



# Robert Burns Birthplace Museum

## Teacher's information



**Transport subsidy is available for your visit to Robert Burns Birthplace Museum**  
Visit [www.nts.org.uk/Learn/subsidy.php](http://www.nts.org.uk/Learn/subsidy.php) for more information

Robert Burns Birthplace Cottage was built by Robert Burns' father, William Burnes, and it was here that Scotland's greatest bard was born in 1759, and where he lived until he was seven years old. The cottage and Education Pavilion have been newly refurbished to great acclaim (with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund).

The cottage has four rooms: the Kitchen (which features the original bed in which Burns was born), the Spence (where young Robert received instruction from his tutor John Murdoch), the Byre (where the family's animals were stabled), and the Barn (where young Robert would help out with the harvest). The cottage is set in a working market garden and looks out at the original smallholding farmed by the family.

Other attractions include Alloway's auld and haunted Kirk and the Brig o' Doon – the settings of Burns' 'Tam o' Shanter'. The Robert Burns Monument (the first monument to Burns, built in 1823) is set amidst beautiful Victorian gardens and is also well worth a visit. A short film of 'Tam o' Shanter' is available at the Tam o' Shanter Experience until summer 2010.

### **The school programme offers many opportunities for cross-curricular work and engaging with the Curriculum for Excellence:**

- School parties are always welcome at Burns' Cottage and throughout the site. All we ask is that you telephone to book in advance, and we can arrange pack lunch facilities and times to see the cottage and the film of Tam o' Shanter.
- All our workshops are designed to meet Curriculum for Excellence outcomes.
- There is a range of workshops (see below).
- Schools can follow-up their workshop with a tour around the site or, if you prefer, simply book a tour with one of our specialist guides.
- Secondary schools are most welcome to visit the cottage. At present we are working on developing our new programme in consultation with local secondary schools. If you would like to visit, please contact the Learning Manager on 01292 430 315 and we can arrange a bespoke workshop for your class.
- At present we are compiling our new on-line Teachers' Notes to correspond with the refurbishment of the Cottage.
- Our Education Pavilion has 3 teaching rooms (one has early years' furniture).

For more information, visit [www.ntslearning.org.uk](http://www.ntslearning.org.uk)



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### Planning your class visit:

- Book well in advance to avoid disappointment. Please note that January and February are very popular months and book up very quickly
- Robert Burns Birthplace Museum is open for educational visits throughout the school year. School workshops last for an hour and a half, and guided tour start times and durations vary – this will be confirmed when you book your class visit
- Transport subsidy is available for your visit to Robert Burns Birthplace Museum – visit the NTS Learn website – [www.nts.org.uk/Learn/subsidy.php](http://www.nts.org.uk/Learn/subsidy.php)
- Our maximum class size is 33, with a ratio of 1 teacher/adult to 10 pupils
- For charges for workshops, please see below. NTS educational members are offered reduced rates.
- To apply for educational membership, go the NTS Learn website – or contact Robert Burns Birthplace Museum on 0844 493 2601.
- Class teachers are encouraged to make a free preparatory visit to the site
- Lunches: The rooms in the Education Pavilion can also be used by pupils during lunch-time, for packed lunches. In warm weather, schools can choose to picnic in the gardens.
- Toilets: Toilets are available at the Education Pavilion and at the Tam o' Shanter Experience
- Access: The Education Pavilion is fully accessible. Burns Cottage is a heritage site, with some access restrictions. Please ring for more details about the whole site. There is also some information on the RBBM webpage, on the NTS website: [www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk)
- All workshops have been risk assessed. Teachers of self-led groups are expected to prepare their own RA for the visit
- Parking is available for school buses/coaches in both the Robert Burns Birthplace Cottage car park and the Tam o' Shanter Experience car park

### Workshops:

At present we offer 3 different school workshops at the cottage and in our bespoke Education Pavilion, for Early to Second Levels:

- **Kailyard Capers:** This programme is for early years through to primary one. Children will get the chance to visit the cottage and think about all the different ways that Robert Burns experienced the world when he was the same age as them, and finish up with performing the story of the day that young Rabbinie met a magical tattie-boggle who taught him how to speak to the tim'rous beasties all around the cottage and smallholding.
- **When Burns was a Bairn:** This programme is for primary two to primary four. In this workshop children will explore the world of Burns through the objects that he used. The workshop begins with using objects to help explain history in a physical way, and then children will work through the cottage looking at how the objects explain his life. The workshop ends with the children making butter and learning skills from Burns' time.
- **Being Burns:** This programme is for primary five to seven. The workshop puts the children in the position of Burns as a child learning from his family, his teacher, the natural and supernatural worlds, as well as his work in the smallholding. The workshop ends with the children putting together a costumed interpretation about one day in the life of Robert Burns



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### Charges:

Activity	NTS Educational Membership	Without Membership
Workshop	£1.50	£3.00
Guided Tour	£1 per child	£1 per child
Self Led	Free	£2.40

### During your class visit:

- NTS staff will lead school workshops
- For workshops, your class will be divided into two groups for their trip around the cottage and then work in small groups (of up to five) for activities, such as drama and butter churning
- Teachers are responsible for their pupils, and for their behaviour
- Pupils do not need to bring any materials for the school programme
- Pupils and teachers are welcome to bring cameras and opportunities will be afforded for taking photographs
- Coats and bags can be left in the Education Pavilion during a workshop
- You will be advised where to report on arrival when making your booking

### Feedback from teachers:

"Excellent staff. Very impressive: students were fully involved and participated enthusiastically. The 'active' nature of this session supported all aspects of learning, particularly for those who struggle to focus in class. Thank you!"

"Very good, meaningful activities. Children's answers were elaborated on to emphasise teaching points. Use of costumes and props brought history to life for pupils."

### Feedback from pupils:

"It was fun and I would love to come back. I want to find out more."

"I learned that my life is a lot easier than Robert's, and I have had a better education."

"I really enjoyed doing the play and I found the information really interesting."

### For more information and to make a booking, contact:

The Administrator,  
Burns National Heritage Park, Murdoch's Lone, Alloway, Ayr KA7 4PQ  
Tel. 0844 493 2601  
Fax. 01292 441750  
E-mail: [info@burnsheritagepark.com](mailto:info@burnsheritagepark.com)