups to undertake. It aims to provide group leaders and tutors with enough historical and practical information to leave them feeling confident in sharing information and delivering activities to their learners.

GETTING TO KNOW THE TOWER OF LONDON

- A BRIEF HISTORY
- TOWER OF LONDON: A HISTORY TIMELINE
- KEY TOWER CHARACTERS



A BRIEF HISTORY



ROMANS

The Tower was built on the south-eastern corner of the wall that the Romans built around Londinium circa AD 200. The line of this wall is still visible within the Tower site on the east of the White Tower, and parts of the wall are visible by the Ravens shop. Research has revealed that the North African Emperor Septimius Severus (AD 145–211) was in fact responsible for building the Roman City Wall and not Emperor Trajan.

NORMANS

The oldest part of the Tower is the White Tower, built by William of Normandy soon after he conquered England at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. Work on William's White Tower began around 1078 and took approximately 25 years to build. It was made of stone, which was unusual for the time. It was built to intimidate people, nothing like it had been seen in England before. William died in 1087 before the White Tower was completed. The job was passed down to his son, William Rufus (William II) to complete. The White Tower was the height of Norman sophistication; it included fireplaces to heat rooms and toilets, known as garderobes, which were luxurious living conditions compared to the rest of London's society. It is also during this period, the Tower sees its first prisoner, Ranulf Flambard, who also managed to successfully escape from his prison cell.

MEDIEVAL

During the reigns of Richard I (1189–1199) and Henry III (1216–1272) the Tower became a bigger and stronger fortress with the addition of a curtain wall. In the 1230s Henry III retreated to the Tower after quarrelling with his barons. He realised the Tower needed stronger defences and built a further eight towers. The towers opened onto walkways, which meant archers, were able to look out for attackers.

It was under Henry III that we see the beginnings of a menagerie at the Tower of London. Henry III was gifted exotic animals by various Kings and noblemen in Europe. Most notably, King Louis IX of France gifted Henry an elephant and King Haakon IV of Norway offered a polar bear. This was the first time such animals were seen in England and it caused quite a stir!

Henry's son Edward I (1272–1307) built a second curtain wall and surrounded it with a moat. By the end of the 1300s, Richard II (1377–1399) had completed the wharf, separating the outer wall from the river. In 1279, the Tower's strong defences meant that it was the perfect location to have the country's newly unified system, the London Mint, a government owned system that controls the production of coins.





TUDORS

During King Henry VIII's reign the Tower was no longer used as a princely royal residence. Henry VIII was the last king to build royal apartments in the Tower. This was done for Anne Boleyn's coronation. Rooms and buildings were repaired and redecorated so that Anne was able to stay there before her coronation in 1533. Three years later however, she returned as a prisoner and was executed on Tower Green.

It was during the Tudor period that the Tower saw many prisoners such as, Thomas More, Lady Jane Grey, Walter Raleigh, Robert Devereux, the Earl of Essex and Princess Elizabeth I. Although it is often remembered as a site of execution, only ten were executed inside the Tower. Many more were executed outside the Tower on Tower Hill. Only very important prisoners were granted the privacy of an execution safely within the Tower walls.

STUARTS

The 1600s was one of the most tumultuous centuries in Britain's history and many events took place within the Tower's walls. James I stayed at the Tower after he arrived in his new kingdom in 1603. He was the last monarch to stay at the fortress for his coronation. He enjoyed watching cruel blood sports by animals in the menagerie. Two years into his reign, the failed gunpowder plotter, Guy Fawkes, was interrogated, imprisoned and tortured at the Tower.

It was during the Stuart period that Britain became a republic (1649-60) and was ruled by Parliamentarian Oliver Cromwell. Cromwell ordered the original Crown Jewels to be melted down during the 1650s, quite possibly, in the Tower's Mint. Upon the restoration of the monarchy, Charles II had the jewels remade, only for a daring theft attempt to be made on them in 1671 by the notorious Colonel Blood. It was also Charles II that determined that the ravens at the Tower should be protected to ensure the legend (the Kingdom and the Tower would fall if the ravens ever left) should never come true. This was against the wishes of John Flamsteed, an astronomer that used the White Tower as an observatory. During the late Stuart period, the Tower's Mint had employed its most

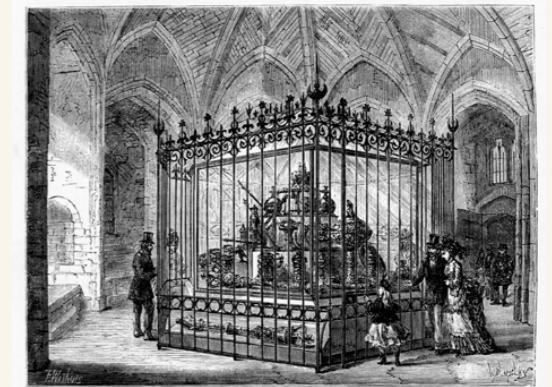
famous Master, Sir Isaac Newton. In 1696 Newton was appointed as Warden of the Mint – this meant that he was the senior official at the Royal Mint in England, responsible for overseeing minting operations and representing the monarch. Part of his job, was to track down counterfeiters who made fake coins.

VICTORIANS

During the Victorian period, leisure time for workers increased greatly and the Tower witnessed a large rise in paying visitors. Numbers became so high that a purpose-built ticket office was built in 1851. By the end of the 1800s, over 500,000 were visiting the castle every year.

The Victorian period marked an increasing interest in England's medieval past. One of the effects was the emergence of Gothic Revival architecture. The New Horse Armoury was built in 1825 against the south face of the White Tower. Other buildings, such as the Waterloo Barracks, were remodeled to match the style.

By the beginning of the Victorian era, the menagerie had closed and many of the animals were sent to Regent's Park London Zoo. Between 1845 and 1885 institutions such as the Mint which had inhabited the castle for centuries moved to other sites. The White Tower became home to important government departments including the Public Records Office and the Board of Ordnance, the department which controlled and issued supplies for the army and navy.



THE JEWEL ROOM AT THE TOWER.



20TH CENTURY

The emphasis during this period was on conservation rather than rebuilding, in the 1900s, as the Tower developed into one of Britain's most popular visitor attractions. Conservation was a particular concern during the blitz in World War II as many of the buildings within the Tower were destroyed. Later during World War II the Tower had been put to its former use when Rudolph Hess, the longstanding personal aide to Adolf Hitler, and deputy party leader of the Nazi Party, was imprisoned there. As was German spy, Joseph Jakobs, who was put to death at the Tower of London, by a firing squad.

21ST CENTURY

As well as being a thriving tourist attraction, the Tower of London is home to approximately 100 residents. This includes Yeoman Warders and their families. Inside the Tower, residents have access to their own doctor and to a private pub! To become a Yeoman Warder, one must have served with the armed forces for at least 22 years and have reached the position of Warrant Officer as well as holding a Good Service Conduct medal. Yeoman Warders hold various different positions at the Tower, there is a Chief Yeoman Warder who is overall in charge, a Yeoman Gaoler who historically looked after the prisoners and the Ravenmaster who looks after the ravens that live at the Tower. You'll see these and many other Yeoman Warders around the Tower.

Yeoman Warders can be recognised from their uniforms. Their 'undress' uniform is dark blue with red trimmings. On state occasions they wear red and gold uniforms, similar to those of the Yeoman of the Guard in the Tudor period. Many traditions still take place at the Tower, such as the Ceremony of the Keys, an official opening and closing of the Tower by Yeoman Warders and the Queen's Guard which has occurred every day for over 700 years!

