



**BRIDGING  
THE TAMAR**

# Schools Programme

**Bridging the Tamar Visitor and  
Learning Centre at the Tamar Bridge**





*Image credits*

*Front cover: Pupils from Sir John Hunt at Engineering Her Future,  
Trevor Burrows for Tamar Crossings*

*This page: Roy N Keith.*

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# Why choose Bridging the Tamar?

- Enrich your confidence teaching **STEAM** learning (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Maths)
- Unique opportunity to experience **learning outside the classroom** with two world class engineering structures - all workshops include an accessible trip out onto the Tamar Bridge to marvel at the views of the river and IK Brunel's Royal Albert Bridge, look at the components of the Tamar Bridge up close, and feel the vibrations as lorries whizz past!
- Dedicated workshop space in the Bridging the Tamar Visitor and Learning Centre for pupils to do hands-on learning with **interactive bridge models and displays**.
- Clear links to the **National Curriculum**
  - ✓ **History** (Victorians, local history study, modern history, significant individuals, Industrial Revolution)
  - ✓ **Science** (Forces, Gears and Pulleys)
  - ✓ **Design and Technology**
  - ✓ **Geography**
  - ✓ **Engineering**
  - ✓ **Maths** (logic, measurement, geometry)
  - ✓ **English**
- Develop your students' enquiry and problem solving skills, inspired by real life engineering stories.
- Tailor made - work with us to develop new workshops or tweak one for your school.

“  
The children enjoyed the mix of practical sessions as well as talking about the theory behind bridge construction.  
”

*Image credit: Roy N Keith*





*Image credit: Tamar Crossings*

**Bridges is a mini version of our most popular workshop, tailored for younger visitors on one of their first trips, we work with you to factor in snack and break times.**

## Bridges

An interactive workshop which includes a guided walk over the Tamar Bridge, a look at the River Tamar, some experiments, and hands-on bridge building activities exploring the evolution of bridges in the Learning Centre. Learn about Brunel's unique Royal Albert Bridge and the award-winning Tamar Suspension Bridge first-hand.

These workshops link to understanding the world, expressive arts and design, and communication and language.

## Key points

Duration	1 hour
Session price	£4.00
Outreach	✓

## Minibeasts and their homes

Discover the minibeasts from around the River Tamar and search for their natural habitats. Children will become bug hunters and identify them. Then we create butterfly feeders for children to take home to care for butterflies in their own gardens.

## Key points

Duration	1 hour
Session price	£4.00
Outreach	✗

*Image credit: Roy N Keith*

## Key Stage 1 and 2

**Our curriculum-linked sessions are hands-on and we cater for a range of learning styles.**

### Bridges

An interactive workshop which includes a guided walk over the Tamar Bridge, a look at the River Tamar, some experiments, and hands-on bridge building activities exploring the evolution of bridges in the Learning Centre. Learn about Brunel's unique Royal Albert Bridge and the award-winning Tamar Suspension Bridge first-hand.

### Key points

Duration	2 hours
Session price	£5.00
Outreach	✓

### Meeting Brunel

Meet Mr Brunel, designer of the incredible Royal Albert Bridge, find out what life and work was like in the Victorian era, and test out your own bridge building skills. Includes a costumed educator.

### Key points

Duration	2 hours
Session price	£6.50
Outreach	✗

### Brunel and Bridges

Find out about the life and times of IK Brunel, his famous Royal Albert Bridge, and some of his other engineering achievements.

### Key points

Duration	2 hours
Session price	£5.00
Outreach	✓



*Image credit: Tamar Crossings*



### The benefits

The Royal Albert Bridge encouraged trade and industry to prosper in the region by providing a vital link between Cornwall and London.

It also provided a vital link between the two main ports of the region, Plymouth and Falmouth, and the rest of the country.

The bridge has helped to create a thriving economy in the region and has played a vital role in the development of the area.

### Centenary celebrations



### The bridge today

The Royal Albert Bridge stands as a testament to the engineering genius of Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

It was one of the great wonders of the world, a unique and elegant design that has stood the test of time. In 1995, the bridge was awarded a Grade II listing as a place of historic interest. It is now a popular tourist attraction and a source of pride for the region.

