



Images c. PK Porthcurno

To book your visit:  
Email: [education@pkporthcurno.com](mailto:education@pkporthcurno.com)



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## Visit PK

PK Porthcurno tells the fascinating story of the dawn of the age of worldwide communications from the very first global network to the modern day web of fibre optic cables.

Find out about the science that has made it all possible, the people who put the ideas into production, and how the world was changed forever... and discover Porthcurno's amazing place at the very centre of the communications revolution.



# PK Learning

The museum's learning programme is especially created for curious minds and the pioneers of tomorrow. From inspiring school workshops to adult outreach talks, join us for a learning adventure.

Our learning activities and workshops tend to be hosted in the Clore Learning Space – a spacious, accessible and flexible space for formal and informal learning but we can now also offer outreach visits and remote workshops.



## Schools and Groups

Escape the classroom and immerse yourself in our stories, interactive exhibits and World War Two Bunkers. We have curriculum-linked workshops designed by our Learning Facilitator, Paul Tyreman.

Feel free to extend your experience with our ideas for pre- and post-visit activities, or combine it with a trip to the Minack Theatre and/or Porthcurno beach.

If you wish to visit with your group without booking a workshop, please do let us know so we can welcome you most effectively and safely.

## Arriving at PK

We are located at Porthcurno, just off the B3315 in West Cornwall. Please ask when you book for information about parking arrangements for minibuses.

Visits often begin in our Clore Learning Space located in the Wilshaw building. Our learning facilitator will meet your group from a safe distance on arrival.

You can leave coats and bags in the Wilshaw building if you are having a workshop. We encourage eating packed lunches outside in our beautiful gardens.



# PK Access



PK Porthcurno is committed to developing its learning programme and collections for everyone to enjoy. Most sessions involve handling objects and all can be adapted for anyone with specific access requirements. Please let us know when you book. We will be following Government guidance to ensure you feel safe during your visit.

For sensory and invisible needs we can send a copy of our Social Story and/or Sensory Map on request.

## Home Education Groups

PK Porthcurno welcomes Home Education Groups for self-guided visits, and to book a visit that combines engaging hands-on activities with time to explore the museum. We can also offer outreach visits to community spaces, remote learning sessions and bespoke projects and visits for your group/family.

## Pre Visit

To make sure you get the most out of your visit, we recommend that group leaders arrange a preliminary visit to plan practical details, and to assist in briefing groups before they arrive.

Visit <https://www2.telegeography.com/submarine-cable-faqs-frequently-asked-questions> to find out more information about submarine cables and see a map of all the submarine cables currently in service around the world.

# PK Visiting Group Offer

- Short Museum visit (up to 2 hours)
- Museum visit and workshop (4 hours)
- Workshop only (2 or 4 hour option available)

## Opening times

The museum is open for group visits from Monday to Friday all year round during school term time. Full day visits usually start at 10am and finish at 2pm, but we can be flexible. Half day visits (2 hours) usually start around 10am or 2pm.

## Group Visit Fee

The admission price for groups is £6 per child, with no charge for additional adults, and includes a workshop in the Clore Learning Space as well as a facilitated Museum tour. This includes VAT, and a lower charge applies for visits of two hours or less.



## Payment

We can invoice you after your visit. You may pay by card, but please let us know in advance during winter as we will need to make special arrangements. Cheques payable to 'PK Porthcurno'.

## Self directed visit

If you prefer to bring your group independently you can receive 10% off your booking.

Ask about our self guided trails for exploring our Museum.

## Cancelling or changing your booking

If you need to cancel your booking please tell us as soon as you can.

# PK Workshop Themes

Electricity

History of Communication

Sound, Light and Waves

Secret Messages

Build an Undersea Buggy

Planet PK

All of our workshops can be adapted to meet your needs – please contact [education@pkporthcurno](mailto:education@pkporthcurno) to discuss your visit.

## Electricity

An understanding of electrical circuits was essential to make sending a telegraph work.

In this workshop, we look at how electricity behaves in simple circuits and develop an understanding of current, voltage and energy transfer at an appropriate level.

