

The Life of Christ 2024

School Visit Guide



Welcome to Wintershall

The following information will provide you with everything you need to know about your visit and how to prepare for it. If you require further information, please contact the office team by emailing admin@wintershall.org.uk

Health and Safety Wintershall CIO takes health and safety seriously, taking all reasonable precautions to ensure that all areas enable safe public access and that equipment complies with current standards. Wintershall has a child protection policy. All school groups are expected to take full responsibility for their own health and safety and for those in their charge, including undertaking their own risk assessment prior to arrival. You should find all the information required to complete your risk assessment within this guide.

Insurance Cover Wintershall has the appropriate Public Liability Insurance in place. Wintershall can supply a Certificate of Insurance upon request. Please call 01483 892167 for details.

Essential Information

***Arrival and Departure** Schools must arrive between 9 and 9.30am in order to allow enough time to walk (15 minutes) to the first Act. There will be other school groups arriving at the same time so we would ask you to be as efficient as possible leading your group from the coach park. Please take into account the start of the performances cannot be delayed for late schools and you may have to miss Act I if late. Please message the education mobile on 07723597287 if at all delayed. Departure time should be between 3.15 – 3.30.

***School Booking Information** Wintershall will request the following information prior to your visit – the name of the trip leader (if different to booking) and contact number, transport details including coach company and all additional needs including allergies/mobility requirements. If booking details change, please do let us know: admin@wintershall.org.uk. It is the responsibility of the school to ensure that parents are adequately informed of the programme and consents received.

***Parking** There is a free coach park for coaches, minibuses and cars. There will be signage directing the way from the main gates. Using the details that you provide on booking, we will be contacting coach companies to brief them on the one-way system in place. Guides will be on duty to meet coaches and mini buses in the coach park, and welcome visitors. Postcode for visiting is **GU5 0LR**. [Directions can be found online www.wintershall.org.uk/contact-us](http://www.wintershall.org.uk/contact-us)

***Moving around the site** The play takes place in 3 different locations throughout the day, with the audience moving between each Act. Teachers should note that the terrain is varied, and on occasion (if rainy) can be slippery. Children are asked to walk at all times and follow directions from their Education Guide. Unfortunately, due to the nature of this event, there is limited access for wheelchairs, however please advise us of any special needs at the time of booking.

Education Guides in blue jackets, will accompany schools for the day. They will be on hand throughout the visit to answer any questions schools might have regarding the day.

***Q&A Session** At lunchtime, we will host a Q&A session with cast and production members. There will be an opportunity to submit questions during the morning.

***Child participation** There will be an opportunity for selected pupils to join the cast on stage in Act II and Act III. The Education Team will remind lead teachers that this is likely to happen and point out the correct entrance onto the stage. Please be aware that the children remain the school's responsibility at all times and we ask that a teacher accompanies students on to the stage.

Toilets are located in the coach park, main car park as well as throughout the site. All children must be supervised by a school member of staff.

Seating There is no seating provided. Please bring ground sheets and picnic blankets for pupils to sit on if it is wet. Schools have previously provided black bin liners for pupils. As this is a promenade performance, you do not have allocated seating, although the Stage Manager and production team will give clear direction to move your group around the site, and we would ask you to adhere to these directions.

Suitable clothing Please encourage your pupils to wear suitable clothing and footwear and dress appropriately for a full day outside. The ground is uneven and can be slippery. Stout shoes, hats and water are essential. Please bring a raincoat if needed.

Weather Outdoor activities mean that weather, temperature, climate and light conditions may impact on your visit but they are an integral part of the Wintershall experience. Performances will only be cancelled in the event of adverse weather conditions deemed by the Wintershall Team to pose a health and safety risk.

Belongings and Bag Storage Wintershall strongly advises teachers and students to keep all personal belongings with them. Any items found at the end the day are placed in the Wintershall Estate office.