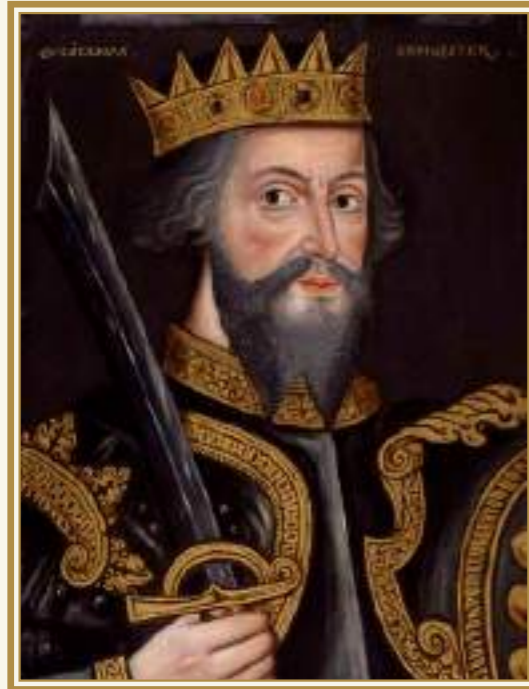


TOWER OF LONDON: A HISTORY TIMELINE

- 1078 ○ William the Conqueror starts working on the White Tower to keep hostile Londoners at bay
- 1087 ● William Rufus completes building the White Tower
- 1220 ● Henry III begins work begins to expand the innermost ward of the Tower
- 1235 ● The Tower Menagerie is installed by Henry III
- 1275–1285 ● Edward I re-models the Tower and builds St Thomas' Tower and Water Gate, later known as Traitors Gate
- 1279 ● The London Mint moves inside the Tower
- 1370s–1390s ● Richard II builds the Tower Wharf onto the banks of the Thames and expands the outer ward
- 1485 ● Henry VII founds the body of Yeoman Warder or 'Beefeaters'
- 1533 ● Henry VIII redecorates parts of the Tower for Anne Boleyn's coronation
- 1536 ● Anne Boleyn is beheaded at the Tower
- 1554 ● Lady Jane Grey, the 'nine days queen' is executed. Princess Elizabeth, later Elizabeth I, is imprisoned in the Tower
- 1605 ● Guy Fawkes is tortured at the Tower following the failed Gunpowder Plot

- 1671 ● Colonel Blood attempts to steal the Crown Jewels
- 1696 ● Isaac Newton is appointed Warder of the Mint
- 1780 ● Last public execution on Tower Hill takes place
- 1812 ● The Mint moves out of the Tower to a new factory on Tower Hill
- 1826 ● Duke of Wellington becomes Constable of the Tower and appoints Yeoman Warders based on their exemplary military service
- 1835 ● Tower Menageries closes, animals are transferred to the new London Zoo
- 1843 ● Duke of Wellington drains the moat due to the stagnant water causing poor health of the soldiers garrisoned in the Tower
- 1850 ● The Koh-i-Noor is presented to Queen Victoria
- 1941 ● Nazi Deputy Fuhrer, Rudolf Hess, is held at the Tower
- Today ○ Over 2 million people a year visit the Tower of London

KEY TOWER CHARACTERS



WILLIAM I (WILLIAM CONQUEROR)

r. 1066-1087

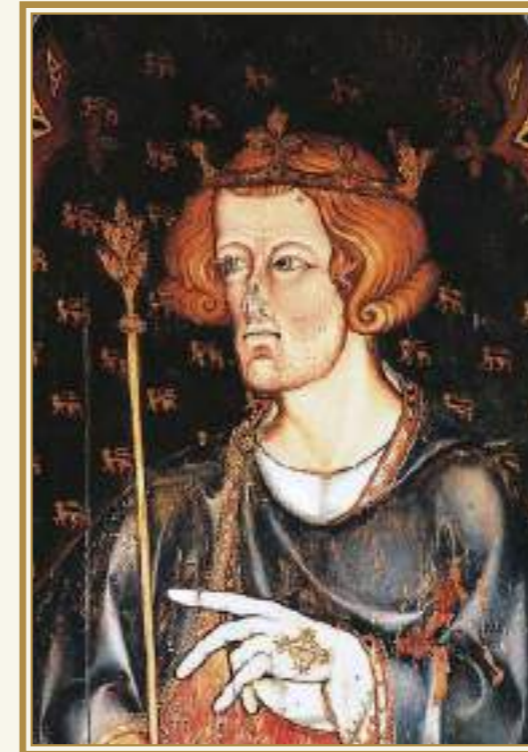
- William was the first Norman King of England
- Famous for being a ruthless military commander, ruler and administrator
- In 1066 he defeated and killed English king Harold Godwinson at the Battle of Hastings
- He commissioned Bishop Gundulf to supervise works on a new fortress, the White Tower
- William died long before the White Tower was complete



HENRY III

r. 1216-1272

- Crowned aged 9
- Henry was a pious and charitable King, he was careful to be seen as the champion of the poor
- Henry expanded the Tower of London beyond the Roman city walls and built a mighty curtain wall
- Henry kept animals given as diplomatic gifts in the Tower menagerie



EDWARD I

r. 1272-1307

- Edward was a warrior king who conquered Wales
- Happily married to Eleanor of Castile since a teenager and distraught at her early death
- Established the Royal Mint at the Tower
- In 1290 Edward expelled the Jews from England, many imprisoned in the Tower for illegally clipping silver coins – how many were guilty is unknown
- Expanded the Tower by creating a curtain wall and moat. Also added royal lodgings (St Thomas' Tower)



RICHARD II

r. 1377-1399

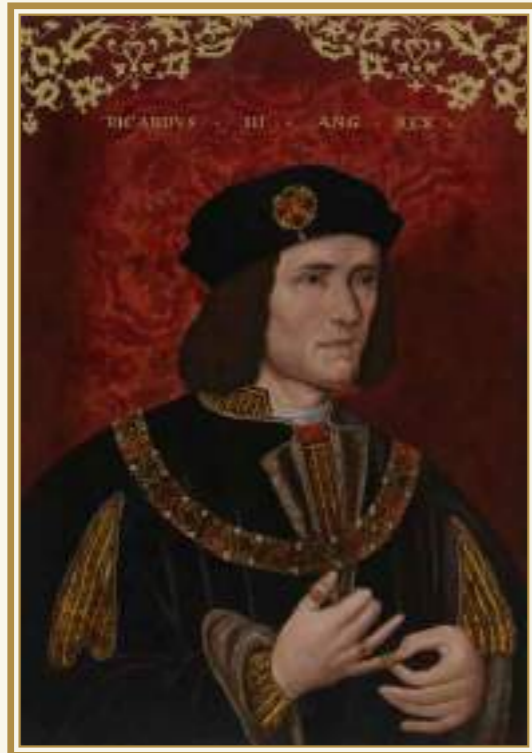
- Richard came to the throne as a child, at 10 years old
- During the Peasant's Revolt in 1381, Richard met with ring leaders and charmed the mob by stepping forward and declaring 'I am your leader, follow me!'
- Richard took revenge on those who had challenged his God-given right to rule which made him unpopular
- In 1399 Richard was taken from the Tower and was forced to abdicate, he was taken to Pontefract Castle where some say he was deliberately starved to death or he was hacked to pieces as depicted in Shakespeare's play



EDWARD (1470-1483) AND RICHARD (1473-1483)

THE TWO PRINCES IN THE TOWER

- On the death of his father, Edward became King at the age of 12. He was never crowned
- The boys were declared illegitimate because it was alleged that their father was contracted to marry someone else before his marriage to Elizabeth Woodville
- Richard, Duke of Gloucester, later Richard III sent his nephews to the Tower of London for their safety
- Whilst at the Tower, the two boys are thought to have been murdered. This made way for Richard, Duke of Gloucester to become King



RICHARD III

r. 1377-1399

- Richard was a charismatic and successful military leader before becoming King
- He would often execute his enemies without trial.
- He has become infamous because of the disappearance of his young nephews, the Princes in the Tower and through William Shakespeare's play Richard III
- Last English monarch to die in battle, in 2013 his body was discovered under a car park in Leicester and reburied in Leicester Cathedral
- The discovery of Richard's body confirmed curvature of the spine. He had developed scoliosis in his adolescence



HENRY VII

r. 1485-1509

- Henry seized the crown from Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth
- Henry used the Tower of London to hold feasts and tournaments to celebrate his victory over Richard III
- He was the first king to have a recognisable portrait of himself on a coin
- He formed the Yeoman Warder body. The Tudor rose, a heraldic badge of the dynasty, is part of the badge of the Yeomen Warders to this day



ANNE BOLEYN

QUEEN CONSORT 1533-1536

- Henry VIII's second wife
- Mother to Elizabeth, future Queen Elizabeth I
- Anne was accused of adultery, incest and treason and as a result imprisoned at the Tower of London
- She was beheaded on Tower Green, 3 years after her coronation
- Buried in the chapel at the Tower of London, Church of St Peter ad Vincula



