



ROMAN DISCOVERY CENTRE

## WHAT TO EXPECT AT DEVA ROMAN DISCOVERY CENTRE:

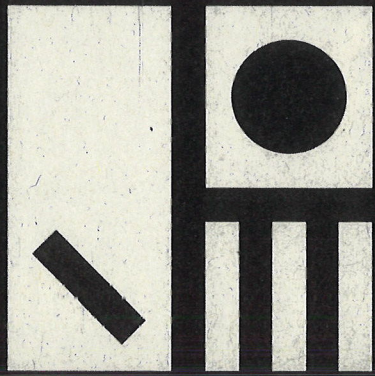
- A typical day (let's say 10am start).
- Group arrives at Deva where they are greeted by their guide.
- The group will then be taken to store their lunch bags and be given a chance to use the toilets before they begin the tour.
- The group will then be taken through the centre by their guide who will show them what life was like in the fortress of Deva early 2000 years ago. They will go through an onsite archaeological dig and find out how archaeology is used to find out clues from our past. The group will then be taken into the hands-on area (at the moment this is a space for a group activity) where we explore how we find out about the past from peoples "grave goods".
- The group will then be given 30 minutes for lunch
- After lunch the group will be taken out by a Roman Soldier for 1hr to the Roman Gardens and the amphitheatre.
- During this time the children will learn what it takes to be a Roman soldier by performing battle formations and learning to work as a team.
- The day should take 3 -3.5 hrs



### Contact us:

bookings@bigheritage.co.uk | [www.devaromancentre.co.uk](http://www.devaromancentre.co.uk) | 01244 343407  
Deva Roman Discovery Centre: Pierpoint Lane, Off Bridge Street, Chester CH1 1NL





**DEVA**

ROMAN DISCOVERY CENTRE

Deva Roman Discovery Centre  
Risk Assessment





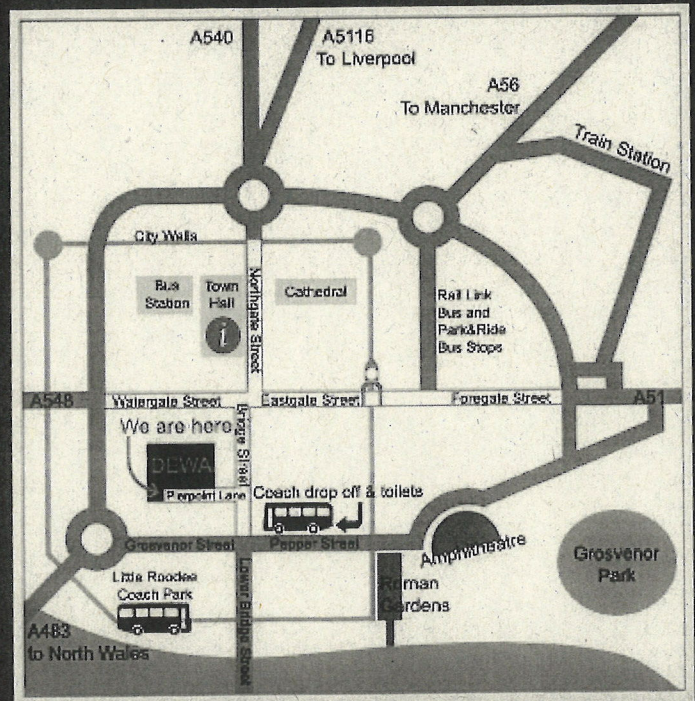
# WELCOME TO DEVA ROMAN DISCOVERY CENTRE...

## Our Location

The Deva Roman Discovery Centre is situated within the fortress walls of Chester, just off one of the four main shopping streets, Bridge Street.

Due to our city centre location, we cannot provide parking, nor can schools be dropped off at our entrance. We recommend the Little Roodee Car Park for coach and car parking and Pepper Street as the most convenient drop off/pick up point for groups arriving by coach.

Please check for any information regarding road works / closures with your coach company, before your visit.



For Parking:  
Little Roodee Car park  
Chester  
CH1 1SL

For Drop off/Pick Up:  
Pepper Street  
Chester  
CH1 1DF



### On arrival

- You will be met by your guide who will need to know how many children and adults, including group leaders, are in your group. If you are wishing to use the toilets before the start of your visit, please arrive 10 minutes earlier than your allocated starting time.

