

School Visits at Jane Austen's House

2023/2024



Contents:

3. Introduction to schools at Jane Austen's House
4. What we offer: KS1-2; KS3-5
- 5-6. House tours:
 - 'The hopes of the nation': Action and Adventure Tour*
 - Novel-Themed Tours*
- 7-8. Interactive workshops:
 - Zooming Out: The Wider World of Jane Austen's Novels*
 - Time Travellers: Money and Marriage in Jane Austen's England*
 - Jane Austen and the Art of the Author*
 - 'Tales in a Style entirely new': Creative Writing Workshop*
8. Village Walk
9. Free extras: self-led activities
10. Virtual sessions
11. At-school sessions
12. Feedback from schools
13. Location
14. Booking info
15. Prices and discounts



Jane Austen's House is the only museum in the world dedicated to the life, works and legacy of Jane Austen, one of England's greatest authors. It is an accredited museum, set in the house in which Jane Austen lived for the last eight years of her life, and where her six globally-beloved novels were all revised or written, and were published.

A school visit to Jane Austen's House is the perfect way to transport children of all ages to Jane Austen's world, to bring her novels alive, and to make them feel relevant and accessible.

We are always delighted to welcome school groups and offer a range of options for your visit, from specially developed House Tours to fun, interactive workshops exploring historical context. A visit to Jane Austen's House will expand students' knowledge of cultural capital by introducing them to her words and ideas, and helping to engender an appreciation of her extraordinary creativity and achievements.



What we offer:

We have a range of options that can be adapted to meet the needs and ages of the children and young people you work with:

KS1-2: exploring the house, daily life, clothing and food

KS3-5 and beyond: supporting their critical literature studies to understand:

- the power of reading, exploring the depth of Jane Austen's novels
- writing techniques that paved the way for modern writers
- why her novels translate so well into TV and film, and why they are still relevant today

We do this through:

- Informative and engaging House Tours
- Interactive object-based workshops, designed with schools for schools
- Fun extra-curricular activities

We can also offer bespoke sessions for your group, such as focusing on a particular novel or theme – just discuss your needs with our Learning team when booking.



House Tours:

‘The hopes of the nation’: Action and Adventure Tour

Do your students have what it takes to stop an invasion from Napoleon’s forces? In this exciting interactive session, students are invited to explore Jane Austen’s House in a brand-new way. Working in small groups they will take on the role of the Prince Regent’s Spies, solving puzzles and cracking codes in each room to uncover the details of a threatened invasion! This lively session is inspired by an escape room; it encourages lateral thinking, problem-solving and teamwork, whilst also teaching valuable global context – and it’s a lot of fun!

Novel-Themed Tours: *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Emma*, *Northanger Abbey*, *Mansfield Park*

Step into one of Jane Austen’s novels with a specially developed House Tour, themed around the novel of your choice. Each unique tour uses objects from the collection and spaces in the House itself to reveal more about the book – from themes and places to characters and events – and to help the story come to life.



Standard Guided Tour

Explore the house where Jane Austen spent the last eight years of her life and learn about her wide-reaching legacy that has shaped the literary world for over 200 years. This tour provides valuable context, showcasing the relationships Jane Austen had with her family and friends, and revealing the stories behind objects she knew well.



‘Think Like a Curator’ Tour

This special tour offers an insight into what it’s like to work in a museum and into the history of Jane Austen’s House and its remarkable collection. Led by a member of the curatorial team, it explores how we look after and display objects, how we tell stories and present information, and how the Museum came into being in the 1940s.

Interactive workshops: designed with schools for schools

Zooming Out: The Wider World of Jane Austen's Novels

This entertaining workshop explores the wider context of **Jane Austen's world and that of her novels**. It was a dramatic era, with the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars raging overseas and impacting on life at home. Jane Austen was fully aware of world events, with newspapers, books and personal accounts from her globe-trotting family to inform her. This workshop provides valuable global context about the Regency period and gives students greater confidence to use it in their own work.

Time Travellers: Money and Marriage in Jane Austen's England

Daily life in Regency England was full of rules and conventions that may be puzzling to a modern reader. This thought-provoking workshop explores what it meant to survive in the Regency era, from successfully getting married to making a living and working out the complicated business of inheritances and entails. Your students will explore real examples from **Jane Austen's life and from her novels**, to really get a grip on what life was like for Jane Austen and her characters.



Jane Austen and the Art of the Author

This stimulating session delves into Jane Austen's creative genius, exploring how her writing form, style and subject matter developed through her lifetime: from her wild and adventurous teenage writings to her mature, published novels and final unfinished manuscript, *Sanditon*. **We'll examine her writing materials and editing process, objects that reveal her inspiration, the influence of contemporary fiction and theatre on her writing, and her own private letters.**

'Tales in a Style entirely new': Creative Writing Workshop

This popular session is led by award-winning poet, **Ellora Sutton**. Taking inspiration from Jane Austen's own ebullient teenage writings, students will explore some of her lesser-known short stories, enjoy writing exercises to inspire creativity, and write their own **short story inspired by 'The Beautifull Cassandra'**. With plenty of opportunities to share their work in a friendly and supportive environment, this workshop helps to **increase students' confidence in their own creative writing skills and gives them prompts for inspiration and creativity.**

Offsite:

'Gadding about the village': Friends, Neighbours and Inspiration in Jane Austen's Chawton

Jane Austen was famously inspired by country villages very like the real-life village of Chawton, where she had her greatest period of creativity. This active session takes your group out into the village **itself to gain historical insight into Jane Austen's life and inspirations, from the people and places she knew well to lost aspects of village life that are celebrated in her novels.**



Free extras when you book something else:

We offer a range of self-led activities that can be added for no additional cost when you book a tour or workshop. These are ideal for taking a break and having fun between sessions.