Activities include:

- Build and test simple circuits
- Through discussion and role-play develop an understanding of energy transfer in circuits and begin to explain why the current behaves as it does
- Use your understanding to build more challenging circuits

The Electricity workshop is particularly suited to Key Stage 2 Science.

## History of Communication

The cable station at Porthcurno played an important role in the development of worldwide communications, including during wartime.

In this workshop we look at the history of long-distance communication from smoke signals to today's high-speed internet.

Activities include:

- Build a simple circuit to send Morse code messages
- Construct a timeline of communication through electrical cables
- Co-operate to make a working model of an undersea cable communication system
- Find out how the Cable Station was defended and communications maintained during wartime in 1939-1945

The History of Communication workshop is particularly suited to Key Stage 1 and 2 Science, Technology, Computing and History.

## Sound, Light and Waves

Communication worldwide depends on waves of many kinds. Almost all communication via telephones and the Internet takes place through optical fibre cables.

In this workshop we look at how waves work, this differences between sound and light waves and human hearing.

Activities include:

- How waves travel
- Sound and human hearing
- Using light to send messages
- How optical fibres work

The Sound, Light and Waves workshop is particularly suited to Key Stage 1 and 2 Science.



## Secret Messages

Since the earliest days of human communication, people have wanted to keep some messages secret. Cornwall was home to several listening stations during World War Two which sent messages to Bletchley Park to be decrypted. Today, without effective cryptography, online shopping and banking would be impossible.

In this workshop we look at how to keep messages secret.

Activities include:

- How to hide a message
- Writing a secret message using simple ciphers
- How more complicated ciphers work
- Building a Pringles tube and paper model of an enigma machine

The Secret Messages workshop is particularly suited to Key Stage 2 and 3 Mathematics and History.

## Build an Undersea Buggy

In the early days of communication through undersea cables, breakages often occurred as the nature of the sea bed was largely unknown. As well as helping to kick-start the science of Oceanography, the development of the undersea telegraph system led to the development of underwater vehicles which can travel on the sea bed burying cables for extra protection.

Activities include:

- Building the buggy
- Programming a BBC micro:bit to drive your buggy
- Extension: controlling your buggy remotely using a second micro:bit

The Building an Undersea Buggy workshop is particularly suited to Key Stage 2 Science, Technology and Computing. Maximum group size 20. It's useful for us to have plenty of notice for this workshop and to chat with you in advance of your visit.

## Planet PK

This climate themed workshop focuses on poetry and nature, linking to the museums environmental programme Planet PK. Find out how to write a Kennings poem, and create a nature orb inspired by the Porthcurno Valley and local environment.

Activities include:

- Go for a walk around the Valley (weather permitting) to look at the local environment, making sketches and writing notes along the way.
- Using imagination to write lines to develop into a Kennings poem.
- Make origami nature orbs from a pre cut template, exploring colour and textures from the Valley that can be displayed back at your setting.
- Find out about the museum's environmental programme.



## International Morse Code

1. A dash is equal to three dots.
2. The space between parts of the same letter is equal to one dot.
3. The space between two letters is equal to three dots.
4. The space between two words is equal to seven dots.

A ● ■	N ■ ●	1 ● ■ ■ ■ ■
B ■ ● ● ●	O ■ ■ ■	2 ● ● ■ ■ ■
C ■ ● ■ ●	P ● ■ ■ ●	3 ● ● ● ■ ■
D ■ ● ●	Q ■ ■ ● ■	4 ● ● ● ● ■
E ●	R ● ■ ●	5 ● ● ● ● ●
F ● ● ■ ●	S ● ● ●	6 ■ ● ● ● ●
G ■ ■ ●	T ■	7 ■ ■ ● ● ●
H ● ● ● ●	U ● ● ■	8 ■ ■ ■ ● ●
I ● ●	V ● ● ● ■	9 ■ ■ ■ ■ ●
J ● ■ ■ ■	W ● ■ ■	0 ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
K ■ ● ■	X ■ ● ● ■	
L ● ■ ● ●	Y ■ ● ■ ■	
M ■ ■	Z ■ ■ ● ●	



## Contact us

PK Porthcurno

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[www.pkporthcurno.com](http://www.pkporthcurno.com)

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We look forward to seeing you.