LADY JANE GREY

PROCLAIMED QUEEN ON 10 JULY 1553, DEPOSED ON 19 JULY 1553

- The great-granddaughter of Henry VII through his younger daughter Mary Tudor
- Proclaimed queen on 10 July 1553 and awaited coronation in the Tower of London. Support for Mary I grew quickly and most of Jane's supporters abandoned her, ensuring she was deposed on 19 July
- Never crowned queen
- Held prisoner at the Tower of London, she was executed for treason and is buried in the Church of St Peter ad Vincula



WALTER RALEIGH

1552-1618

- Raleigh was a prominent figure in the Elizabethan period. He was a courtier to Elizabeth I
- He sailed around the world making numerous discoveries as well as being an author and poet
- He was imprisoned in the Tower on three separate occasions
- He is accredited with introducing tobacco to England
- In 1618 Raleigh was executed due to his failed expedition to El Dorado and for attacking the Spanish without the consent of James I



JAMES VI AND I

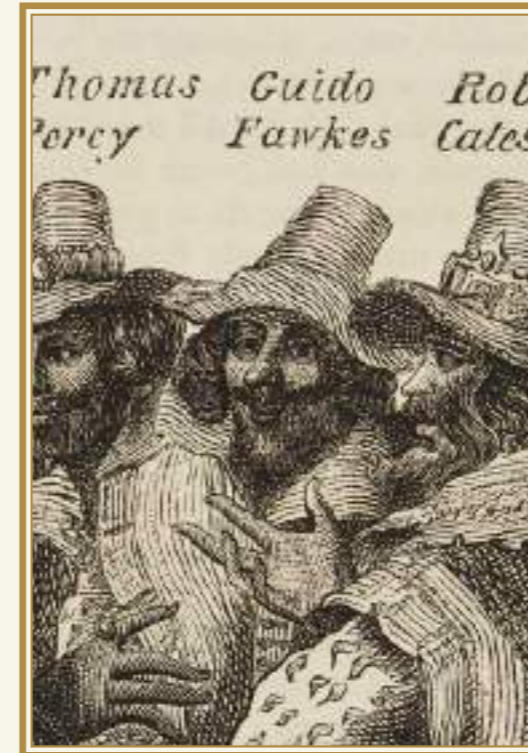
1566-1625

- James I was the last monarch to stay at the Tower of London before his coronation.
- He was known to use the animals within the Tower's menagerie for cruel blood sports. He had the lion's den refurbished, so that visitors could look down in to a semi-circular yard.
- His favourite sport was to bait the lions with vicious mastiff dogs.
- James was a religious reformer and obsessed with witches. He was also a keen patron of architecture and the arts, and an early anti-smoking campaigner.

GUY FAWKES

1570-1606

- Convert of Catholicism and fought in the Eighty Years' War on the side of Catholic Spain against the Protestant Dutch
- Part of the Gunpowder Plot which planned to assassinate King James I and restore a Catholic monarch to the throne
- He was discovered guarding 36 barrels of gunpowder stacked in a cellar below Parliament
- Endured torture at the Tower for two days before signing a confession
- Found guilty of high treason, Fawkes was to be put to death with the punishment of being hanged, drawn and quartered on 31 January. Fawkes managed to escape the latter part of his execution as his rope was incorrectly set and he died of a broken neck

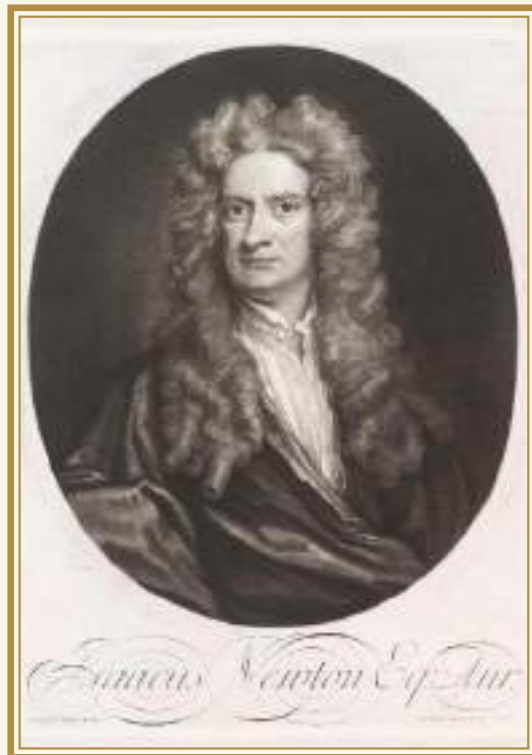




COLONEL THOMAS BLOOD

1552-1618

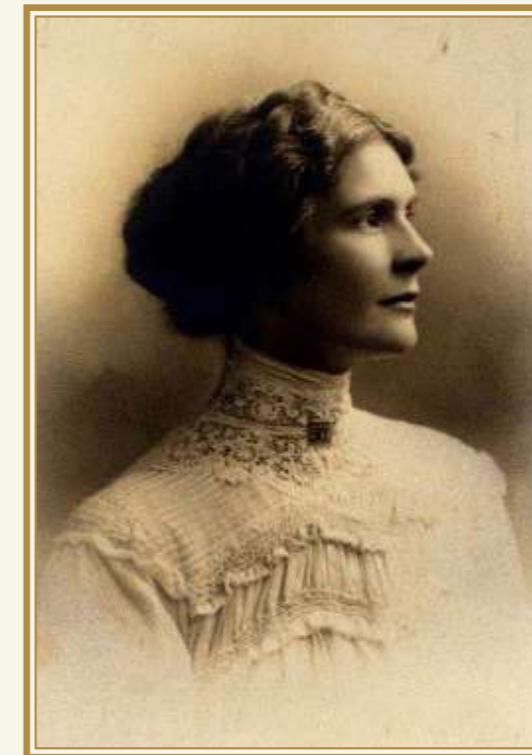
- An Anglo-Irish officer who self-described as a colonel
- Attempted to steal the Crown Jewels from the Tower of London in 1671 with fellow gang members
- Captured before leaving the Tower, Blood managed to take St. Edward's Crown and the Sceptre with the Cross
- Blood was astonishingly pardoned by King Charles II and was granted land in Ireland worth £500 a year



ISAAC NEWTON

1646-1727

- English physicist and mathematician
- Appointed Warden of the Mint based at the Tower of London in 1696
- He helped the Mint re-coin nearly £2.5 million of silver in 3 years
- He also tracked counterfeiters who made fake coins and sent them to prison
- In 1699, Newton was promoted to Master of the Mint, a post he held until his death in 1727



LEONORA COHEN

1873-1978

- Prominent member of the Leeds branch of the Women's Social Political Union (WSPU)
- In February 1913, Cohen staged a protest targeting the Tower of London.
- She flung an iron bar into the case containing the coronation regalia and was soon arrested by the police.
- She represented herself in court and successfully argued that the damage she caused was not up to the value of £5 (for which the penalty was imprisonment).
- In her obituary in The Times newspaper fondly referred to her as the 'Tower suffragette'.

 **ACTIVITY 1: TOWER FACTS - TRUE OR FALSE**

Write true or false for these statements.

How well do you know the Tower of London?

1. Anyone can be a Yeoman Warder
2. At least six Ravens live at the Tower
3. The Tower has residents
4. The Tower was home to many animals from all over the world
5. Over 100 executions have taken place within the Tower walls
6. Queen Victoria lived at the Tower of London
7. Isaac Newton worked in the Tower as Warder of the Mint
8. No-one has escaped the Tower as a prisoner
9. The Tower was built by Roman Emperor Septimus Severus
10. Elizabeth I was prisoner at the Tower
11. The White Tower was once used as an observatory
12. Guy Fawkes escaped from the Tower

Answers Activity 1:

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 7. T |
| 2. T | 8. F |
| 3. T | 9. F |
| 4. T | 10. T |
| 5. F | 11. T |
| 6. F | 12. F |

GETTING TO THE TOWER OF LONDON

OPENING TIMES

The Tower of London is open every day except 24, 25, 26 December and 1 January.

Summer (1 March – 31 October)

Sun – Mon: 10.00 to 17.30

Tue – Sat: 09.00 to 17.30

Last admission at 17.00

Buildings close at 17.30

Winter (1 November – 28 February)

Sun – Mon: 10.00 to 16.30

Tue – Sat: 09.00 to 16.30

Last admission at 16.00

Buildings close at 16.30

The Tower closes entirely one hour after last admission.

