

What to Expect on a Field Trip to Penobscot Marine Museum

The Penobscot Marine Museum brings Maine's maritime culture to life on a 3-acre campus in the seacoast village of Searsport. Exhibits throughout the campus tell unique stories of ship captains and their families, the industries of Penobscot Bay, global maritime trade, and today's fisheries.

Plan ahead - Check out our Penobscot Marine Museum (PMM) Campus Map ([Click here](#)). PMM is a campus museum with many buildings and two public streets.

Where do we park?

Two buses can park comfortably along the side of our Merithew House. Check out the [Google Street View](#) for an example. There is room for smaller vehicles in the parking lot.

Where do we go when we get off the bus?

PMM staff will meet you at the bus, direct you where to go, and assist with crossing the street. Please unload the bus and gather in the green space across the street, by the Fowler-True-Ross House ([see Google Street View](#)). Other vehicles may be using the parking lot, so it's good to move groups from the area promptly.

PMM staff will give a clipboard to all teachers/chaperones. It will include the schedule for the field trip, a campus map, chaperone information sheet, and answer keys for any field trip activities.

Once everyone is gathered in the green space, PMM staff will do a brief introduction and assist with getting your group started!

What about bathrooms? (See [Campus Map](#) for locations)

PMM has a 3-stall women's bathroom and a 3-stall men's bathroom in the Old Vestry building. There are two gender neutral single bathrooms at the Stephen Phillips Memorial Library. Because there are usually too few bathrooms for the number of students, **we recommend waiting until your field trip gets started to use the bathrooms.** We also understand that sometimes that's not practical.

If your group is having a snack before you get started, that's a good time to take turns using the bathrooms in smaller groups. Also, during the field trip, each group will rotate through the buildings with bathrooms and those are good times to remind the students to use them.

There is also a water bottle filler and drinking fountain outside the bathrooms in Old Vestry.

How do the schedule and rotations work?

Your group will be given a schedule for the field trip. Each rotation will be between 15 and 30 minutes long. At the time scheduled, the groups will move to the next station. PMM staff will be at most stations to assist with the rotations. We will do our best to have plenty of staff for your field trip, but we also appreciate the assistance of teachers and chaperones.

Where do we eat snack or lunch?

Snack and lunch can be eaten outside in the green space by the Fowler-True-Ross House. There are a few picnic tables, granite steps, and shady places. You may even want to bring picnic blankets.

What if it rains?

PMM field trips are rain or shine. Please come dressed for the weather and bring umbrellas as appropriate. While most of our activities can be done inside, students will still need to walk between buildings. We do not have an inside space for gathering more than 30 students, so we may decide to do the introduction on the bus.

What will my students learn?

- Key concepts:
 - Maine has a strong maritime history in building ships and boats, sailing, and fishing
 - Maine people and ships participated in global trade in the 1800s
- Skill building:
 - Using primary sources (writings, artifacts, photos, paintings) to understand history
 - Listening
 - Reading
 - Working together and taking turns
 - Appropriate behavior in a museum
- Supports Maine Learning Results Standards:
 - Personal Finance & Economics
 - Geography
 - History

Will my students have fun?

Yes! PMM field trips include many hands-on elements, options for crafts and scavenger hunts, and time to explore.

Questions? Contact Jeana at jganskop@pmm-maine.org

Penobscot Marine Museum's Mission

Penobscot Marine Museum inspires curiosity and fosters understanding about life and work on the Maine coast to encourage stewardship of our communities and the sea.