Food Refreshments are not available onsite during the event, so water bottles and nut-free packed lunches are essential. We recommend these be carried for the day by pupils in rucksacks. Lunches provided by the school must be handed out prior to arrival onsite. There will be about a 40-minute break for lunch, following Act II. We recommend you move your groups to have lunch by Act III.

First Aid crew are in attendance throughout the event. They will be based in a central location and can be contacted at any point using assistant stage managers. Please contact an Education Guide or steward if you require First Aid assistance.

Wintershall Volunteers All supporting guides are made aware of site and supervision procedures and responsibilities agreed prior to the event. In addition to the above, the Child Protection Act legislation does not consider Wintershall as a provider of specific services to children, and it is therefore not necessary for all production or estate staff to have DBS checks, however the Education Officer and key leaders are checked.

Child Protection At all times, supervision of pupils within school groups is the direct responsibility of their teachers, and there must be the requisite adult to child ratios. Please ensure that teacher supervision is evenly spread throughout your group. We ask that teachers outline the following 'Wintershall Education Code of Conduct' with pupils prior to departure and reinforce it during the day by monitoring pupil behaviour.

*Wintershall Education Code of Conduct

Individuals should:

- Behave in a courteous and responsible manner at all times.
- Listen to instructions from group leader and Wintershall staff.
- Switch off all mobile phones and media devices, unless otherwise permitted.
- Walk on the site.
- Take all litter home with you.

What's covered in the Play?

The Life of Christ script uses all four Gospels to tell the story of Jesus' life on earth. The play aims to stay as close to scripture as possible, but is only one interpretation of this incredible story. An up-to-date programme of scenes will be provided for all visiting staff on the day - below are some of the included scenes:

- ACT I** The Angel Gabriel's visit, Joseph's Dream, The Shepherds visit, Simeon and Anna, The Visit of the Magi, Herod's charge.
- ACT II** Jesus's Baptism, Temptation in the Desert, Calling of the Disciples, Jesus' ministry including Miracles, Healings and Teachings.
- ACT III** Palm Sunday Entry into Jerusalem, Zacchaeus the tax collector, The Last Supper, Judas' Betrayal, The Trial of Jesus, The Way of the Cross
- ACT IV** The Crucifixion*, The Tomb, Breakfast on the Beach, The Ascension.

* The portrayal of the Crucifixion is realistic and a profoundly moving part of the play. However, we recommend that if you are concerned about this scene, you brief your group beforehand. We can provide images of the crucifixion scene if that helps with this preparation. On the day there are options to sit further away from the action, so please inform an Education Guide during the lunch break if required.

There are short video clips from the play in our Media section on the website, as well as behind the scenes images. These are a great pre-visit or follow up resource for groups wanting to know more.

<https://www.wintershall.org.uk/media>

After your visit

Evaluation Following your school visit, we would be grateful if you can send feedback. This information allows us to continually improve the educational experience and resources we offer. Thank you in advance.

Book 'The Life of Christ' June 2025 If you have enjoyed the play, why not book again for next year now and get the best possible ticket price? Please email admin@wintershall.org.uk

More from the Wintershall Education Programme:

Book a Wintershall Assembly This is a wonderful way to follow up a visit. Costumed actors come to your school and perform unseen 'extras' from the story of Jesus' life. Go online and book NOW!

Retreat Days Come and enjoy Wintershall, when no one else is around! We run Retreat days for Staff Insets, Year 6 Leavers Days and KS3/ KS4 Retreat days plus our Lent retreats for all ages, as featured in BBC Songs of Praise this year!

The Travelling Crib Advent workshops at Lambeth Meet the first people who travelled to Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus in the beautiful private gardens at Lambeth Palace. Donkeys, sheep, shepherds, Mary and the wise men all explore the Christmas story this unique workshop experience for KS1 and KS2. Book online.

Spread the Word! If you enjoyed your trip today, please do talk to other people about your trip. We can only continue to run if there is an interest from school groups, so tell other schools and community groups about what you have done today.

Who to Contact? Have any questions about any of our resources? Please do get in touch. All we offer is flexible and adaptable and can be tailored to your needs. We look forward to hearing from you.