

towner

PRIVATE ART STORE TOURS – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS A PRIVATE ART STORE TOUR?

A Private Art Store Tour is the ideal option if you are interested in having a behind-the-scenes tour of our Art Store for your guests only, at a time/date that is most convenient to you. You may be organising a social outing for your organisation or want to visit independently by yourself or with some friends – we will liaise with in advance to ensure you get the most from your visit. The option also makes an ideal gift for an art-lover, especially when combined with refreshments from our lovely café.

WHAT IS COVERED ON THE TOUR? IS IT POSSIBLE TO REQUEST A SPECIFIC THEME OR FOCUS?

The hour-long tour, led by one of our extremely knowledgeable gallery team, offers an overview of our extensive art collection, starting with the original bequest of 22 Victorian paintings in 1920 through to recent acquisitions by contemporary artists. The work of Eric Ravilious (1903 – 1942) is a very important part of our collection and is always a popular choice with visitors. We are always happy to respond to specific requests, so do let us know if your group has a particular area of interest or theme in mind. Recent themed tours have focused on Alfred Wallis, The Berwick Murals, Louisa Paris, Abstract Art and Sussex Landscapes. If you would like to focus on a specific theme or artist then please let us know as early as possible.

HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN WE ACCOMMODATE ON A PRIVATE ART STORE TOUR?

15 is the maximum number we can accommodate within the Art Store at any one time. However, larger groups can be easily accommodated by splitting your group into smaller groups of 15. Whilst one group has an Art Store Tour the other group(s) can explore the rest of the gallery independently and then swap over at the agreed time. We will always have at least one free exhibition on display (sometimes 3!) and the café and shop are always worth a visit. If you do have a large group you may wish to consider shortening the length of each Art Store slightly to c. 45 minutes. This is entirely up to you.

HOW LONG DO TOURS LAST?

Each tour normally last one hour, but can be shortened if time is tight, or if more than one groups needs to be accommodated (see above)

CAN THE GROUP MEMBERS PURCHASE REFRESHMENTS FROM OUR CAFÉ?

Due to space limitations we are unable to accommodate large groups arriving to the café at the same time. To minimise waiting time for your group and to ensure seating is available we suggest that you consider pre-ordering refreshments in advance from our café (Urban Ground) and we can then allocate a meeting room for you to use (please note, this will always be subject to availability). We regret that we are unable to provide a space for packed lunches or picnics. If you do wish to book refreshments please let us know as early as possible so we can book the room and liaise with the caterers on your behalf.

Refreshments Options for Groups:

Freshly Brewed Tea/Coffee:	£1.80
Tea/Coffee with biscuits:	£2.25
Tea/Coffee with Muffin:	£3.50
Tea/Coffee with traybake:	£3.80
Tea/Coffee with slice of cake	£4.50

Our caterers can also offer more substantial lunch options. Prices and options available on request.

WHEN ARE TOURS AVAILABLE?

Tours can be booked between the hours of 10.15am and 4.30pm, every day except Mondays when we are closed (except for Bank Holidays). Tours outside these times are possible but will incur extra costs. Please give as much notice as possible. If you have a particular date in mind we will need to check first to ensure we do not clash with another visit and that we have staff in place to deliver the tour.

IS YOUR BUILDING ACCESSIBLE?

We have a large lift to all floors which can accommodate large groups. A manual wheelchair can be provided – please ask in advance. 'Sound Pen' Audio Guides to the building and selected works by Eric Ravilious are available at the Welcome Desk and are particularly suitable for blind and partially sighted people. Our staff are always on hand to help visitors who may need extra assistance.

PARKING:

Coaches can pull in to the pay and display car park in College Road (next to Towner) to drop off the group and can then normally find on-street parking spaces nearby. If the driver remains with the coach for the duration of the visit it may be possible to park on a loading ramp area next to Towner. This cannot be booked in advance and must be checked with Towner staff on the day.

Cars can park in the pay and display car parks in College Road (immediately next to Towner) or Devonshire Car Park (very short walk). Both car parks offer free parking for blue badge holders.

PRICES:

£7 per person

£5 per person for groups that are formally constituted as a not-for-profit group. (supporting documentation is required)

There is a minimum charge of £35 for any tour.

PAYMENT:

We can accept payment by cheque or card on the day or can accept payment by BACS online transfer. Ideally one payment should be made for the entire group rather than individual payments by group members.

Payment by BACS:

Please put your group name as the payment reference and transfer to:

Sort Code: 23 85 89 Account number: 00985056

CANCELLATIONS:

Up to two weeks before your visit – no charge

Cancellation with less than two weeks notice – 50% of your total fee.

HOW TO BOOK:

Please fill in the Booking Form and email to towner@townereastbourne.org.uk or post to Towner Art Gallery, Devonshire Park, College Rd, Eastbourne, BN21 4JJ. Call us on 01323 434670 if you would like to speak to a member of staff.