

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 1923 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. Please let us know as early as possible if you would like to focus on a specific theme/artist.

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

12 is our preferred 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 12. 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 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.

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 it is difficult to accommodate large groups arriving to the café counter 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 and we will then try to allocate a space for you to use 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. Payment for catering should be made as one payment, rather than multiple individual payments. It can be added to your tour booking cost and paid as one fee.

Tea/Coffee: £2.20 person. Tea/Coffee & Biscuits: £2.50 Tea/Coffee & traybake: £4.80

WHEN ARE TOURS AVAILABLE?

Tours can be booked between the hours of 10.15am and 4.00pm, 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, from a flat entranceway, which can accommodate large groups. A manual wheelchair can be provided – please ask in advance. Our staff are always on hand to help visitors who may need extra assistance.

PARKING:

There is a pay and display car park in College Road, which includes some spaces for Blue Badge holders. There are also a number of blue badge parking spaces to the front of Towner, alongside the plaza area. Buses can pull into a bus layby on College Road to the side of Towner, but should not be left unattended. Coach parking is also available along the seafront.

PRICES:

£10 per person. There is a minimum charge of £60 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. Catering costs (if applicable) can be added to the tour fee

CANCELLATIONS:

Please give us as much notice as possible if you need to cancel your booking. Cancellations with less than one week's notice will incur a £25 cancellation fee.

HOW TO BOOK:

Please fill in the Booking Form and email to dutymanagers@townereastbourne.org.uk or post to Duty Managers, Towner Art Gallery, Devonshire Park, College Rd, Eastbourne, BN21 4JJ. Call us on 01323 434675 if you would like to speak to a member of staff.