

# The Nativity Journey

## Wintershall



# School Visit Guide

## 2024

*The following information will provide you with everything you need to know about your visit and how to prepare for it. If you have not visited Wintershall before, we would encourage a site visit prior to your trip. If you require any further information, please contact the Wintershall office [admin@wintershall.org.uk](mailto:admin@wintershall.org.uk)*

**Performance timings** the 90-minute performance starts outside in the fields and then moves up the steep hill and into Holly Barn. Please note that it is about a 10-minute walk from the coach park to the first Act, and then a 15-minute walk up the hill to the theatre barn.

**Arrival** Schools must have arrived at least 30 minutes before the performance in order to allow enough time to walk to the first Act. **Please take into account the start of the performances cannot be delayed for late groups.** Please contact the education mobile on **07723597287** if at all delayed. If you would like to have your picnic lunch with your group in the stable following the show, (and are not involved in a workshop), please let us know when booking.

**Parking** There is parking available for coaches. Mini buses will be parked in the main car park. Parent drop off and pick up please follow the signs on the day.

**Pre or Post Performance Workshop** If you have booked a workshop, our Education Team will be in touch with a timetable with more details.

**Access to the site** Teachers should note that the terrain is varied, and on occasion (if rainy) can be slippery. Please ask pupils to keep their pace to a walk at all times. Buggy transport is available to assist with ease of access but must be pre-booked. Please advise us of any special needs at the time of booking.

**Toilets** The main bulk of toilets are located by the start of Act 1. A limited number are also available by Holly Barn Theatre at the top of the hill, and in the Wintershall Rehearsal Barn for those attending a performance workshop.

**Seating** The stage manager and production team will give clear direction to the audience to move around the site, and we would ask you to adhere to these directions. Seating in the barn will be reserved for your school.

**Suitable clothing** Please encourage your students to wear suitable clothing and footwear. Please dress appropriately for an outside performance in winter. The ground is uneven and can be slippery. **Stout shoes or wellington boots are essential. Please bring a raincoat or umbrella in case of inclement weather.** We are unable to accommodate people indoors in bad weather for the first Act. It is recommended that large school groups wear identifiable clothing, hats or high vis jackets.

**Belongings and Bag Storage** During the performance, Wintershall strongly advises teachers and students to keep all personal belongings with them. Wintershall takes no responsibility for lost items. Any items found at the end of a performance are placed in Wintershall Lost Property, located in the Wintershall Estate office.

**Education Guides** will meet you in the coach park and direct you to Act I. We suggest that you stay with your guide until arriving at the top of the hill.

**Special Effects and animals** Please be aware that Smoke and Pyrotechnics are used in this production. Animals visit the stable during the performance. They will be accompanied by animal handlers at all times. Please ensure that your students do not touch the animals.

## Child Protection

At all times, supervision of pupils within school groups is the direct responsibility of their teachers, while on excursion to Wintershall, and there must be the requisite adult to child ratios. Please ensure that teacher supervision is evenly spread throughout your group during the performance. Students should be aware that there will be both other schools and members of the public on the site. We ask that teachers outline the following 'Wintershall Education Code of Conduct' with pupils prior to departure and reinforce it during the performance by monitoring pupil behaviour.

## \*Wintershall Education Code of Conduct

### Individuals should:

- behave in a courteous and responsible manner at all times
- listen to instructions from their group leader and Wintershall staff who will be wearing fluorescent jackets.
- not talk or disrupt the viewing of other audience members in any way
- switch off all mobile phones and media devices, as their use is prohibited during the performance and interferes with our sound system
- only walk on the site.
- refrain from throwing any items or food.
- take all litter home with you

**Patron disruption** We expect teachers to ensure that the above-mentioned Wintershall Education Code of Conduct is adhered to whilst on site and throughout the performance. If other patrons disrupt your enjoyment of the performance, please notify the production staff immediately. Wintershall reserves the right to request removal of individuals from a performance if their behaviour is deliberately and consistently disruptive. If these are school pupils, the teacher will be required to supervise them in the coach park until the performance had ended.

