



# Inspire students & embed learning

A focus on Chester Zoo, a major wildlife charity, and all that it has to offer school groups.

**A**iming to inspire a connection with nature and wildlife, and empower the next generation of conservationists, Chester Zoo's education team and programmes are second to none.



Not only do they work with all key stages, covering cross-curricular learning, but the team can also help schools organise staff training and inset days as well as supporting teachers with planning a conservation curriculum.

It has recently opened a state-of-the-art education centre, the Conservation Education Hub, which features three large classrooms, a recording studio and covered outdoor space, with capacity to host more than 50,000 pupils and teachers every year.

With more than 31,000 animals, 128 acres of zoological gardens, as well as more than 200 resources to support your trip, Chester Zoo is ideal for visits year-round. It's a popular choice for fun end-of-year summer visits (look out for new arrivals this year in particular) and is also ideal when it's a little quieter in early autumn or April/May, especially for those not taking part in exams.

## Top tips for your school visit to Chester Zoo

1. There's no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing. Pack appropriate clothing and items for your visit. Hats and suncream in the summer, warm waterproofs and wellies in the winter.
2. Make sure you have a fully charged phone or camera to capture the memories of the day.
3. Bring along any resources you would like your group to complete during your visit.



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Teachers and educational visits coordinators can opt for a self-guided visit – there are animal talks to join in with, as well as informative and entertaining interpretations at the various habitats. Or there are a huge range of sessions to choose from across the curriculum-linked workshops, all of which invite students to delve into the work of Chester Zoo, including its conservation efforts around the world to help prevent extinction.

### Free resources – for you and your students

To enhance your trip even further, make use of the extensive resources available before, during and after visiting the zoo. You can search by age, subject, resource type and topic. There are videos, fact files, images and games. There are also activities your group can take part in at the zoo, back at school and at home.

And the learning doesn't stop with your students. Chester Zoo is celebrating the opening of its new Conservation Education Hub with a range of free engaging, curriculum-linked CPD events to give you the tools to empower young people to live more sustainably and prevent extinction.

They also offer Conservation Curriculum Toolkits featuring lesson plans, assembly planners, topic webs, progression overviews and more to help get your whole school started on their own conservation curriculum journey. ●

### Useful contact:

01244 389831/01244 389444  
learning@chesterzoo.org  
chesterzoo.org/schools

## Enter Conservation Awards

Are you proud of the way your school has sparked a passion for wildlife and conservation? Or perhaps you have put conservation at the heart of your curriculum? Schools can now enter Chester Zoo's 2024 National Conservation Education Awards and gain wider recognition for their hard work. Find out more on the website, or contact the team for information.

**SUBJECT LINKS:** Art & Design, Business Studies, Citizenship, Design & Technology, Drama, English, Geography, History, IT, Maths, Music, Psychology, Science.

## CROSS-CURRICULAR VISITS

### 3 exciting workshops

**Climate & Sustainability Walking Tour (KS3):** this new offer coincides with the opening of the Himalayas Habitat. Students will visit the habitats of iconic species such as snow leopards (which have recently arrived), red pandas, Caribbean flamingos, Komodo dragons and Humboldt penguins. There are links to biology, chemistry and geography.

**Conservation Escape Room (upper KS2 & 3):** the ideal way for groups to discover more about conservation while solving puzzles and working collaboratively. In this immersive experience, students will explore the dark world of illegal wildlife trade, learn about the role zoos play in combating this, and how Chester Zoo is preventing extinction.

**Guess Zoo? A Classification Gameshow (KS2):** taking place in the interactive Sumba House Digital Theatre, this new session invites teams of students to take part in a new game show to identify different animals from furs, feathers, skulls and skeletons. It ties in with the science curriculum topic 'Living things and their habitats'.



# Unpack more than history in Normandy



## Set up base at Travelbound's Château du Molay and explore a range of key sites in the north of France.

If you're looking for a seamless educational experience, then search no further because a residential school trip to the Château du Molay in Normandy, owned and operated by Travelbound, ticks so many boxes.

Whether you're interested in a cross-curricular educational visit covering multiple subjects, such as language and history, or seeking to book a subject-led tour focused on art or food technology, this 18th century residential property is an ideal base for those wanting to explore what the region has to offer.

The Château du Molay provides learners with a wide range of fun activities to enjoy during their stay. Supported by the onsite team, you can rest assured that your group can thrive in a safe and secure environment. The accommodation can hold 195 guests with 42 en-suite bedrooms.

### What's new?

2025 brings 15 new onsite activities to enjoy, including a heated swimming pool, archery tag and frisbee golf. Other highlights at the Château du Molay range from axe throwing, volleyball and a survival course, to problem solving, campfire and basketball.

From providing downtime activities and evening entertainment to a greater range of instructor-led and independent activities, the site now offers plenty of blended learning opportunities. Teachers can divide their time between exploring the region and supporting students' personal development and key skills.

Travelbound has worked with its sister brand JCA to provide the Château with trained activity instructors to support students. JCA's experience in providing outstanding residential trips supports the creation of new and enhanced activities that will keep students busy throughout their stay in France.

In addition to the traditional evening entertainment like French food tasting, crêpe evenings and discos, Travelbound gives group leaders the freedom to be involved as little or as much as they'd like.

