PREPARING FOR YOUR SCHOOL VISIT

Sensory Guide
We are going to visit a museum and a very old ship called the SS Great Britain. We will learn about the ship and have fun exploring.
When we visit Brunel’s SS Great Britain there will be lots of things to:

See

Hear

Smell

Touch

These sounds, sights and smells are here to help us pretend we are on the ship in the past. They are for fun and will not hurt us.
Some areas can be busy, so we might need to wait or come back later. If we don’t like something or don’t want to be near it we can tell our helper.

Some parts of the museum and ship might be dark and narrow. Other parts might be light and open.
On the Great Western Dockyard

We might see

• A big ship that looks like it is floating on water
• Flags flapping on the ship
• Models of pretend people and animals

We might hear

• Seagulls
• Traffic
• Water sounds
• Pretend animal noises and people’s voices
We might touch

- The chains around the water
- Barrels and ropes on the dock
- Pretend luggage and crates
In the Dockyard Museum

We might see

- Lots of old objects from the ship
- Videos and pictures of the ship
- Activities where we can pretend to steer the ship or find out about the ship’s passengers

We might hear

- Sounds of people talking and cheering
- Videos of the wind and sea
We might touch

- Dressing up clothes
- A ship’s wheel
- Drawers we can open
- Screens where we can find out about passengers
On the ship

We might see

• Pretend people, animals, food and luggage
• Things moving on their own, like saucepan lids and the big model engine
• Long, slightly dark corridors

We might hear

• Noises that sound like we’re on the ship in the past
• People talking, music, animals and a shouting cook
• The whirring of the pretend engine going around
We might smell

• Nice smells like food cooking, bread baking and fresh laundry
• Unusual or stronger smells like animal smells, sick and medicine

We might touch

• Lots of things - we can even climb in the bunks
• Wobbly floorboards under our feet, they might feel strange but they are safe
• The ship’s wheel - we can even turn it
In the Dry Dock

We might see
- Underneath the ship
- Water above us - we can pretend we are underneath the water
- The ship’s big propeller and rudder
- Rust holes because the ship is very old

We might hear
- A whirring noise - this is the big machine working to keep the ship safe and dry
We might touch

- Old anchor in front of the ship
- Warm air coming out of the pipes

It will feel dry and warm.
We will feel the vibrations of the dehumidifier working.
There might be some water on the floor and walls.
In the Being Brunel Museum

We might see

• A giant pretend head of Brunel
• Old objects linked to Brunel and his life
• Rooms that look like they used to in the past
• A video in a dark room about Brunel with flashing images and pretend smoke

We might hear

• People talking or shouting
• Pretend animals
• A pretend railway carriage moving
• Ship’s whistle
We might smell

• Pretend cigar smoke
• Damp canvas
• Oil

We might touch

• Dressing up hats
• Drawers we can open
• Touch screens to take part in games
• Lots of things in the Dock Office
To discuss specific access or educational needs please call 0117 926 0680 and ask to speak to the Education Team.

**Brunel’s SS Great Britain**
Great Western Dockyard
Bristol England
United Kingdom
BS1 6TY
**Tel:** 0117 926 0680
**Email:** learning@ssgreatbritain.org
**Web:** ssgreatbritain.org

Photographs by: Lottie Morris, David Norton, Martyn Poynor, Phil Sayer, Richard Pope, Adam Gasson, Mandy Reynolds, Paul Blakemore and Lorna Hooper