## The Industrial Revolution

Find out about technological advances from the 1800s to the present day. Learn about the history of transport, from canals to railways and roads. Find out how Brunel's internationally renowned Royal Albert Bridge was at the centre of the Industrial Revolution.

### Key points

Duration 2 hours  
Session price £5.00  
Outreach ✓

## The River Tamar - transport and the natural environment

Find out about the natural environment of the River Tamar, and how humans have navigated it through time. Learn about the river crossings including the Royal Albert and Tamar Bridges.

### Key points

Duration 2 hours  
Session price £5.00  
Outreach ✗

## Levers and Pulleys

Find out about how levers and pulleys are simple machines that make life and work easier. The session includes hands on experiments and looks at the levers and pulleys used on the Tamar and Royal Albert Bridge.

### Key points

Duration 2 hours  
Session price £5.00  
Outreach ✓

## Engineering - Bridging the Tamar

*In partnership with The Box*

This is a day long workshop in partnership with The Box in Plymouth. Join us in the morning for a guided tour and bridge building workshop and then head to The Box for your lunch followed by a STEAM inspired workshop exploring the iconic engineering of Plymouth.

### Key points

Duration 2 hours  
Session price £8.50  
Outreach ✗

This is booked via The Box Engineering:  
<https://www.theboxplymouth.com/schools/school-visits/engineering-bridging-the-tamar>

*Image credit: Nicholas Horne*



## Key Stage 3 and 4

**Our workshops help students to become independent learners and provide an insight into STEAM subjects and careers.**

### Bridges

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An interactive workshop which includes a guided walk over the Tamar Bridge, a look at the River Tamar, some experiments, and hands-on bridge building activities exploring the evolution of bridges in the Learning Centre. Learn about Brunel's unique Royal Albert Bridge and the award-winning Tamar Suspension Bridge first-hand.

#### Key points

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Duration 2 hours  
Session price £5.00  
Outreach ✓

### Brunel and Bridges

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Find out about the life and times of IK Brunel, his famous Royal Albert Bridge, and some of his other engineering achievements.

#### Key points

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Duration 2 hours  
Session price £5.00  
Outreach ✓

### The River Tamar - transport and the natural environment

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Find out about the natural environment of the River Tamar, and how humans have navigated it through time. Learn about the river crossings including the Royal Albert and Tamar Bridges.

#### Key points

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Duration 2 hours  
Session price £5.00  
Outreach ✓

*Image credit: Anne Robinson*

# Secondary

## The Industrial Revolution

Find out about technological advances from the 1800s to the present day. Learn about the history of transport, from canals to railways and roads. Find out how Brunel's internationally renowned Royal Albert Bridge was at the centre of the Industrial Revolution.

### Key points

Duration	2 hours
Session price	£5.00
Outreach	✓

## Smart bridges of the future

Explore the skills engineers of the future will need to build bridges and complete a design challenge for a new Tamar Crossing.

### Key points

Duration	2 hours
Session price	£5.00
Outreach	✓

## SEND

Bridging the Tamar is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion. We welcome students with special educational needs and disabilities, including those with profound and multiple disabilities and neurodiverse visitors. We are open to visits from a range of educational settings.

Explorer backpacks contain a range of items designed to help children explore the bridges, including binoculars and a compass!

The Learning Centre site is accessible as is the path over the Tamar Bridge. There is currently no adult changing facility.

## Outreach

Most of our workshops can be delivered at your school. We also offer assemblies.

*Image credit: Roy N Keith*



*Image credit:  
Engineering Her Future event,  
Trevor Burrows for Tamar Crossings*



Image credit: Tamar Crossings

## Scouts and Guides

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From £4.00

We offer scout and guide sessions learning about the bridges and having fun along the way.

We also offer Monkey Bridge workshops. Test teamwork, learn about bridges, and try your group's practical skills by booking a classic pioneering session with our Monkey Bridge. Overlooking the Royal Albert and Tamar Bridges, the bridge can be assembled over the course of a few hours and links into different scouting and guiding badges such as leadership, pioneer, survival skills, and science and technology badges. The activity also develops rope and knot tying skills. For ages 11 and over.

## Higher Education

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We offer tours of the Tamar Bridge which include a visit into the anchorage chamber led by one of the Bridge's engineers and a walk under the bridge to the first tower. We can adapt tours to specific College or University topics.