**With 38 acres of private parkland to enjoy, here are four key benefits for schools staying at the Château du Molay:**

**Location:** just nine miles from Bayeux and within an hour's drive of most of Normandy's landmarks, the site provides a great base to explore everything the region has to offer.

**Inclusion:** Travelbound is dedicated to providing an inclusive learning environment accessible to all types of learners. As such, the onsite activities are designed to be fun while enhancing students' personal development and teamwork skills.

**Experience:** the Château has been welcoming school groups for over 30 years and their onsite team is highly experienced in understanding the expectations of both students and staff.

**Safe and secure:** Travelbound is a fully-bonded member of the School Travel Forum, and the Château du Molay is recognised by the Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) Quality Badge for delivering enriching, safe experiences for students.



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## What did previous schools think?

*"Thank you so much to the Château du Molay! The staff are enthusiastic, friendly and professional, and went the extra mile to make sure that we had the best possible experience."*  
**Bishopston Comprehensive School**

*"Consistently excellent service throughout the years for which the trip has been running."*  
**St Joseph's Catholic Academy**

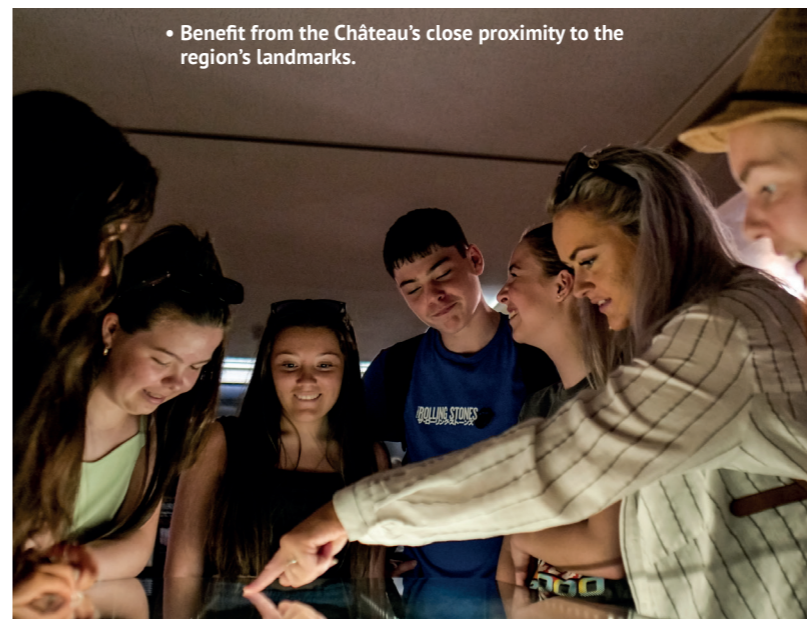
*"For our students, the highlight of the tour was the market place activity, where they could put their French to good use. Their favourite on-site activity was the karaoke and disco."*  
**Dover Grammar School for Girls**

## 5 teacher tips to shape your visit

**1 Plan early:** by booking your school trip to the Château du Molay earlier in the year, your school benefits from the pick of preferred dates. Secure the best rates on transport and early access to popular excursions to avoid disappointment.

**2 Maximise outdoor learning:** Travelbound can craft an itinerary tailored to the needs of your group. Think carefully about your learning objectives and what you would like your students to experience. With a range of onsite activities available, you will have access to plenty of personal development opportunities to mix with culturally immersive activities.

**3 Trust your school tour provider:** Travelbound has nailed down the art of delivering an unforgettable school trip due to its three decades of experience. Teachers can work with a dedicated tour coordinator to shape their experience and trust them to bring the tour together. Logistics is one less thing to worry about when planning a school trip with a trusted provider.



• Benefit from the Château's close proximity to the region's landmarks.

SCHOOL TRIPS ABROAD



• Enjoy a range of activities at the Château, including team building games.

**4 Be realistic about what you can fit in:** we all want to see everything when we're travelling but with Normandy having such a vast array of attractions that can support your students' learning, even the most seasoned group leader will have to concede that maybe some excursions can be saved for the next trip. Hone in what will best suit your cohort. Whether it's art, language, history, food, or even a cross-curricular experience, consider how the excursions will tie in with work back at school.

**5 Be flexible:** seeking opportunities for Activities Week? Want to celebrate Bastille Day in France? When booking your place at the Château du Molay, be mindful that other groups might be keen to visit the same attractions on the same dates. If you've not managed to get your booking in early enough, consider travelling a few days either side of your chosen dates to ensure you get to experience your non-negotiable excursions. •

INFO

01273 244 572  
[travelbound.co.uk/enquire](https://travelbound.co.uk/enquire)

## Win a school trip to Château du Molay

Travelbound, in partnership with School Travel Organiser Magazine, is offering one lucky UK school the chance to win a four-day (three nights) stay at the exclusive Château du Molay for 40 students and four adults in September 2025. Your entire experience is covered - from comfortable accommodation to seamless coach travel and a range of exciting excursions.

To enter, simply explain in up to 500 words why your students would benefit from this experience. Entries close at midday on Tuesday 12th November, 2024.

To learn more and submit your entry, scan this QR code.

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