

The DIG Visual Story

Here at DIG: An Archaeological Adventure, the health and wellbeing of our staff and visitors is of the utmost importance, so we have introduced several new measures to ensure that everyone can have a safe and enjoyable experience.

We've been awarded the Good to Go certificate from Visit England; the industry standard for the tourism sector, highlighting that a business is safe, clean and operating within socially distanced guidelines.

What you might see

When you arrive at DIG you will have to wait in a queue before being admitted for your tour. One of our helpful archaeologists will then come and take your temperature. They will be wearing a mask, face visor and their uniform. They will scan your forehead before allowing you to fully enter the building.



At your pre-booked time slot, family groups will be invited in one at a time. When you enter the building, you will see another helpful archaeologist at the admissions desk. They may look like the one in the photo and standing behind a perspex screen. If you are pre booked on a tour, they will check your booking. If you are not pre booked on a tour, they will be happy to let you know when the next tour availability is, and book you on to it.

The archaeologist will ask you to wash your hands before the tour begins. The toilets are directly behind the admissions desk, and should only be used by one group or family at a time.





You'll then be asked to take a seat in our new Ask the Archaeologist area. Here one of your tour guides will introduce themselves, they will be wearing a mask, face visor, and their uniform. They will then give a short talk introducing you to DIG and what archaeology is all about.

After the short talk, you'll be sent through our briefing hut, one group at a time, to collect your sanitized trowel and kneeling pad, and other protective equipment.



Your tour guide will then lead you through to our brilliant dig pits! Here you'll get to dig around in four replica pits like real archaeologists, to find fascinating replica artefacts from the Roman, Viking, medieval and Victorian periods of York's history. The pits are filled with synthetic, mess-free, rubberised soil, which is sprayed with a water-based sanitiser every week. Your tour guide will help you understand what you have found. Sometimes things from the past did not always look the same as the way we see them today. This part of the tour takes about 30 minutes.



After digging, you will be asked to return to the seating area where you first started your tour. Here you will be met again by your first tour guide. They will show and tell you all about some of the objects that we found whilst excavating York. These objects can tell us about how people in the past lived. This will be the end of your guided tour but there is lots to see in the rest of the museum.



Once your tour has finished you have the opportunity to explore all our exhibitions in the galleries, and have a go at our new activity sheet with lots of challenges to complete!





We have several exhibition spaces for you to explore. Use the footprints on the floor throughout the building to stay socially distanced from other groups. Our friendly archaeologists will be on hand if you have any questions or concerns.



The first one you'll come across after your tour all about Medieval Medicine. Here you'll see a few human bones inside of a case, a model of a medieval church, two medieval costumes, and some information panels.

The next exhibition space you may come across is the large Viking ship. This ship contains all sorts of objects, including dried fish and animal furs. Here you might smell the dried fish!



We also have gallery spaces down the side of the building. These include an exhibition about Roman York. Here you may see a human skeleton, animal bones, pottery, and lots of little artifacts.

Our last exhibition space is our YourDIG community space. Here you might see community art projects, a video, and maybe an activity.



On your way out you can visit our shop, and pick up a souvenir, if you'd like. There are so many fun things to choose from.



When you're ready to leave, you can exit through our garden to avoid crossing over with groups coming in. The garden is full of plants, and has several places to sit and relax. It has also has herbs and plants which you can look at and smell, as well as our habitat corner where you might observe some bugs and other creatures living.



We look forward to welcoming you to DIG very soon!

What you might smell:

- Herbs and plants in the Garden
- Cleaning products
- Hand sanitiser
- Rubber soil

What you might hear:

- Children laughing and answering questions.
- The staff talking to groups of people.
- The church bell every hour.
- Videos playing in the galleries.

What you might touch:

- Rubber soil in our Dig pits

Exploring the Galleries

Follow the arrows on our map to each of our coloured gallery zones and try some archaeological activities!

It is an archaeologist's job to make discoveries and your discoveries don't stop after you've been digging!

Take a look around our gallery spaces and follow the prompts from Tim the archaeologist to see whether you can spot some hard-to-find objects!

Can you find them?

It is also an archaeologist's job to interpret the objects they find and make records.

Tess is a finds specialist and she has some questions for you to think about.

Can you complete all of her challenges?

Archaeologists continue to find things out and learn from each other. Doug the DIG dog loves learning and uses our DIG website whenever he is looking for fun activities. He has a couple of suggestions to get you started over the page!