In addition to the above, the Child Protection Act legislation does not consider Wintershall as a provider of specific services to children, and it is therefore not necessary for all production or estate staff to have DBS checks. Wintershall staff are responsible for the following: ushering and evacuation of the site.

**Health and Safety** Wintershall CIO takes health and safety seriously, and takes all reasonable precautions to ensure that all areas enable safe public access, and that equipment complies with current standards. Wintershall has a child protection policy. All members of the public attending the performance are expected to take full responsibility for their own health and safety and for those in their charge, including undertaking their own risk assessment prior to arrival.

**Insurance Cover** Wintershall Estate has the appropriate Public Liability Insurance and can supply a Certificate of Insurance upon request. Please call 01483 892167 for details.

**Fire Exits & Evacuation** The site complies with all Fire Control regulations and the Production staff have been formally trained in emergency evacuation procedures.

**First Aid** An ambulance crew are in attendance throughout the event. Please contact a member of production staff if you require First Aid assistance

**Missing Children** The stage manager and production team informs and guides the audience throughout the performance and they also serve as the meeting point should an individual become separated from their group. Please report any problems to Wintershall Staff who will be wearing bright high vis jackets.

**Technical problems** On very rare occasions, performances may be cancelled due to technical problems. Please see terms and conditions sent out with your tickets for more information.

**Weather** The Nativity is an open-air production. This means that weather, temperature, climate and light conditions may impact on your visit and are an integral part of the Wintershall experience. Shows will only be cancelled in the event of adverse weather conditions deemed by the producers to pose a health and safety risk.

## Pre-Visit and Follow Up Suggestions

At Wintershall, the audience are very much part of the production and follow the action as if they were part of the actual crowd watching the drama unfold. See a sample of ideas below that will help pupils to build a knowledge of some of the well-known people in the story and so enhance their visit to The Nativity.



### Values Detective

**Fact file**- create one for a chosen person from The Nativity. Record details like 'first knowledge of Jesus' and 'best moment' in the story.

**Impact**- Choose a particular character to follow. Characters to focus on: Innkeeper, Old Shepherd, Herod, the Wise Men. Observe how they change during the performance. How has meeting Jesus impacted on them? How has the story impacted on you?

### Role play

**Circle Game** –In turn around the circle, each person introduces themselves “hello, I’m Simeon and I’m a priest, who are you?” To the person on their right. They reply to the group, “hello, I’m Herod and I’m a king. This is Simeon the priest. Who are you?”. This is carried on around the circle, getting progressively harder as each person has to remember those before! The idea is that the small group help each other and everyone learns the key characters. Following the performance, you might like to think about people in the story, who you hadn’t heard of before. What was their role?

**Photo time** – Use some of the images from the Act 1 gallery online and create tableaux or role play developing from each picture.

### Literacy

**Interviews** – Write an imaginary interview with a character. You could even record these as a news item or ‘chat show’.

### Art

**Character Logos** – or badges or T-shirts. Think of a symbolic way of representing your chosen character.

**Posters** –on behalf of the Roman government, calling for a census, or even a ‘Come to Wintershall’ poster.

## Following your visit

**Evaluation** Following your school visit to The Nativity, we would be grateful if you could fill in the evaluation form emailed to you. This feedback allows us to continually improve the educational experience and resources we offer. Thank you in advance.

**Book a Wintershall Assembly** This is a wonderful way to follow up a visit to Wintershall, and they are FREE. Costumed actors come to your school and perform unseen ‘extras’ from the story of Jesus’ life. Book online now!

**Book The Life of Christ** If you have enjoyed The Nativity this year – why not book The Life of Christ? This engaging biblical dramatisation of the main events in Jesus’s life, his teaching, healing and miracles, is a vital investment for developing KS2 and GCSE pupils’ theological literacy and understanding of Christianity, all in one go! Reserve your tickets for **17 June – 21 June 2025** by emailing [admin@wintershall.org.uk](mailto:admin@wintershall.org.uk)