ENQUIRIES AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Tower of London

Visitor Services

London

EC3N 4AB

www.hrp.org.uk/toweroflondon

Information Line: 0844 482 7777

Ticket Hotline: 0844 482 7799

Type Talk: 18001 0844 482 7777

Visitor Services: 020 3166 6266

F: 020 3166 6265

E: VisitorServices.TOL@hrp.org.uk

TRAVEL

The Tower of London is within travel zone 1

Bus

Bus Routes: 15, 42, 78, 100, RV1, some have wheelchair access. Bus stops are within walking distance of the Tower.

Underground

Circle/District lines to Tower Hill. The nearest station with full access to street level is London Bridge. (Northern & Jubilee lines and national rail services)

Train

Fenchurch Street or London Bridge stations. Both stations are fully accessible to street level.

Docklands Light Railway (DLR)

Tower Gateway Station is located adjacent to Tower Hill station. This station is fully accessible to street level.

Thames Boat Services

The majority of river boats are accessible and most new river craft have dedicated wheelchair spaces. For further information please call **020 7941 2400** or visit Transport for London's website www.tfl.gov.uk.

Parking

There are no parking spaces within the Tower of London, but you can be dropped off or collected at Lower Thames Street, which is a 2 minute walk to the Tower.

The Tower of London is within the congestion charging zone. There are some disabled bays available in the coach park on Lower Thames Street. There are charges. For detailed information on prices and opening times please contact:

The City of London Corporation **020 7332 3053**

Or alternatively you can email: car.parks@corporationoflondon.gov.uk

There is a National Car Parks site (pay and display) on Mansell Street, just off The Minories; however this is a 10+ minute walk (approx. 1000 metres) to the Tower. Follow directional signage to the main entrance of the Tower.

Contact information

Transport for London (24 hour) access information: 020 7222 1234

www.tfl.gov.uk















Text Phone: 020 7918 3015

E: travinfo@tfl.gov.uk

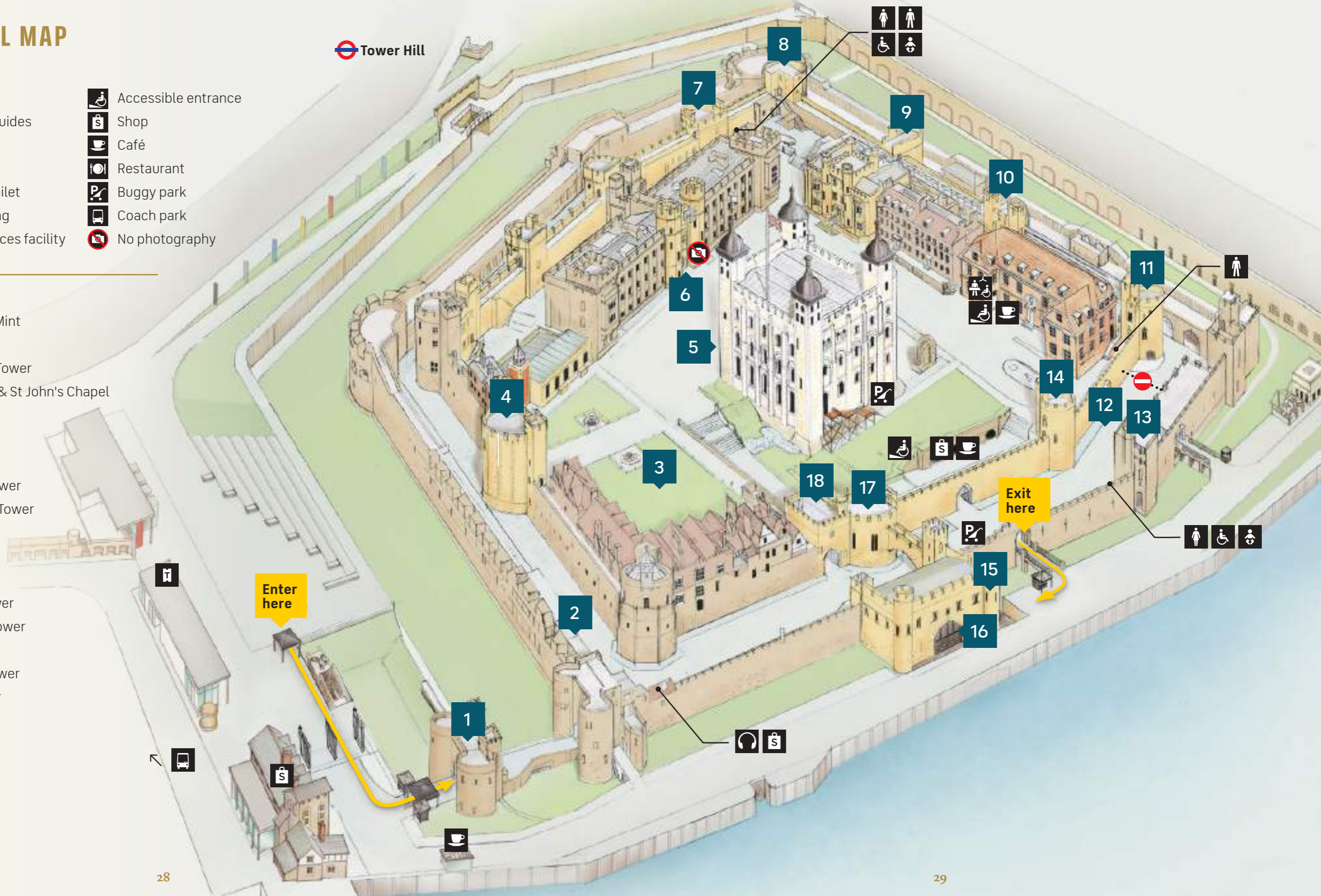
In addition please visit www.describe-online.com which is designed to help visually and mobility impaired people find their way around the London Underground. It provides textual narration from every transport point to the Tower of London.

PRACTICAL MAP

MAP KEY

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---------------------|
|  | Information |  | Accessible entrance |
|  | Multimedia guides |  | Shop |
|  | Female toilet |  | Café |
|  | Male toilet |  | Restaurant |
|  | Accessible toilet |  | Buggy park |
|  | Baby changing |  | Coach park |
|  | Changing Places facility
(via Radar key) |  | No photography |

- 1 West Gate
- 2 The Tower's Mint
- 3 Tower Green
- 4 Beauchamp Tower
- 5 White Tower & St John's Chapel
- 6 Jewel House
- 7 Brick Tower
- 8 Martin Tower
- 9 Constable Tower
- 10 Broad Arrow Tower
- 11 Salt Tower
- 12 Outer Ward
- 13 Cradle Tower
- 14 Lanthron Tower
- 15 St Thomas' Tower
- 16 Traitor's Gate
- 17 Wakefield Tower
- 18 Bloody Tower



ACTIVITY 2: RULES FOR VISITING

Write **can** or **can't** in the spaces next to these signs.
What can you do? What can't you do?



You _____ leave your bag unattended



You _____ take pictures but you _____ use flash



You _____ video in the Tower



You _____ touch the objects and paintings



You _____ eat at the onsite Café



You _____ leave children unattended

Answers Activity 2:

1. You can't leave your bag unattended
2. You can take pictures but you can't use flash
3. You can't video in the Tower
4. You can't touch the objects and paintings
5. You can eat in the on-site cafe
6. You can't leave children unattended

PLANNING YOUR VISIT

- CHECKLIST
- WHAT TO SEE
- ROUTE 1: THE MEDIEVAL PALACE
- ROUTE 2: IMPRISONED AT THE TOWER
- ROUTE 3: THE WALL WALK
- ROUTE 4: INSIDE THE WHITE TOWER
- ROUTE 5: THE ROYAL MENAGERIE
- ROUTE 6: THE CROWN JEWELS



CHECKLIST

This checklist will help you prepare and plan your visit to the Tower of London

- Contact a member of the Communities Team for a 1:1 meeting before your first visit
- Plan your visit
- Have a risk assessment ready
- Bring photographic ID along with your CAS card
- Bring along your email containing your tickets for the visit. It is sometimes easier to print this and then hand out the tickets to your group.
- If requested, your free entry cards, for return visits, will be left at the Ticket Office for collection

WHAT TO SEE

To help you make the most of your visit, below are suggested routes with themes you can explore. For each route, you can spend up to 1-2 hours (approx.) on site. You do not need to explore all routes on one visit; the Community Access Scheme will allow you to re-visit and focus upon different areas of the Tower.

