

Hinchingbrooke Country Park – School Visits

We offer a variety of activities for children. It is a great day out and fulfils the requirements for learning outside the classroom. The activities are listed on the next page; in most cases, you run the activities yourself and we provide resources to make your day a success. Where indicated, a ranger will lead the group.

Outline of the Day

The day will start with a ranger giving the group an introduction to the park and show you the resources. The school group will use the Countryside Centre as their base and children can leave their belongings in the room and use the toilets.

Teachers/helpers can use the facilities to make hot drinks. Lunch can also be eaten in the Centre.



Booking process

- 1) School makes initial enquiry to the Park and book provisional date
- 2) You will receive information sheet/booking form
- 3) Set your date and return booking form with your risk assessments to Park
- 4) Park processes form and makes draft timetable for the day. We will send an email confirmation, timetable and additional documents as required
- 5) School confirms/queries timetable and adjustments made. Arrangements are confirmed
- 6) School can arrange a pre-visit to the park if required
- 7) Pre-visit meeting at the Park
- 8) School visit takes place
- 9) Invoice will be sent after the visit

Wet weather contingencies

In the event of severely inclement weather, we may have to alter the day. Activities will take place in the Countryside Centre and, where possible, in the woods where there is cover from rain. Thus, outdoor activities would include woodland minibeast hunting and den building. Indoors activities: microscope work; making trees using hand painting; creating a bug-hotel and/or a mini-trail around the Countryside Centre would be offered. We expect most days to go ahead and the children should come suitably dressed.

What We Offer

How does it work?

- Using the table below, choose 3-4 activities
- Complete the booking form and return to hinchingbrookecountrypark@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
- We will then make up a timetable for the day and confirm arrangements.

Fees

£5.50 per child with adults free of charge. Some activities have an additional cost for materials etc.



| Activity | Description |
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| Bark and leaf rubbing/Horizontal logs (30 mins) | A fun and easy way to create artwork but also a great way to record and compare the bark and leaf shapes of different trees. (KS1) |
| Den building (30 mins) | Teamwork is essential to decide where and how to build a den out of natural materials in the woodland. (All ages - Ranger led) |

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| Grassland or woodland minibeast hunting (30 mins) | Observe insects in the meadows and use sweep nets to capture them or turn over logs in the woodland & shake trees to discover the creatures. Identify them using picture charts and keys. |
| Fire lighting (45 mins) | Learn to use flint and steel firelighters to make a fire. Cook marshmallows over the fire. (8 years+ - Ranger led) |
| Meet a tree (30 mins) | Make a tree ID dial and then go on a nature walk to identify the trees by its leaves/branches. (All ages) |
| Meet the honeybees (30 mins) | Learn about bee society, how they make honey & their importance to us and the natural world. Beekeeper will open hives for children to view from the viewing gallery. (All ages. Additional fee of £30, Spring/Summer only) |
| Paint palettes / smelly cocktails (15/15 mins) | Collect tiny pieces of different colours to create a natural paint palette. Collect small pieces of plants and mix up a smelly concoction and think of a wacky name before letting others smell it. (KS1) |
| Pond dipping (30 mins + 10 mins travel time) | Catch and observe the smaller inhabitants of a pond using nets & trays and identifying them using picture charts and keys. Learn about movement, adaptations, life cycles. (All ages) |
| Woodland collages (30 mins) | Create masterpieces on a large scale using the natural materials around you - leaves, twigs, logs etc. This can be themed e.g. around minibeasts. (All ages) |
| Campfire cooking (60 mins) | Children learn to make their own pizzas and cook them on the open fire. (6 years+ Additional fee of £100 - Ranger led) |