



All images c. PK Porthcurno

To book your visit:
Email: education@pkporthcurno.com



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Visit us

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 Porthcurno 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 Porthcurno

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.



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.

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. For sensory and invisible needs we can send a copy of our Accessibility guidance on request.



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.

Visiting Groups Offer

- Short Museum visit (up to 2 hours)
- Museum visit and workshop (up to 4 hours)
- Workshop only (up to 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 £7.50 per child, unless taking part in the Forest Friends workshop which will be £6.50 per child. There is no charge for additional adults, and includes a workshop in our spaces as well as a facilitated Museum tour. This includes VAT, and a lower charge applies for visits of two hours or less.

Price on application for Teacher CPD event, dependent on group size and requirements.

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. Fees will still apply and be invoiced, unless there is 48 hours notice of cancellation before the date of the planned visit.

Workshop Themes

1. Electricity
2. History of Communication
3. Sound, Light and Waves
4. Secret Messages
5. Build an Undersea Buggy
6. World War 2
7. Planet PK
8. Forest Friends
9. Teachers CPD Event- Message Relays

All of our workshops can be adapted to meet your needs – please contact education@pkporthcurno to discuss your visit.

1. 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.

2. 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.



3. 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, the 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.



4. 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.

5. 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.

6. World War 2

The approach of World War 2 saw soldiers arriving at Porthcurno and the construction of tunnels at the cable station to protect the communications that were vital to the war effort. The WW2 workshop is based on a visit to the tunnels where you will find out about life here in the Valley in wartime, the arrival of evacuees, and how everyday life and the work of communications workers changed.

Activities include:

- Building a simple circuit and using it to try to learn Morse code quickly
- Exploring a wartime diary to link life in the Valley to events far away

This workshop is particularly suitable for Key Stage 2 History.

7. Planet PK

This climate themed workshop, led by our resident artist Mae Voogd, 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.

This workshop can be adapted to various ages, it's useful for us to have a chat with you in advance of your visit.



8. Forest Friends

Take part in an outdoor adventure workshop with nature at the heart. Be prepared to be creative, get messy, explore your senses, make the most of whatever the weather brings us on the day, and lots of outdoor fun!

Activities include:

- Forest school inspired, outdoor activities in our sub-tropical gardens.
- Nature-based playful interventions.
- Listen and learn at a Storytelling circle.
- Creating nature based art and/or taking part in group collaborative works.

Forest Friends workshops are led by a qualified Forest School Leader. They are particularly suited to EYFS, Key Stage 1 and SEND groups. Maximum group size 14 children (number dependent on group needs and ages). It's useful for us to have plenty of notice for this workshop and to chat with you in advance of your visit.

9. For Teachers and Home Educator groups:

A Continued Professional Development Event (CPD) Message Relays

Join us for a new special teachers' event. Be inspired by our team, discover creative ideas for the sharing with children, network with peers, visit our Museum, WWII tunnels, Sensory space, Archives and meet our bright red, vintage, Mobile Telegraph Office bus named 'Poppy'. Take a step back in time and visit inside the vintage bus which was used by Cable and Wireless in the 1950's, and go on a special 'behind the scenes' tour of our Collections Archive and Search Room.

Following this, take part in our 'Message Relay' workshop, this includes games and activities developed by our team. Learn more about methods of communication, message relaying, electric pulses and playful based teamwork. It's useful for us to have plenty of notice for this event and to chat with you in advance of your visit.

Key subjects covered: STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and History.

Event includes:

- Museum, WWII tunnels and Sensory space tour led by our team, followed by a behind the scenes look at the Archives.
- Visit inside Poppy the vintage bus and have an introduction to the Mobile Telegraph Units unique story.
- Explore our Sensory PK pack, Visual Story and handling tools collection, all used as learning and visit aids.
- Break/Lunch.
- Take part in games and coding based activities in our Clore Learning Space. Sessions can be tailored to meet curriculum/teaching group requirements.
- Time to reflect on key learning in smaller groups, before sharing as a group - How can teachers use what they have learnt back in the classroom, during home-schooling, or on a self led visit?
- Feedback and networking opportunity.



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.

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|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| A ● ■ | N ■ ● | 1 ● ■ ■ ■ ■ |
| B ■ ● ● ● | O ■ ■ ■ | 2 ● ● ■ ■ ■ |
| C ■ ● ■ ● | P ● ■ ■ ● | 3 ● ● ● ■ ■ |
| D ■ ● ● | Q ■ ■ ● ■ | 4 ● ● ● ● ■ |
| E ● | R ● ■ ● | 5 ● ● ● ● ● |
| F ● ● ■ ● | S ● ● ● | 6 ■ ● ● ● ● |
| G ■ ■ ● | T ■ | 7 ■ ■ ● ● ● |
| H ● ● ● ● | U ● ● ■ | 8 ■ ■ ■ ● ● |
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| M ■ ■ | Z ■ ■ ● ● | |

Contact us

PK Porthcurno

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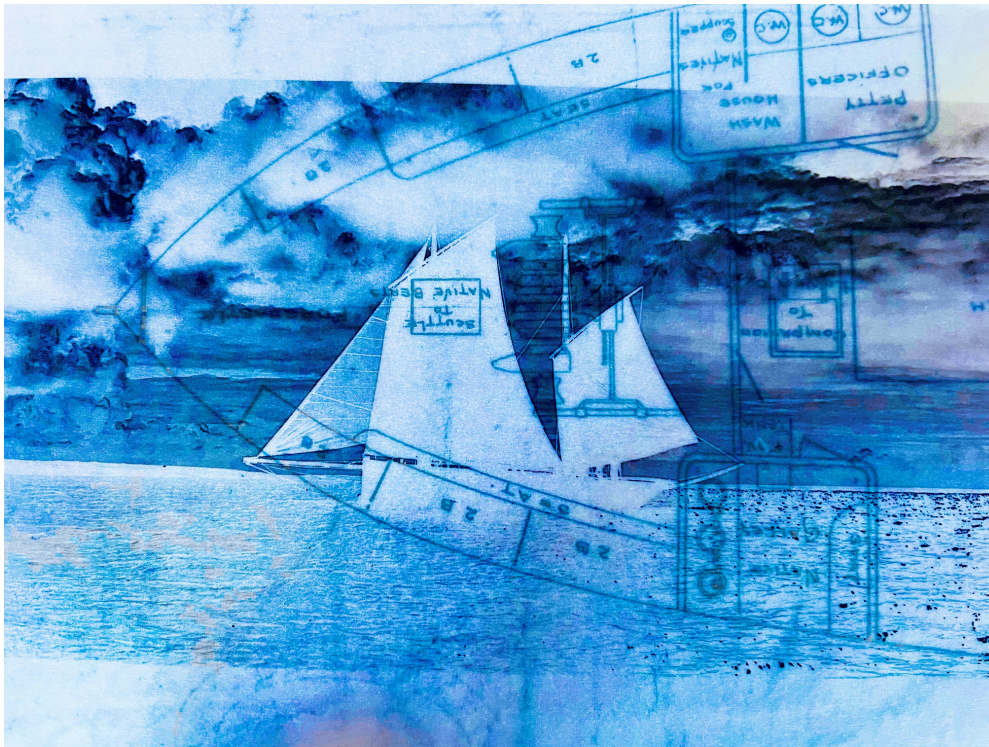
Mainline: 01736 810966

Group Bookings email: education@pkporthcurno.com

Museum email: info@pkporthcurno.com

www.pkporthcurno.com

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