ROUTE 1: THE MEDIEVAL PALACE

Traitors' Gate, St Thomas's Tower, Wakefield Tower and Lanthorn Tower

ROUTE 2: IMPRISONED AT THE TOWER

White Tower, Tower Green, Beauchamp Tower, Lower Wakefield and Bloody Tower

ROUTE 3: WALL WALK

Salt Tower, Broad Arrow Tower and The Constable Tower

ROUTE 4: INSIDE THE WHITE TOWER

White Tower and St John's Chapel

ROUTE 5: THE ROYAL MENAGERIE

West Gate, Outer Ward and Brick Tower

ROUTE 6: THE CROWN JEWELS

Jewel House and Martin Tower

Due to the Tower of London's long and complex history, each route will cover a number of themes that can be explored with your group members. They are;

THE TOWER AS A FORTRESS

This theme focuses on the Tower as a military site that looks after the nation's treasure and valuables over time.

THE TOWER AS A ROYAL PALACE

This theme focuses on the Tower as a royal home during the Medieval period and the magic of the royal menagerie.

THE TOWER AS A PRISON

Torture and execution has been long associated with the Tower. Uncover stories about prisoners and those who dared to escape.

ANARCHY AT THE TOWER

The narrative of continuous and strong royal power at the Tower is false. This theme focuses upon stories and events that challenged royal power.

THE TOWER AND EMPIRE

This theme focuses on the effects the British Empire had on the Tower of London and how it benefited from it.

WIDER HISTORIES

This theme will highlight the Tower's many stories that explore religion, ethnicity, disability, gender and sexuality.

Please note: Once you have exited the Tower of London you cannot re-enter with the same ticket.

Please note: It is not permitted to guide your groups in the White Tower or The Jewel House. Guiding is permitted in other areas of the Tower of London, but please ensure that you have your CAS leader ID card with you



ROUTE 1: THE MEDIEVAL PALACE



APPROX. 1 HOUR

Key Themes:

The Tower as a Royal Palace

The Tower as a Prison

Wider Histories

Henry III and his son Edward I were two medieval kings who did much to give the Tower the appearance it has today. When Henry and Edward expanded the Tower's defences in the 1200s, they also added a new, luxurious palace. For hundreds of years to come, kings and queens would stay in these rooms. The Medieval Palace consists of St Thomas's Tower, the Wakefield Tower and the Lanthorn Tower. The Medieval Palace was used for ceremonies, as private rooms and for formal dining.

Please note: This route is step access only and loud music is played in this space.

Don't miss:

Before entering the Medieval Palace you will see Traitors' Gate, now known as Traitors' Gate. This gate was built by Edward I to provide an entrance to the Tower via St Thomas's Tower. The name Traitors' Gate was introduced during the Tudor period as prisoners were brought via the Thames, passing under London Bridge where the heads of recently executed prisoners were displayed on pikes.

LOCATION 1: ST. THOMAS'S TOWER

St Thomas's Tower was built by Edward I in the late 1270s. It consists of Edward's hall and bedchamber. Edward only stayed at the Tower for 53 days during his reign and on his visits, he used the hall to meet important visitors and conduct business in front of the huge fireplace. The fireplace would have originally been plastered and painted and the windows would have been filled with stain glass. The wharf which now separates St Thomas' Tower from the Thames had not been built in the 1200s, Edward's building would have looked directly onto the river with impressive views.

Because the court moved around the country so frequently, all furnishings were easily transportable, as part of the King's travelling wardrobe. Edward's bedchamber shows the King's bed, close to the fireplace for warmth. The wall paintings are based on the floral patterns described in accounts for Edward's mother at the Tower.

Don't miss:

Medieval nobles liked to have oratories near their bedchamber. Edward's private chapel faces east. You can see the stone bowl (piscine) with a plug hole used for washing up after mass in the window.

From St Thomas's Tower a covered bridge, built in the 1800s leads to Henry III's Wakefield Tower.

Please note: There is a small spiral staircase leading to the Wakefield Tower. There is also uneven flooring in this space. Music is also played aloud in this space.

LOCATION 2: THE WAKEFIELD TOWER

The Wakefield Tower is the oldest part of the Medieval Palace. It was built by Henry III during 1220-1240. This room was probably a private audience chamber. Here you will find an intricate, replica-canopied throne, which has been reconstructed from 1200s descriptions. In this room you will also find the King's private chapel. This is the spot where Henry VI was stabbed to death while praying! The vaulted ceiling is a 1800s reconstruction. By Edward I's death in 1307, the Wakefield Tower had been abandoned as a residence and was used for storing official documents.

Exit the Wakefield Tower and walk across the Wall Walk

LOCATION 3: THE LANTHORN TOWER

The Lanthorn Tower was built as part of Henry III's queen's lodgings. It was gutted by a fire and the present building is 1800s. Inside the Tower there are rare objects dating back to the time of Henry and Edward. It is where children lived and played during the medieval period. Edward I's son, Edward II preferred to stay on this side of the castle when in residence at the Tower. The Lanthorn Tower was eventually adapted into the king's chambers. The Lanthorn Tower now helps to explain what life was like in the medieval period covering courtly life, recreation and religion.

Don't miss:

The Toy Knight – this toy figure of a knight on horseback is made from lead. Edward's children owned toy castles, a siege engine and toy cart.

ACTIVITY 3

Get group members to discuss certain objects and points of interest within the Medieval Palace. Perhaps a discussion can be started about the concept of private and public life and how this has changed over time.

WIDER HISTORIES: RELIGION AND PERSECUTION

During Medieval England, the Tower and State played a tumultuous role with the Jewish community in London. Jewish people had a different legal status to Christians and were viewed as the property of the King. On the one hand, this put the Jewish community in a privileged position as any attack on them was seen as an attack and insult to the crown. As a result, the Tower provided a haven during outbursts of anti-Semitic violence as well as law courts for all matters involving Jews.

Jewish people were excluded from legitimately practicing certain trades as only Christians could join guilds or companies of the City, which controlled each trade. Many from the Jewish community were employed as moneylenders. They took these jobs because the Christian Church traditionally ruled that usury (money lending for interest) was illegal for Christians, but not for Jewish people. This meant heavy taxes were imposed, so the wealth earned in the usury trade benefited the Crown directly.

In 1240 a tallage (tax) was imposed on Jewish people. This was set at 20,000 marks (£12,666) supposedly third of all Jewish property (average daily income for a labourer was a penny a day, a knight might have an income of £50 a year). In the 1270s Edward I used the money collected from the tallage to create new royal accommodation over a new, highly defended, grand entrance from the river at the Tower of London. This became St Thomas' Tower, situated above Traitors' Gate.

Jewish people from across the country who were unable to pay were arrested and brought to the Tower with their families. In July 1290 King Edward I issued a royal decree that would expel all Jews from England. The deadline for this was November 1290, hundreds of Jewish people were rounded up in the Tower for expulsion from England.

Optional Visit:

You can explore this story further as well as what the Mint was like in the medieval period in the Coins and Kings exhibition.

CROSS THEME:

WIDER HISTORIES & THE
TOWER AS A PRISON

**PRIDE, POWER AND POLITICS:
ROGER CASEMENT**

The Medieval Palace is one of the oldest parts of the Tower and as a result has seen many events unfold over the years. In the 1900s, Irish civil servant, Roger Casement, was held prisoner allegedly in St Thomas' Tower.

Casement was sent to the Congo to report back on atrocities that were being committed against the Congo's natives by Belgium. Casement was disturbed by the violence he witnessed whilst there, and he sent back damning reports which were largely watered down by the British. His experience in the Congo made him eager to fight for the Irish nationalist cause, which was pushing for an independent Ireland free from British sovereignty and oppression. Before 1921, Ireland was controlled by Britain.

During World War I, Casement travelled to Berlin to seek help from the Germans with defeating the British in Ireland. He claimed that Ireland was Germany's ally and requested that the German government provide Irish nationalists with weapons for a planned rebellion in 1916. Germany refused to help, and Casement



travelled to Ireland to warn against the uprising because he was convinced it would fail without the extra weapons he had been counting on. Upon his arrival, he was immediately arrested by the British and taken to Scotland Yard for questioning. He was accused of treason, and before his trial, the British government blackened Casement's name with the circulation of his diaries, which had details of illicit meetings with men and adolescents. The authenticity of these diaries has been widely debated, although they were judged genuine by an investigation in 2002. The diaries worked in the British government's favour, and Casement was tried and found guilty. He was imprisoned in the Tower of London and later executed in Pentonville Prison.