### Lunches

- Please note that we are now able to store packed lunches within the centre, but it makes things much easier if the class lunches are collected in a storage container before arrival. We have limited space in our lunchrooms, and it is available on a first come first served basis. Alternatively, your class could eat in our Roman Garden just outside the museum on Pierpoint Lane. We do, however, ask you to please be considerate of our neighbours by avoiding sitting in front of trading shops and ensuring that you take all your litter with you.
- Please note that whether choosing to eat inside or outside, the Deva Roman Discovery Centre is unable to accept any food waste and you will need to make provisions to take your waste back to school with you. Waste placed into our neighbours' bins will be reported.

### Payment Confirmation and Cancellation

- You may change your booking within five days of receiving your Booking Confirmation email from us. Failure to not turn up for your booking will result in a charge of 100% of the original invoice. We will always endeavour to reschedule a booking due to exceptional circumstances. It is also important to try and stick to the agreed arrival and finish times.

### Gift Shop – (currently closed)

- Our gift shop has a wide range of historically themed items starting at pocket money prices. Time in the shop is allocated to each group within the time in the centre, but if you prefer, you may purchase Goody Bags instead. Please book the Goody Bags in advance of your trip and payment for them is required either in advance or on the day of your visit, by cash or school cheque.



## DEVA ROMAN DISCOVERY CENTRE

Please note that our Risk Assessment is for guidance only and will need to be personalized to each group's needs by the Group Leader. A free pre-visit is offered to each teacher in order to undertake your Risk Assessment and to familiarize yourself with the Centre.

Please inform Deva Roman Discovery Centre if any member of your group requires special considerations.

### Reconstructions

- School groups currently enter DEVA around the back of the building via a ramped access, visitors start their tour in a reconstructed harbour and street scene. This area has various floor heights, low level lighting and two small sets of steps incorporated into the displays. We sometimes use an atmospheric smoke in two sections of the reconstructions. The smoke is specially designed for use in a public area and will not cause coughing although some children will cough from a psychological effect. We also use smells to replicate everyday Roman Chester, which in severe cases, could cause vomiting, nausea and difficulty in breathing.

### Amphitheatre mockup

- Groups are then invited to take a seat in our reproduction of a Roman Amphitheatre. The seats of the amphitheatre are arranged as tiered benches in order to create the atmosphere of an amphitheatre and also to allow everyone in the group to see easily.
- As the seating resembles steps there is a chance that unsupervised children could trip or be pushed off resulting in injury. Your guide will lead in the group and allocate seating to the children, row by row to minimise any risks.

- There will be a demonstration of gladiator weapons and armour, which some children may be allowed to handle. All the weapons and armour are replica and are safe to handle.

### Archaeological Dig

- There are several archaeological digs on site which your guide will explain to the group. There is a high barrier which runs around each pit making it very difficult for anyone to fall in, however children have in the past accidentally dropped personal items in which are often difficult to retrieve.
- The walkway through the archaeological digs is relatively narrow, so children are instructed to walk through sensibly.
- We have a video and projection show over our large archaeological dig. This does contain some flashing images that may not be suitable for anyone with Epilepsy or suffers seizures. Please make us aware if any of your group (including students and adults) suffer from this and an alternative route can be taken through the museum.



### Hands-On Area (Currently being refurbished)

- The hand on room is currently being refurbished, however we are still able to offer a handling session of a variety of Roman artefacts. Some of these artefacts can be a little heavy so they are usually only handed out if the class is sitting down.
- Sometimes the guide will discuss Roman burials, to explain how archaeologists find out about people from the past. This may cause distress for any child who has recently lost someone close to them.

### Museum (Currently being refurbished)

- Our museum has glass fronted display panels and a freestanding display case. This room has low level lighting, and the cabinets are made of solid wood and have hard edges.

### Lunchrooms

- We have a downstairs lunchroom which is suitable for classes with mobility issues. There are fixed benches with underneath storage. There is a small risk of children trapping fingers if lifted up. We encourage everyone not to lift the seats up.
- Our other lunchroom can only be accessed by a flight of stairs. Our upstairs lunchroom is split into two sections and has several large picnic tables for the children to use. We ask that each class keep to their specified section as they may be required to share the lunchroom with another group.
- Please inform us if you have a pupil who might require alternative provision.

### Roman Garden

- We now have our very own Roman Garden outside the museum. There are some steps leading up to the garden and some loose stones. There will also be some seating in the garden and some raised flower beds. We ask that children do not climb on the flower beds and walk round the garden whilst being supervised at all times. The garden is also located on a quiet pedestrianised public walkway.

