



BATH ABBEY

12 Kingston Buildings, Bath. BA1 1LT
Tel: 01225 422 462 Fax: 01225 429 990
E-mail: visits@bathabbey.org

Information for Group Visits

Bath Abbey is visited by tourists and pilgrims from all over the world, and during the year we welcome over 300,000 people of all ages and nationalities. Students from colleges and universities and children from schools visit as part of their studies. The staff and volunteers intention is always that we welcome each group and ensure that a visit is a special occasion.

- Booking a group to visit the Abbey

The Abbey is not a large building and can at times become crowded and congested especially if rehearsals for concerts are taking place and staging is in place. We strongly recommend and encourage all groups to book in advance. This will enable us to liaise with you regarding your visit, to plan for a successful visit and clarify if any events or services are taking place.

A booking form is available from the website or the Visitors Officer, Dawn Farmer.

Mrs Dawn Farmer
Visitors Officer
The Abbey Office
12 Kingston Buildings
Bath
BA1 1LT
England
Tel.: + 44 (0) 1225 422 462
Fax: + 44 (0) 1225 429 990
Email: visits@bathabbey.org

- Opening Times

01 April – 31 October	09:00 – 18:00 (Monday – Saturday) 13:00 – 14:30 and 16:30 – 17:30 (Sunday)
01 November – 31 March	09:00 – 16:30 (Monday – Saturday) 13:00 – 14:30 and 16:30 – 17:30 (Sunday)

The Abbey is closed on *Christmas Day* and *Good Friday* for sight seeing but open for services which visitors are welcome to attend. Details of all the Christmas and Easter services will be available on the website at the appropriate times.

Annually the Abbey hosts the Bath University Graduation ceremonies and closes to visitors for these four days, please contact the Visitors Officer for details of the dates.

During the weeks of December there are many carol services taking place which can mean that the Abbey is closed to visitors please check the website for details.

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Whilst every effort will be made to ensure your visit goes ahead as planned, there are occasions when, due to unforeseen circumstances a service may have to be arranged (e.g. for a funeral), therefore please call two days in advance to ensure your visit is still possible.

- Entrance to the Abbey

The North West Porch is the entrance for all visitors whether as individuals or groups. This is accessed from Abbey Churchyard. Group leaders should report to the Welcomer on duty who will then ensure enough brochures are available for the group, if not already obtained in advance. If a group is over twelve in number we suggest waiting in Abbey Church Yard, weather permitting, whilst the group leader is initially welcomed. This ensures the entrance remains less congested especially during busy periods.

- Donations

As the Abbey does not receive any state aid or external funding we rely on the generosity of our visitors and congregations to fund the ministry and mission of the Abbey. Therefore we invite a suggested donation of £2.50.

Donations and payment of a guided tour can be received in one of three ways:

- a) Cash or cheque on the day of the visit made payable to 'Bath Abbey', a receipt will be issued upon request
- b) Tour Operator Voucher for which a request for the donation will subsequently be sent after the visit

- Guided Tours

Guided tours need to be pre booked at least four weeks in advance. There is a charge of £3.00 per person. Guided tours last for approximately one hour and are provided in English by volunteer guides. It would be appreciated if the group leader would telephone on the day if he or she anticipates arriving late; Guides will wait up to thirty minutes for groups that are delayed.

- Stewards

Volunteer stewards are available from 10:00 each day to answer questions. All stewards are Criminal Records Bureau checked.

- Literature

"Welcome to Bath Abbey" leaflets are available in a number of different languages and can be posted to you in advance of your group visit. The languages offered are as follows:

Chinese	Czech	Danish	Dutch	English	Estonian
French	German	Greek	Hungarian	Italian	Japanese
Norwegian	Polish	Portuguese	Romanian	Russian	Spanish
Swedish					

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Bath Abbey authorized Guide Book: Special Offer for Groups

If members of your group would like a lasting reminder of their visit to Bath Abbey they can purchase a copy of the authorized Guide Book at £2.50. (This currently retails at £3.50 per copy). If you would like to take advantage of this offer please confirm the quantity required to the Visitors Officer at least one week in advance of the visit.

A Children and Youth quiz is available in English and French. The front cover can be personalised with the name of the school or college if arranged in advance. A Bath Abbey pencil is provided free and a small gift.

- Supervision of Students

Staff and accompanying adults remain responsible for the welfare and behaviour of students throughout their visit to the Abbey. There should always be not less than two adults present, and a ratio of at least one adult to ten students is preferable, rising to one to six for children aged under eight. If you have an incident, please inform a Verger or a member of staff.

- Photography and filming

Visitors are permitted to take photographs and video recordings, except during services and concerts. Prior arrangement must be made in advance with Mr. Charles Curnock, Administrator, for all commercial photography or for the use of a tripod.

- Hourly Prayers

Prayers on the hour are lead by Chaplains and last for approximately five minutes. During this time of prayer all visitors are invited to either sit or be still and to join in the saying of the Lord's Prayer in their own language.

The Chantry Chapel is a quiet space and reserved for private prayer, members of your group are welcome to use this Chapel.

- Accessibility



- Parking

Coaches and mini buses are permitted to drop off and collect from Orange Grove, which is directly at the east end of the Abbey building. There is allocated parking for coaches and mini buses at the Riverside Coach Park. There are three Park and Ride facilities and these are located at Lansdown, Newbridge and Odd Down.

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- Abbey Shop

The Abbey Shop is open Monday to Saturday 10:00 - 17:30 April - October and 10:00 - 16:30 November - March. The shop offers a wide selection of gifts, cards, postcards, guide books, and Christian literature along with CD's including the Bath Abbey choir. The Abbey Shop Manager is Mr. Andrew Desmond.

- Heritage Vaults Museum

The Heritage Vaults Museum has been fully accredited by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council under their scheme to promote national standards in museums. The Museum is open to visitors Monday to Saturday from 10:00 to 16:00, with last entrance at 15:30. To arrange a group visit to the Museum please contact Linda Jones, Curator, on 01225 422 462.

- Services at the Abbey

Monday	08:30 Morning Prayer (entrance via the south east door)
Thursday	11:00 Holy Communion
Friday	08:30 Holy Communion (entrance via the south east door)
Sunday	08:00 Holy Communion 09:15 Parish Communion or All Age Worship 11:00 Choral Matins or Sung Eucharist 15:30 Choral Evensong 18:30 Evening Service, an informal service of praise and prayer