**ROUTE 2: IMPRISONED AT THE TOWER****APPROX. 1.5 HOURS****Key Themes:**

The Tower as a Prison

Wider Histories

The Tower of London was not built as a prison. Yet since its construction men and women have been held there as prisoners. Some have stayed for a few days whilst others stayed for many years. Over the centuries, the Tower became a symbol of state authority and an object of fear. Many of those imprisoned were important figures in English history and during the 12th – 18th Centuries, the Tower became the country's state prison for those who were a threat to national security.

Please note: This route is partially step access

LOCATION 1: WHITE TOWER

The White Tower is where the Tower held its first high profile prisoner. Ranulf Flambard was a medieval Norman bishop. He was an influential minister of King William Rufus (William II) who made a name for himself by his novel methods of raising revenue. On William Rufus' (William II) death, Henry I imprisoned Flambard in the Tower in 1100 as he became a convenient scapegoat for the financial extortions of Rufus' reign. Not only was Flambard the first person to be imprisoned at the Tower, he was also the first person to escape. It has been chronicled that Flambard made his escape through the window of the White Tower. Flambard's loyal friends smuggled him a gallon of wine which contained a rope. Flambard lay on a banquet for the guards and shared the wine with them. Once the guards were drunk, Flambard used the rope to make his escape. His friends used a ship to help transport him across the Thames and eventually make an escape to Normandy.

Please note: The White Tower has many steps and is a one way system

LOCATION 2: TOWER GREEN

This memorial site remembers those executed on or near this spot. Ten people were beheaded and three of those were English queens. Social conventions meant that up until the end, royal prisoners were treated in the manner befitting their status. Rather than being imprisoned in a dungeon, Anne Boleyn was imprisoned in the same royal lodgings that were made for her coronation.

Please note: This location is wheelchair accessible

LOCATION 3: BEAUCHAMP TOWER

This tower has been used to house prisoners throughout history. It takes its name from Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, who was imprisoned here at the end of the 1300s. This Tower is three stories high and its large size and proximity to the Lieutenant's Lodgings, now the Queen's House, made it an ideal place to keep important prisoners. Many Yeoman Warders had to keep guard of the prisoners, the third floor of this building is still the home of a Yeoman Warder. Many prisoners were held in Warder's lodgings and they would often become friendly with one another. Should any prisoners escape however, the Warders would have to face heavy penalties!

Don't miss:

Go to the second floor where you can see graffiti etched into the stonework of the building by various prisoners

Please note: There are many stairs in the Beauchamp Tower.

LOCATION 4: BLOODY TOWER

The Bloody Tower was a secured 'home' for many years to Sir Walter Raleigh. He was kept here as a prisoner on three separate occasions and his

conditions in the Bloody Tower were generally comfortable. He was allowed three servants and for a time his family were permitted to stay with him. Raleigh had regular access to the garden beside the Bloody Tower where he would exercise and grow herbs. It was in this tower that Raleigh studied chemistry, history, wrote poetry and started his most substantial, but unfinished, piece of work the *History of the World*.

Don't miss:

Archaeologists discovered part of an early clay tobacco pipe found at the Tower. You can view this object in the room. Raleigh organised many expeditions to America and is often credited with introducing and popularising tobacco smoking in England.

Optional Visit:

Legend has it that the Bloody Tower received its name from the legacy of the two Princes who were thought to be murdered by their uncle, Richard III. On the second floor you can explore this story.

Please note: The stairs leading to the second floor of the Bloody Tower are very narrow



LOCATION 5: LOWER WAKEFIELD

The Lower Wakefield provides a short account of the history of torture at the Tower. Only a tiny fraction of prisoners held at the Tower were tortured, Guy Fawkes being the most well-known. Torture was essentially part of a carefully designed programme of interrogation and only used to elicit information or to persuade the prisoner to sign a written statement to be used in law. The use of torture was abandoned in the 1600s. In this room, you will find three replica devices used for torture; *manacles, the rack and the scavenger's daughter*.

Please note: This section of the route may contain topic matter that some visitors may find distressing. Please consider this before visiting.

ACTIVITY 4

WIDER HISTORIES: WOMEN AND THE TOWER

Download HRP's free podcast series, *Outliers: Stories from the Edges of History*, fictional stories inspired by history and find out about the only female prisoner, Anne Askew, to be tortured at the Tower.

Episode 5: Trail by Fire by Rukhsana Ahmad

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/podcast/outliers/id1310165230?mt=2>



ROUTE 3: THE WALL WALK



APPROX. 1.5 HOURS

Key Themes:

The Tower as a Fortress

The Tower as a Prison

Anarchy at the Tower

This wall walk is part of the inner curtain wall that helped to transform the defences of the Tower. It was part of Henry III's refortification of the castle in the 1200s.

In 1238 Henry fled to the Tower to escape the hostile reaction to the secret marriage of his sister to Simon de Montfort. A strong base was needed to protect Henry and his family. Archers and missile-throwing machines would have been placed along the wall and within the nearby towers as it would have been easy to spot enemies from this viewpoint. The Towers also needed accommodation, each of them contain two or three floors with ample space in each for a bedchamber. High ranking guests would stay here as well as important prisoners with their servants.

Please note: This route is not wheelchair accessible. To start this route take the stairs near the elephant sculpture.

LOCATION 1: THE SALT TOWER

This tower has two floors, the upstairs floor was a comfortable chamber with a huge fireplace and decorative windows. Around this room you will find traces of historic plaster. Originally, the room would have been brightly painted green. You will be able to find traces of green paint dated back to the 1800s, when Yeoman Warders lived here. As a fortress this tower was used to hold important and dangerous prisoners, from a King, a sorcerer and a Jesuit priest. More information about them can be found in the tower.

Don't miss:

Visit the basement of the Salt Tower (entrance near the buggy park). This is where the Jesuit priest, John Gerard, was held in grim conditions.

Please note: There is a narrow spiral staircase leading out of the tower.

LOCATION 3: THE CONSTABLE TOWER

This tower is 1800s, however it is built upon the site of one of Henry III's mural towers. This tower now displays the story of the Peasants Revolt in 1381. It also displays a model showing how the Tower would have looked in the 1300s.

LOCATION 2: THE BROAD ARROW TOWER

Please note: The entrance to this tower is narrow and there is low lighting.

This tower is named after the broad arrow symbol, which was stamped onto goods to demonstrate royal ownership. Visitors can now familiarise themselves with medieval weaponry and protective clothing. From the 1300s, the Broad Arrow Tower was connected to the Wardrobe – the government department responsible for royal supplies. Royal robes and valuable furnishings were kept here.

Don't miss:

Visitors are able to touch the objects that are on display, why not try on some armoury? How heavy is it?

This tower was also used to hold important prisoners, asks group members if they can spot any graffiti or inscriptions around the room.



REVOLUTION AT THE TOWER : THE PEASANTS REVOLT

The Peasant's Revolt began in Essex on 30 May 1381. It was sparked by a new Poll Tax, introduced by Richard II, which everyone over the age of 14 had to pay. It was the third time in four years that such a tax had been used. By 1381, the peasants had had enough.

The rebellion began in south east of England and quickly gathered momentum. A ten thousand strong force made up of yeoman, skilled craftsmen and labourers marched on London to demand the heads of those they blamed for the tax. Oddly, they did not blame the King, Richard II, for their suffering, and even professed their loyalty to him while calling for the death of the traitors who governed on his behalf.

The 14 year old Richard and his royal household fled to the Tower of London as the rebels plundered and burnt the capital for two days. Eventually, the fortress came within the rebels sights. The scene is described as;

“The king had ridden out to meet the rebels at Mile End. The Tower's drawbridges and portcullis gates had not been raised behind him, and a mob of at least 400 men stormed the castle. The men-at-arms guarding the Tower put up no resistance, and the peasants shook their hands as brothers and stroked their beards in a friendly fashion.”

Jean Froissart, a contemporary writer as described in his Chronicles.

