

Easter Holiday Activities at Imperial War Museums

FREE or included in the admission price (for IWM Duxford and HMS *Belfast*)

This Easter visitors to IWM can get creative, hear stories and learn about life in times of war and conflict. Discover how to make a moving animation in IWM London's new art workshop, learn what life was like at sea by exploring all 9 decks of HMS *Belfast*, develop the skills you need to be a spy at IWM North and find out what it was like to be in a Second World War bomber crew at IWM Duxford.

Last Chance to See

[**Horrible Histories®: Blitzed Brits**](#)

IWM North

Until 10 April

Visit our major family exhibition, *Horrible Histories®: Blitzed Brits* before it closes on 10 April to explore how the Blitz brought the war to the doorsteps of everyone in Britain. Discover the dramatic deeds and surprising stories behind extraordinary objects. Immerse yourself in the horrible home front as you stumble through a blackout, climb under the kitchen table Morrison shelter and step outside the 1940s house to milk a cow like an evacuee. Created in collaboration with Horrible Histories®.



Arts and Craft Activities

[**Family Art Workshop: Make a Moving Animation**](#)

IWM London

25 March – 10 April; 11am – 4pm

To mark 100 years since the introduction of the iconic British Brodie helmet during the First World War, come along to IWM London to create your own animated spinning drawing of Tommy soldier, and find out how to make it move. This is based on a popular 19th century toy called a Thaumatrope

[**Open Studio: Code wheels**](#)

IWM North

2 - 17 April (excluding 5 and 6 April); 2 – 3.30pm

Learn secret spy skills at IWM North in this family activity inspired by real life stories of wartime bravery and espionage as you create your own code wheels for writing top secret messages.

*Activity included in the general admission price.

[Open Studio: Spy HQ](#)

IWM North

5 and 6 April; 11am - 12.30pm and 2 - 3.30pm

Drop into Spy HQ to create your own secret identity and receive your mission. In this family session, visitors can make their own Spy ID, invent a code name and complete special training to learn essential spy skills.

[Tattoo T-shirts: Davy Jones's Locker](#)

***HMS Belfast**

25 March – 10 April; 11am – 12.30pm and 2 – 4pm

Step on board HMS *Belfast* and design your own T-shirt inspired by traditional navy tattoos, nautical superstitions and the sailor legend of Davy Jones's Locker. You can learn more about the history of navy tattoos, including what the symbols mean and why as a sailor you wouldn't want to visit Davy Jones's Locker!



Talks and Tours

[The Lancaster Experience](#)

***IWM Duxford**

25 March – 10 April; 11.20 – 3.30pm. Interpretative sessions at 11am; 12pm; 1pm

Come along to IWM Duxford this Easter and peer inside the legendary Second World War aircraft, the Lancaster bomber, to see what it was really like for the young men who fought and flew as part of a bomber crew. Hear from a historic interpreter, dressed as a member of Bomber Command, to find out everything from the role of each of the crew members to what they wore and the equipment and weapons they used. Visitors will also find out about the famous Dambusters Raids and the development of the bouncing bomb.

[Storytelling: Animals and War](#)

IWM North

2 – 17 April; 10.30am

Puppets and pictures bring to life heroic and heart-warming tales of wartime animal bravery such as the story of Stubby of the Trenches, mascot of the First World War 102nd Infantry, 26th Yankee Division. He was the first dog to be given the rank of Sergeant after he caught a German soldier spying on Allied trenches.

Family backpacks

***IWM Duxford**

25 March – 10 April; 10am – 3pm (last entry at 2.30pm)

Borrow a family backpack, full of exciting challenges and activities which take you on a trail around key objects in the *AirSpace* exhibition. There are two backpacks on offer for children aged 6 and under and two for children aged 7 and above. The backpacks also include aviation-themed items to try on.

[In Focus: Spies & Secret Messages](#)

IWM North

7 – 15 April, Weekends during April; 11.30am

This new -in session reveals specially selected archive films, personal stories and artefacts from IWM's national collection. See genuine archive films including Second World War Films such as *Miss Grant Goes to the Door* and *Gustav the Pigeon*, with the chance to handle artefacts from our collections.

[Object Conversations](#)

IWM London

Weekends during April; 11am – 12.30pm and 2 – 4pm

In this immersive object handling session, families can explore objects from IWM's collections and discover how they connect with iconic objects on display in our atrium and terraced galleries.

– Ends –

For more information or images please contact:

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Notes to Editors:

Object Conversations at IWM London is Supported by the Clore Duffield Foundation.

Opening Times and Admissions:

- **[IWM London](#):** Open daily* 10am – 6pm. Free
- **[IWM North](#):** Open daily* 10am – 5pm. Free
- **[IWM Duxford](#):** Open daily*: Summer 10am – 6pm;
 - Adult £18; Child (5 – 15) £9; Child (under 5) Free; Concession £14.40
 - Family Tickets (depending on size) £30 – 46; Group Rates available
- **[HMS Belfast](#):** Open daily*: Jan – Feb, 10am – 5pm; March – October, 10am – 6pm
 - Adult £16; Child (5 – 15) £8; Child (under 5) Free; Concession £12.80
 - Family Tickets (depending on size), £28 - £42;. Group Rates available
- **[Churchill War Rooms](#):** Open daily*: 9.30am – 6pm.
 - Adult £19; Child (5 – 15) £9.50; Child (under 5) Free; Concession £15.20.
 - Family Tickets (depending on family size), £33 - £49 Group rates available

*All of our branches are closed on 24, 25 and 26 December.

IWM

IWM (Imperial War Museums) tells the story of people who have lived, fought and died in conflicts involving Britain and the Commonwealth since the First World War.

Our unique Collections, made up of the everyday and the exceptional, reveal stories of people, places, ideas and events. Using these, we tell vivid personal stories and create powerful physical experiences across our five museums that reflect the realities of war as both a destructive and creative force. We challenge people to look

at conflict from different perspectives, enriching their understanding of the causes, course and consequences of war and its impact on people's lives.

IWM's five branches attract over 2 million visitors each year. [IWM London](#), our flagship branch, marks the Centenary of the First World War with new permanent First World War Galleries and a new Atrium with iconic large object displays. Our other branches are [IWM North](#), housed in an iconic award-winning building designed by Daniel Libeskind; [IWM Duxford](#), a world-renowned aviation museum and Britain's best preserved wartime airfield; [Churchill War Rooms](#), housed in Churchill's secret headquarters below Whitehall; and the Second World War cruiser [HMS Belfast](#).

First World War Centenary

2014 - 2018 marks the centenary of the First World War, a landmark anniversary for Britain and the world. IWM is marking the centenary by leading a vibrant, four year programme of cultural activities across the world. 2016 is the centenary of the Battle of the Somme. www.1914.org.