Universal Truth Prompt

Building on the iconic opening line of *Pride and Prejudice*, ‘**It is a truth universally acknowledged**’, this activity encourages students to explore their own universal truth, helping them to gain awareness of their own core beliefs and understand their own character, just as Jane Austen teaches us about hers.

Traditional Garden Games

Students can relax in the Museum’s beautiful cottage garden and try their hand at a range of traditional garden games, including hoopla, skittles and bilbo catch. Fun for all ages!

Regency Letter Writing

In the Regency era, letters were written with a dip pen and ink and were elaborately folded before being addressed and sealed. Students will see **examples of Jane’s own letters** before having a go themselves – **it’s harder than it looks!**

Regency Dress

And, of course, a bit of dressing up! We have a selection of empire waist dresses, bonnets, jackets and top hats for students (and teachers!) to try on. Why not promenade around the Museum garden in your finery, or pose for photos to share with friends?



Virtual Sessions

We have a fully inclusive virtual offer, available to anyone anywhere in the world!

If a visit to Chawton is not possible for your group, or if you require additional pre/post-visit sessions, we can deliver a full range of virtual tours and workshops at a time that suits you.

Virtual sessions are delivered live by a member of our Learning team and make use of our beautiful and engaging Virtual Tour. **We'll also use PowerPoint, images, text and video, interactive activities and games to keep your group engaged throughout.**

Although digital activities are not a substitute for a wonderful on-site visit to **Jane Austen's House**, we know that it helps to:

- Prepare students before they visit
- Provide follow-up activities
- **Offer pupils who are not able to travel to Jane Austen's House** the ability to enjoy and benefit from high-quality engagement with the museum.

Our high quality digital offer has been co-created with schools in Hampshire to meet the requirements of the national curriculum Key stage 3, GCSE and A level English Literature.



All our workshops and tours are available as virtual sessions (not including 'The hopes of the nation': Action and Adventure Tour). In addition, we can provide:

- Supporting documents to aide deeper understanding
- Activities to introduce pupils to Jane Austen as a novelist. Video and PowerPoint
- Pupil activity booklets
- A repository of videos and activities to support pupils to hone and develop the skills they need, primarily but not limited to GCSE English Literature. These include short extracts from novels; activities designed to support pupils developing their critical style; videos of extracts performed by young actors to challenge students' personal interpretation of the passage.

In-School Sessions 🍏📚

If you are local, we may also be able to deliver sessions at your school. We can offer:

- **Inspiring assemblies** to introduce your school to one of the world's most famous authors who spent most of her life in Hampshire.
- **stand-alone workshops**
- **pre/post- visit workshops**

Our enthusiastic and knowledgeable staff will bring activities, images, videos and objects to help share the cultural capital of **Jane Austen's** life and works, and the world she lived in.

We are especially keen to support schools that cannot easily travel to visit **Jane Austen's House** in Chawton.

Please get in touch to discuss your requirements!



Feedback from schools...

"We had an amazing day and the girls were so inspired by what they heard and saw at the museum. Your enthusiasm was infectious!"

- Persuasion themed workshop

"Thank you!!!! It was wonderful and the students loved it!!"

- Virtual tour and creative writing workshop

"Thank you very much for giving our students such a great day at Jane Austen's house last Tuesday. Several of them were really inspired to write their own creative pieces after the visit."

- House tour and creative writing workshop

"The students had an enjoyable and informative experience."

- House tour and Village Walk



Location:

Jane Austen's House
Winchester Road
Chawton
Hampshire
GU34 1SD

Getting here:
Jane Austen's House is just off the A31, near the town of Alton.

We are:
20 minutes from Basingstoke
45 minutes from Southampton
40 minutes from Portsmouth
90 minutes from Central London

Free coach parking is available in the public car park directly opposite the Museum.

Contact our friendly Learning team at
learning@janeaustens.house for more details and
bookings



Booking information:

Dates: We offer exclusive school visits on Mondays and Tuesdays from November to March, when the House is closed to visitors. All other times (Wed-Fri from November to March, Mon-Fri from April to October) can be booked by arrangement. Please contact us to discuss availability.

Group size: We have a small site with limited capacity. We are very happy to welcome large groups, however we may ask you to split into smaller groups for parts of your visit. We will work with you when planning your trip to ensure everyone in your group has a rich experience.

Staff: Teachers, accompanying adults and 1-to-1 support join for free. We require one teacher/adult to accompany each ten children in the group.

Accessibility: Jane Austen's House is a historic property with low doorways and uneven surfaces underfoot. The ground floor and outbuildings are fully accessible and we have an accessible toilet. Unfortunately the upstairs of the main house is only accessible by climbing a historic wooden staircase although it can be viewed virtually via our 360° virtual tour. If you have concerns about access please discuss this with us when booking, so we can ensure that all your students get the best possible experience on their visit.

Lunchroom and study space: If you are spending the day with us, you are welcome to bring lunch and enjoy it in our Learning Centre or in the Museum Garden. If we can help you by providing a space for another lesson within **the school day, we'll do that too. Just ask when booking.**



Prices:

Any House tour: £5 per student

Any walk/workshop: £2.50 per student

Virtual sessions: £100 per group

Prices are based on a group of minimum 10 students, maximum 30.

We can accommodate smaller/larger groups, but prices may vary. Please get in touch to discuss options.

Teachers and accompanying adults join for free. We require one teacher/adult to accompany each ten children in the group. Any 1-to-1 support is also free.

Contact learning@janeaustens.house for more details and bookings, or to discuss your needs

Discounts:

We are keen to foster relationships with **local schools** and **state schools** and can offer bursary places or reduced rates.

Please get in touch to find out more, and let us know if any of your students would benefit from additional support.



We can't wait to welcome you!