### Toilets / Exit

- Our toilets are situated at the rear of the building. Once inside DEVA the toilets can be used at any stage, though children must be accompanied by an adult helper. There is one cubicle and a long urinal in the Boy's toilet which allows three boys to use the toilet at once, while the Girl's toilet has four cubicles.
- Please note that we currently do not have any easy access toilets.
- Groups exit DEVA via a ramped access from the back of the building.



### Steps / Stairs

- You may encounter sets of steps or stairs on your tour to gain access to a site or monument.
- Extra care should be taken whilst using these steps as they may be of hard stone, wet, or poorly maintained.

### The Walls

- Your soldier may take your group upon part of Chester's walls. These walls are of a considerable height and due care and attention should be observed whilst upon them. Leaning over the edge is not encouraged by our soldiers.

### Weapons

- During your patrol your Roman soldier may offer your children pieces of armour to carry and handle. Please let your guide know if you are not happy about this.
- Your soldier may also display his sword, dagger and spear. These weapons are not for general handling though your soldier may require an assistant for this demonstration. This would be done in a controlled manner with the permission of the group leader.

### Battle

- Your soldier may decide to have the group engage in battle formations using their shields, this is an extremely popular activity and makes a great photo opportunity for the class, and as most of the children's faces will be obscured by their shields it means that there are rarely any issues regarding children whose parents have not given permission for their child to be photographed.
- During these formations, the soldier may get the children to engage in a mock battle, where they will be hit upon the shields with foam sticks to test the strength of the formation, and in some cases may split the class into two groups and make it into a competition.

### Photography

- The Soldier patrol takes place outside, which means that there will be members of the public in the places you are taken to by your soldier. As many members of the public will be tourists visiting Chester's historic sites, they may attempt to take a photograph of the Roman soldier whilst they are with your class.
- As we are in a public setting, there are no legal restrictions and no presumption of privacy for anyone in a public place. There are no laws against taking photographs of children. Your soldier will not attempt to stop anyone taking pictures of the group unless they are directly interfering with the tour.

### Weather

- The patrol takes place entirely outside with no areas for shelter and will carry on unless the weather is extremely bad. As we live in Britain, we can experience several types of weather in one day, so it is a good idea to check the weather forecast before visiting, to make sure that everyone attending is dressed appropriately.
- During winter, it is possible that some areas on the usual patrol route may be icy. In this case your soldier will assess the situation and may suggest an alternative route for the patrol.



## **SOLDIER PATROL – RISK ASSESSMENT:**

Our soldier patrols are often the highlight of your group's day out. Our battle-ready soldiers enthusiastically demonstrate what it was like to be a part of the 20th legion almost 2000 years ago, with a backdrop of Chester's major archaeological attractions DEVA soldier patrols offer a unique and educational insight into Roman life.

### Meeting your Soldier

- Prior to starting your tour our soldiers will give your group a few basic guidelines of what is expected of them. These guidelines highlight the need for safety and awareness whilst on the march. If for whatever reason you wish to address your group, your guide will do his best to stop at a safe area of convenience.

### Equipment

- Each child will be supplied with a small replica Roman shield to take with them on their patrol. These will be used for recreating well known Roman battle formations. The shields are light but are hard and could cause injury if being improperly used. The soldier with you will give strict instructions on how shields are to be used and if he deems a class not capable of following those instructions, then he will make the decision to withhold shields from the class.
- The children will also be issued with a "sword" each, in the form of a short length of foam. The rules for them is the same as the shields.

### Marching

- Your children will be encouraged to find a partner of their choice or yours and remain with that partner whilst on patrol. The obvious hazards whilst on patrol are traffic, both auto and pedestrian.

### Roads

- Your Soldier is well experienced with getting children safely across roads and will use a pedestrian crossing when possible. However, there will be several side streets which don't have crossing points. When crossing these roads your soldier will stop the traffic, but the onus is still on the group's teaching staff and helpers to ensure that the children cross safely. Pedestrians will often cross a procession of children, this being the case, teachers and helpers will be required to monitor and assist the group's progress. Pavements and uneven road surfaces are also an obvious hazard whilst on patrol.

### Archaeological Sites

- Using Chester's Archaeology as a backdrop, your soldier will introduce as many sites as possible within your allocated time. These sites are often open to public visitors so your group should remain in close visible formation. The obvious hazards within these sites are loose or uneven surfaces, poorly maintained grounds and general public interest. Your soldier will do his best to indicate any hazards which may arise and also to keep your private patrol, private. Whilst in the amphitheatre the soldier may ask for two adult volunteers to perform a gladiator 'battle'. The battle takes place on a loosely gritted surface. Please inform your soldier if you do not wish for this to go ahead.