*Image credits: Tamar Crossings*

## Adult Education

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We offer bespoke guided tours and talks about the Tamar and Royal Albert Bridges for lifelong learning groups. These can be tailored to suit your group's particular interest. We work with organisations including WEA and U3A.

Email [visit@tamarcrossings.org.uk](mailto:visit@tamarcrossings.org.uk) for more information.

*Image credit: Roy N Keith*

# A typical workshop

Image credits: Trevor Burrows,  
Marine Academy, ECS

All workshops are two hours long and include a walk across the bridge.

## Bring 30 students

- Arrival - you'll be greeted at the Tamar Bridge by our team.
- Welcome briefing.
- Take part in your booked workshop, with hands on activities led by our expert staff.
- Lunch - a beautiful picnic area overlooking the river.

## Want to bring more than 30 students?

- The optimum is 30 students at a time, please get in touch so we can discuss the options further.

## Booking made easy

- Workshops start from £4 per child
- Risk assessment and welcome pack provided
- Minibus parking available and coach drop off point

## Contact us

To find out more, visit us online at:

**[bridgingthetamar.org.uk/visit/school-visits/](http://bridgingthetamar.org.uk/visit/school-visits/)**

call 01752 361577, or email [visit@tamarcrossings.org.uk](mailto:visit@tamarcrossings.org.uk)



## Don't see what you were after?

Workshops are developed in consultation with teachers, so if you have an idea for a new one we let us know and we'll work with you and in return for your time your first workshop will be free.



Bridging The Tamar's Green Tourism awards certification recognises our commitment to becoming more sustainable. We are proud of our Silver award, which is acknowledged worldwide as an indicator of good environmentally-friendly practice.





# BRIDGING THE TAMAR

## Visitor and Learning Centre

### Tamar Bridge Office

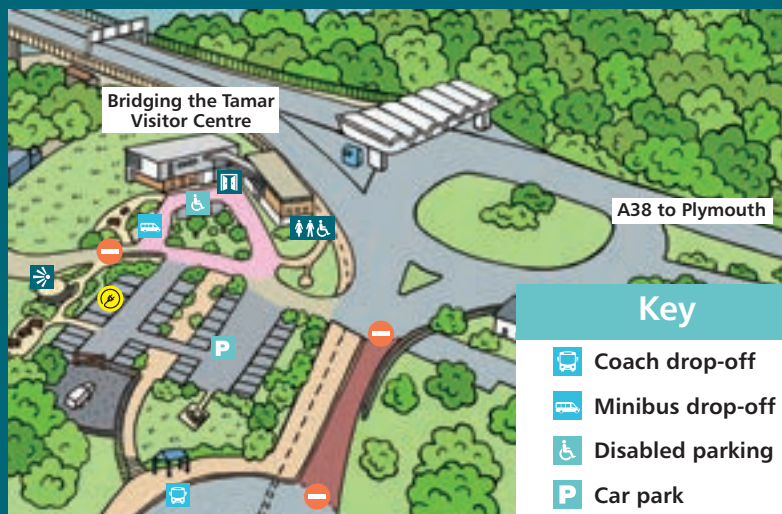
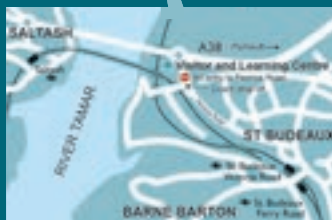
Pemros Road, St Budeaux,  
Plymouth PL5 1LP

**Coaches** drop off at the Pemros Road roundabout (no access to Pemros Road roundabout from Visitor and Learning Centre - coaches need to go through St Budeaux).

You can also arrive by **train** in Saltash and walk across the bridge, or by bus (including the City Bus route 12/12A).

Exeter

Plymouth



**Free parking** for cars is available, including 3 accessible spaces, and 2 Electric Vehicle Charging spaces.

**Open daily** 10am-4pm

### Key

- Coach drop-off
- Minibus drop-off
- Disabled parking
- Car park
- EV charging points
- Amphitheatre and Viewpoint
- Entrance
- Public toilets
- Shared space

## Contact us

<https://www.bridgingthetamar.org.uk/visit/school-visits/>  
01752 361577

[visit@tamarcrossings.org.uk](mailto:visit@tamarcrossings.org.uk)

@Bridgingthetamar

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