The rebels separated into gangs and ran through the Tower searching for traitors. As Froissart described, they invaded the royal apartments and behaved with little restraint, several asking ‘the king’s mother...to kiss them’. Still unchallenged the rebels drew closer to their intended victim, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Simon Sudbury who was also the King’s Chancellor. Sudbury was loathed by the rebels, he attempted an earlier escape by the river but was forced to retreat to the Tower. Realising there was little hope of escaping, he chose to spend his final hours of life praying in the chapel where he was caught. Sudbury was dragged out of the castle and onto Tower Hill. There he was beheaded, it took the headsman eight strokes before his head could be impaled on a spike and mounted over the gate of London Bridge.

The King later agreed to the rebels demands of equality. Nevertheless, in a tense situation the rebel’s leader, Wat Tyler was killed in the confusion. The teenage King rode forward and proclaimed ‘You shall have no captain but me!’ The rebels believed their demands would be met and dispersed.

ACTIVITY 5

Download HRP’s free podcast series, *Outliers: Stories from the Edges of History*, fictional stories inspired by history and get caught up in the heat and fervour of the Peasant’s Revolt.

Episode 7: I Cannot Sleep by Debs Newbold

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/podcast/outliers/id1310165230?mt=2>



ROUTE 4: INSIDE THE WHITE TOWER



APPROX. 1.5 HOURS

Key Themes:

The Tower as a Fortress

Please note: It is not permitted to guide groups in this space.

The White Tower is the oldest part of the Tower of London and the best-preserved 1000s building in Europe. It was built by William the Conqueror in order to awe, subdue, and terrify Londoners and to deter foreign invaders.

Inside the White Tower across three floors, visitors are able to see a rare survival from the Norman period, the exquisite St John’s Chapel, displays of armour and weaponry and uncover the different uses the Tower had.

Please note: The White Tower basement is accessible via an access lift. The rest of the White Tower is accessible only via stairs.

LOCATION 1: THE ENTRANCE FLOOR

For security reasons, the only doorway to the White Tower was built well above ground level. It would have been reached, in the Norman period as well as now, by an external wooden staircase, which could be quickly removed during a siege. In the Medieval period the entrance floor was used for residential purposes, it was not until the Tudor period that the White Tower was converted into an armoury. This floor now displays notable visitors to the Tower such as, Samuel Pepys and Phillis Wheatley as well as the Line of Kings, a display of unique armoury made for English Kings from the Tudor and Stuart period. The Line of Kings has been on display since 1692 and aimed to showcase the authority of England's restored monarchy at the time. It has changed many times over the centuries but the display has always entertained and impressed visitors.

Don't miss:

Queens have always been absent from the Line of Kings as they have never worn armour. However, in 1789 a figure of Elizabeth I was displayed in the Spanish Armoury to recall England's defeat of the Spanish Armada. Today only Elizabeth's carved and painted wooden head survives which can be viewed on the first floor.

LOCATION 2: THE FIRST FLOOR

This floor was originally reserved for the use of the constable – the Tower's commander appointed by the monarch. The constable would use this floor for banquets, living accommodation, important guests and eventually for state prisoners of high status.

The floor now houses a display of The White Tower as Icon. Selected objects such as a Georgian truncheon and police badges illustrate how the Tower has long been associated as a powerful symbol of state. Following on from this, visitors can also explore the *Treasures of the Royal Armouries*. The Royal Armouries is the national museum of arms and armour. Their collection covers diplomatic gifts, treasures found from the Thames and arms used as art all of which can be found displayed on this floor

Don't miss:

St John's Chapel is one of the best-preserved Anglo-Norman church interiors in existence. In the Medieval period, it was used for ceremonies where new knights were washed in a bath as an act of religious purity. The Chapel later became a records office and was filled with thousands of documents.

Please note: Photography is allowed within the Chapel.

LOCATION 3: THE SECOND FLOOR

Please note: Visitors need to go up a spiral staircase to enter the second floor



The display on this floor, *Crown, People and Tower*, illustrates the different functions and institutions that have been housed within the Tower of London. Visitors can find out about the Royal Mint, Board of Ordnance, the Royal Menagerie, Records Office, Jewel House and the Tower as an observatory.

Don't miss:

The Dragon sculpture, created by The Royal Armouries, has been constructed using objects and materials that represent the ten institutions historically housed in the Tower. Over 2,600 objects have been used to create this sculpture. See what objects you can find that represent the different functions and institutions of the Tower.

LOCATION 4: THE BASEMENT

Please note: There is a spiral staircase that leads down to the basement

The basement is dominated by a massive brick vaulting and houses a display of 1600 and 1700s artillery. These weapons were kept at the Tower of London for times of national crisis. This vault was originally used to store food and drink in the medieval period. It was then later used for a more sinister function, as the Tower's principle torture chambers.

MYTHS AND MISCONCEPTIONS

A mighty fortress filled with fearsome weaponry, a residence for kings and a place for safe keeping jewels and armour. The Tower has long been prone to a variety of myths. In the Middle Ages it was often thought that the White Tower was built, not by William the Conqueror but by Julius Caesar. It wasn't until the 1500s that London historian, John Stow, identified that the White Tower was dated from the time of William the Conqueror.

ACTIVITY 6

The White Tower is a symbol of power, it contains shows of heraldry and artistry that is symbolic. Ask your group to draw or take photos of their favourite objects and note what they symbolise. Discuss modern status symbols. What do they wear or display that symbolises who they are? If they were to give a symbolic gift to someone else, what would it be?



ROUTE 5: THE ROYAL MENAGERIE



APPROX. 1 HOUR

Key Themes:

The Tower & Empire

The Tower as a Royal Palace

For over 600 years, various Kings and Queens held wild and exotic animals at the Tower. Founded by King John in the early 1200s and expanded by Henry III, the Royal Menagerie became home to more than 60 species of animal. This began a long tradition of kings and queens keeping exotic animals as symbols of power, for the entertainment and curiosity of the court. Animals were also exchanged throughout Europe as regal gifts. The Menagerie was situated by the modern day entrance to the Tower (West Gate) and in its time housed a polar bear, elephants, ostriches and lions. The menagerie gave people their first glimpse of exotic creatures they would have otherwise seen only in books.

Please note: This route is partially step access

LOCATION 1: WEST GATE

At West Gate, you can see the site of the original menagerie. Here would have stood Lion Tower, part of the outer defence of the castle. This tower is now all completely lost. It is also the site where James I built a semi-circular yard with dens for visitors to enjoy the cruel blood sport of lions being baited by dogs.

LOCATION 2: OUTER WARD

Artist Kendra Haste created the sculptures of the animals around the Tower of London. Many of the animals are in their historical locations they were housed in. See how many you can spot!

LOCATION 3: BRICK TOWER

Please note: Access to this Tower is via the Wall Walk.

In this tower you can explore the story of the Royal Menagerie from Henry III's expansion to the last menagerie keeper, Alfred Cops.

King Henry III was gifted many animals during his reign. In 1235, the Holy Roman Emperor, Fredrick III gave Henry three 'leopards'. These were most probably lions and were to become the symbolic representation of Henry's Royal Coat of Arms, still adorned on England's football shirts.

In 1251 Henry received 'a white bear', most probably a polar bear, by King Haakon IV of Norway. This gift is thought to have been the first time such an animal was seen in England. According to accounts, the Sheriffs of London provided 14d daily for the animal's maintenance. In the following year, they provided a muzzle and chain to secure the bear while it was fishing in the River Thames.

Henry III's most exotic gift arrived in 1255. King Louis IX of France presented an African elephant to him. As no-one in England had ever seen elephants before; they were unsure how to look after them. A wooden elephant house was built for the first elephant; it was 40 foot long and 20 foot wide. This is the size of two double decker buses parked side-by-side. In the 1600s, an elephant kept at St James' Palace was often given nothing but wine to drink, as keepers believed that wine would keep the animal warm and that it enjoyed drinking it.



THE TOWER & EMPIRE : EXOTIC BEASTS

The Tower of London was no stranger to the effects of Britain's colonial expansion. Many animals from the Indian subcontinent were presented as diplomatic gifts and brought back from military campaigns. One such example is the portrait by George Stubbs, currently on display at Manchester Art Gallery, of a cheetah with two Indian servants. The Governor-General of Madras commissioned the painting in 1764, and donated the cheetah to George III in 1764. The image depicts a cheetah being used for a hunt at Windsor Great Park. It is thought that the same animal was later kept at the Tower of London and known as 'Miss Jenny'

along with its two handlers. Evidence has identified one of the men in the picture as John Morgan, a Lascar (migrant sailors from India, China and Africa working on East India Company ships) who initially came to London with a tiger. It is unknown whether John Morgan visited the Tower of London, however the site's proximity to the docks would have meant it was the first thing Lascars saw when arriving to London.

