

Visiting The Cloisters

The Cloisters, the branch of The Metropolitan Museum of Art devoted to the art and architecture of medieval Europe, is located in northern Manhattan, high on a hilltop overlooking the Hudson River. Opened in 1938, this modern structure was built in a medieval style that incorporates portions of original medieval chapels, monastic cloisters, a chapter house, and other architectural elements dating from the twelfth through the fifteenth century. The Cloisters Collection also includes tapestries, frescoes, stained glass, sculpture, illuminated manuscripts, metalwork, and panel paintings. Its flower and herb gardens contain more than two hundred species of plants grown in the Middle Ages.

Museum Hours

Open Tuesday–Sunday
March–October 9:30 am–5:15 pm,
November–February 9:30 am–4:45 pm
Closed on Mondays and on Thanksgiving Day,
Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day

Group Size

A group consists of ten to thirty people. Any organization may bring a maximum of three groups or ninety people on a single day. Advance reservations are necessary to facilitate easy entry and comfortable viewing in the galleries. *Should overcrowding become a concern, the museum reserves the right to turn away unscheduled groups.*

Appointments

The Cloisters welcomes groups for staff-guided or self-guided visits. **Appointments are required for both.** Call (212) 650-2280 for reservations. A written confirmation will be mailed approximately four weeks before the scheduled visit.

One Day, Two Museums

Only one admission fee is required to visit The Cloisters and the main building of The Metropolitan Museum of Art (Fifth Avenue and 82nd Street) *on the same day.* A surcharge applies if the second visit on the same day is staff-guided.

School groups (1st–12th grades) planning to visit The Cloisters in the morning for a guided tour followed by a self-guided visit to the main building on the same day should make an appointment for both visits with the Education Office at The Cloisters by calling (212) 650-2280.

Adult groups wishing to visit The Cloisters and the main building on the same day should call **both** the Education Office at The Cloisters at (212) 650-2280 and The Metropolitan Museum of Art at (212) 570-3711.

Accessibility

Accessibility to The Cloisters is limited for visitors with impaired mobility. A van is available to assist wheelchair users and other mobility-impaired visitors in entering the museum. For information, call (212) 650-2280.

Programs for Schools and Universities

Elementary and Middle School Guided Gallery Programs

School classes and their teachers are invited to explore The Cloisters with a museum instructor. Programs are tailored to the age and ability level of each class and are approximately ninety minutes long, unless otherwise indicated.

A Medieval Bestiary *Grades 1–3*

Search for animals—both real and imaginary—in medieval works of art. Popular legends come alive with beasts portrayed in a variety of media and settings. Program length: one hour.

Stories and Legends in Medieval Art *Grades 3–6*

Discover relationships between medieval art and literature by studying images and legends of saints, mythical beasts, biblical heroes, knights, and medieval pilgrims.

Walls *Grades 4–8*

Learn about the art of the Middle Ages by focusing on medieval architecture and architectural decoration—monumental paintings, sculpture, stained glass, and tapestries. The program culminates in building an arch with blocks to demonstrate basic structural principles of medieval architecture.

A Medieval Journey *Grades 4–8*

Explore works of art created for the medieval monastery and castle. Students investigate how works of art reflect the similarities, differences, and relationships between these religious and secular contexts.

The Medieval Artist *Grades 4–8*

Examine the world of the medieval artist by discussing media and techniques used to create such artworks as tapestries, frescoes, stone and wood carvings, metalwork, stained glass, and illuminated manuscripts.

The Medieval Court *Grades 5–8*

Enter the world of splendid medieval castles and tournaments! Explore images of knightly heroes and ladies and learn about their legends and heraldic symbols. Marvel at precious gifts of ivory and jewels, as well as the tapestries and metalwork that adorned the great banquet halls.

Staff-Guided Visits for High School, College, and University Students

Teachers may select gallery lectures highlighting the collection or focusing on a particular theme such as art, history, horticulture, literature, or religion. Programs are approximately one hour long.

Self-Guided Visits

Groups may visit the museum under the supervision of their own leader. There must be at least one teacher or adult chaperone per ten students. Teachers are strongly encouraged to provide their students with a structured project or lesson plan to follow during their visit. **These groups must give precedence to staff lecturers in the galleries.** *Appointments are required.*

Programs for Adult and Senior Groups

Staff-Guided Visits

One-hour guided gallery tours provide an overview of The Cloisters Collection. A narrower focus on specific works of art or themes can be arranged upon request, as can tours in some foreign languages. Seasonally appropriate discussions of the museum’s gardens are also available.

Self-Guided Visits

Groups may visit the museum under the supervision of their group leader. **These groups must give precedence to staff lecturers in the galleries.** *Appointments are required.*

Group Visit Hours

Guided Visits

1st–8th grades

Tuesday–Friday at 10:00 or 10:30,
Saturday 9:30–11:30, Sunday 9:30–3:30

All other groups

Tuesday–Friday at 9:30 or 11:00–3:30,
Saturday 9:30–11:30, Sunday 9:30–3:30

Self-Guided Visits

All groups

Tuesday–Friday 12:00–3:30,
Saturday 9:30–11:30, Sunday 9:30–3:30

Fees and Deposits

	Staff Guided Visits	Self-Guided Visits
NYC School Groups		
1st–12th grades	fees waived	fees waived
college/university	\$165 guide fee per group	\$2 per person
Non–NYC School Groups		
1st–12th grades	\$10 per person, \$150 minimum deposit	\$8 per person
college/university	\$16 per person, \$240 minimum deposit	\$8 per person
Adult and Senior Groups		
adults	\$21 per person, \$315 minimum deposit	\$16 per person
senior citizens	\$16 per person, \$240 minimum deposit	\$8 per person
Surcharge for Same-Day Visit*		
NYC 1st–12th grades	fees waived	
non-NYC 1st–12th grades	\$150 per group	
college/university	\$165 per group	
adults and senior citizens	\$165 per group	

Groups first visiting The Metropolitan Museum of Art and then requesting a guided tour at The Cloisters must pay a surcharge. Surcharge must be paid in advance.

Theodosius Arrives at Ephesus. France, Normandy (Seine-Maritime), ca. 1200-1205. From the nave of the cathedral of Notre-Dame at Rouen. Pot-metal glass and vitreous paint. The Cloisters Collection, 1980 (1980.263.4).

Deposits are not required for self-guided visits.

Guided groups of 15 people or fewer pay the minimum deposit as a flat fee.

Deposits are payable upon receipt of confirmation letter; make checks payable to The Metropolitan Museum of Art and send to The Cloisters. Deposits can be refunded only if cancellations are made at least one week prior to appointment.

Audio Guides

Audio Guides are available for an additional fee. They must be reserved in advance. Please call the Education Office at (212) 650-2280 for more information.

The Audio Guide is sponsored by **Bloomberg**.

Education at The Cloisters
Fort Tryon Park, New York, NY 10040
212.650.2280
www.metmuseum.org

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