

Upstairs / Downstairs

Duration: 1½ hours approx. – max group size 30
National Curriculum – **Key Stage 1 / 2**
Available: April - September



The Visit Aims

- To introduce children to a past way of life encapsulated within a large country house of the late Victorian / Edwardian periods.
- To provide children with the opportunity to study the late Victorian / Edwardian periods (amongst others) in a social context, through observation and study of artefacts, pictures, furniture, architectural features etc.
- To focus on the self-sufficient country house in the period 1890 – 1910.
- To illustrate the lifestyles of the Molyneux family (Earls of Sefton) and their guests, their pastimes and interests.
- To provide children with an insight into the duties, roles and hierarchy of life 'in-service' (the servants).
- To observe and compare different aspects and items in and of the Hall to their modern day counterparts.

The Visit

'Upstairs / Downstairs' looks at the lifestyles of the people who lived and worked at Croxteth at the turn of the century. Guided groups will tour the display rooms, and time allowing, will visit some areas of the Hall not generally open to the public, such as the servants 'secret' backstairs and attics.

The tour will be led by a guide in period costume and will take in the principal rooms to show the lifestyle of the Earl, his family and guests and the service areas, to show the contrasting living and working conditions of the servants. The management of the house will be discussed along with the duties of the servants. The strict social hierarchy that existed amongst the servant classes will be described.

Reference to historical artefacts will be made throughout the visit. The self-sufficiency of the estate (including the Walled Garden, Home Farm, the stables etc) will be discussed to highlight the fact that there were many servants working outside the Hall who were also integral to the house functioning efficiently.

The visitor group is drawn to make observations about how life was lived in historic Croxteth Hall in the late Victorian / early Edwardian period.

Upstairs / Downstairs



Background Information

Croxteth Hall was the former home of the Earls of Sefton. After the death of the last Earl in 1972 the Hall and its surrounding estate was bequeathed to the City of Liverpool. The Country Park now consists of 215 hectares (530 acres) of pasture, gardens and woodland. The estate grounds also contain many of the original outbuildings where other members of staff either lived or worked.

Resources available (charged)

- The Molyneux Family - Information leaflet.
- The Molyneux Family Coat of Arms - Colouring sheet.
- The Victorian Domestic Servant - Information booklet.
- Paintings and Furnishings of Croxteth Hall - Information booklet.
- The Architecture of Croxteth Hall - Information leaflet.
- Croxteth Hall 'Colour and Make' - Set of 5 sheets.

Visit Notes

Supervision - For every visit it is necessary to have sufficient adults with your group to comply with your LEA guidelines.

Risk Assessments - are available for all guided visits.

Timing - Most visits last for approx 1.5 hours. Please refer to the notes provided for your visit for times and starting points. We suggest you arrive 15 minutes in advance of your visit to allow for parking, payment, toilet trips, etc

Toilets - are in the Café courtyard.

Parking - The main entrance and coach park is off Muirhead Avenue East. The coach park is about 300m from the Hall. You may be advised to park near the Hall only with prior arrangement.

Charge - £3.80 per child, (minimum charge £95.00 per group).

Payment- Please make payment on the day of the visit at the gift shop at the front of the Hall. Please make payment to **Croxteth Hall & Country Park**.

Further Information about this and other visits are detailed on our 'Learning Opportunities' website www.croxteth.co.uk/education

Customer Feedback Forms - please fill in and return our feedback survey sheets- we welcome evaluation and constructive comments on your visit.

***Liverpool City Council, Parks & Greenspaces,
Ranger Interpretation Service, Croxteth Hall & Country Park, Croxteth Hall Lane,
Liverpool L12 OHB
Tel 0151 233 6910 (Gen Office), 0151 233 6912/6915 (RIS Team) fax 0151 233 6906***