Another such instance of the Tower Menagerie benefitting from the British Empire is the story of 'Shah Goest'. The Shah Goest, likely to have been a caracal, gained widespread fame in the late 18th Century. The animal was



gifted from the Nawab of Bengal to Commander-in-Chief of British India, Robert Clive. The animal then made its way to London as a gift for William Pitt who re-gifted it to King George II in 1759. King George inevitably sent the animal to the Tower's menagerie where it was kept along with its keeper

as illustrated in the image. Little is known about the keeper, he was an Indian servant to the Nawab of Bengal and “when he spoke to it in the Indian language, it would do any thing he bade it. A cock coming into the room where it was, he seized it immediately and killed it” as reported in ‘Wonderful Magazine’ in 1793.

Many of the animals did not survive long as they were kept in cramped conditions or wrongly fed. Visitors in the 1780s fed ostriches nails as it was widely believed that they could digest iron! The end of the menagerie came in the 1830s due to financial and safety reasons. Many of the animals were homed at the new zoo at Regent's Park, now known as London Zoo.

ACTIVITY 7

Download HRP's free podcast series, *Outliers: Stories from the Edges of History*, fictional stories inspired by history and take a tour of the menagerie with the last keeper, Alfred Cops

Episode 6: Cop's Menagerie by Anita Sullivan

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/podcast/outliers/id1310165230?mt=2>



ROUTE 6: THE CROWN JEWELS

APPROX. 1.5 HOURS

Key Themes:

The Tower as a Fortress

The Tower & Empire

Anarchy at the Tower

Please note: Group Leaders are unable to provide a guided tour to their groups of this space.

The Crown Jewels have long been at the Tower due its function as a high security fortress. They are among the most visited objects in Britain; to date in excess of 30 million people have viewed them in their current setting. Their ancestry stretches back to biblical times and their national significance stretches over a millennium. They are a unique working collection.

Please note: Visiting the Jewel House during peak visitor time periods (June, July, and August) can mean there is a queue time of up to an hour. Please plan accordingly.

There is no photography allowed on this route.

LOCATION 1: THE JEWEL HOUSE

Most of the items on display in the Jewel House are those used at the coronation of a sovereign. Coronation Regalia includes; swords of state and ceremonial maces as well as orbs, sceptres, trumpets and tunics. The coronation is an ancient Christian ceremony, which concludes with a Holy Communion. Oliver Cromwell destroyed much of the regalia, apart from the ampule and spoon, during the Commonwealth period of 1649-1660. In the Jewel House you will also find items used for baptisms, banquets and religious services.



The history of the Koh-i-Noor is steeped in myth. Originating from the Kollur Mine on the banks of a river in Andhra Pradesh, this stone was first worn by Mughal prince Babur (1483-1531) in his conquest of Northern India, who described it as being worth 'half of the daily expense of the whole world.' The diamond was then taken by the Iranian warrior, Nadir Shah (1698-1747) who upon seeing it said in astonishment 'Koh-i-Noor' meaning mountain of light and giving the stone its present name. When Nadir Shah was killed, the diamond changed hands again this time to the Durani rulers of Afghanistan, the last of whom offered it to Maharaja Ranjit Singh (1780-1839), the ruler of Punjab. The diamond was then eventually passed down to his successor, the young Maharaja Duleep Singh (1838-1893). It came into British hands via the East India Company in 1849.

THE TOWER & EMPIRE: THE KOH-I-NOOR DIAMOND

India was considered the 'Jewel in the Crown' of the British Empire. It also reflected India's position as the home of the world's greatest precious stones; the subcontinent was the only known source of diamonds, rubies, sapphires and pearls before the 1700s. In both the east and west great jewels have always changed hands from one ruler to another, this characterises the history of the Koh-i-Noor diamond.

Members of the public were given a chance to see the Koh-i-Noor at The Great Exhibition at Hyde Park, London, in 1851 where it represented the might of the British Empire. It is widely believed that the diamond holds a curse and will bring misery to those that own it. Due to the diamond's contentious past, many countries have taken claim to it, asking for it to be repatriated.

LOCATION 2: MARTIN TOWER

This is the location where the Crown Jewels were on display from approximately 1669 until 1841. Astonishingly, visitors were able to touch the Crown Jewels if they paid the Keeper a small fee. It's hardly surprising the Crown Jewels were nearly stolen by Colonel Blood!

Please note: This space is reachable by the Wall Walk and is step access only. There is a small spiral staircase leading to the space.



ANARCHY AT THE TOWER: THE TOWER SUFFRAGETTE

Leonora Cohen was a prominent member of the Women's Social and Political Union (WPSU). This organisation was founded by Emmeline Pankhurst who campaigned for women's suffrage and equality. Their motto was 'Deeds not Words' and used militant tactics to further the cause.

Walking to the Tower of London with an iron bar hidden beneath her coat, Leonora Cohen, gained access to the Crown Jewels. Approaching the intimidating device that housed the coronation regalia she was assumed a teacher visiting with a group of schoolchildren, she attracted little attention. However, moments later she flung the iron bar into the case containing the insignia of the Order of Merit, she had the attention not only of the Yeoman Warders who placed her under arrest but also of the whole city. Around the bar was a message that read:

"Jewel House, Tower of London. My Protest to the Government for its refusal to Enfranchise Women, but continues to torture women prisoners – Deeds Not Words. Leonora Cohen" / (reverse) "Votes for Women. 100 Years of Constitutional Petition, Resolutions, Meetings & Processions have Failed."

Cohen was arrested and charged with causing damage to property exceeding the value of £5. The penalty for this crime was imprisonment. She represented herself and was able to argue successfully, that the damage she had caused was not up to that value. She was released without charge. Cohen's bold attack on the Crown Jewels gained media prominence. Fearing more attacks from the WPSU and against a background of the persistent threat from Irish Republicans, the Tower of London, Hampton Court and the palaces of Kensington, Kew and Holyrood temporarily closed to the public.

Leonora Cohen remained a committed feminist throughout her life, acting as a voice for the British feminist movements in the 1960s and 70s and was able to witness the introduction of the equal pay act in 1970. She died, age 105 in 1978. Her obituary in The Times newspaper fondly referred to her as the 'Tower Suffragette'.

ACTIVITY 8

Get group members to discuss certain objects within the Jewel House. Perhaps a discussion can be started about why the Crown Jewels has been used as a political target.

REFLECTING ON YOUR TOWER OF LONDON VISIT

- ACTIVITIES



ENCOURAGING INDEPENDENT VISITS

You do not need to explore all routes on one visit; this programme will allow your group members to re-visit and focus upon different areas of the Tower.

The Community Access Scheme offers groups that have visited the Tower of London free entry cards. The cards enable group members to visit the Tower and/or other Historic Royal Palace sites independently with a friend or family member for free. Free entry cards are limited to two per person and terms and conditions apply.

Free entry cards will be left at the Ticket Office alongside your tickets on the day of your visit. Should you require anymore please contact the Communities team with the contact details provided on the following page.

Group members can use their free entry cards to get access to;

- Any of the routes you did not cover in your group visit
- Yeoman Warder Tours – you cannot access this through a Community Access Scheme group visit
- White Tower Tours – you cannot access this through a Community Access Scheme group visit
- Other Historic Royal Palace sites such as Hampton Court Palace and Kensington Palace.

GROUP LEADER SUPPORT

The Community Access Scheme also offers on-going support for group leaders. Before you visit with a group, please contact Jatinder for a 1:1 meeting. In this meeting you will be able to go through practical aspects of your visit such as, re-capping where to collect tickets and to also have a walk-through of the route you will be visiting.

Newsletters will also be sent out on a monthly basis, providing you with updates of what is happening at the Tower, special events and important visitor information.

The Community Partnership Team will also be holding an annual networking event. This is an opportunity for you to meet other group leaders who are part of the Community Access Scheme programme, share ideas and showcase what you do on visits with your group.

CONTACT DETAILS

Communities Team

Email: communities@hrp.org.uk

