

ESCHER IN THE PALACE

PREPARATION DOCUMENT

PREPARATIONS FOR YOUR VISIT TO ESCHER IN THE PALACE

We're so happy that you'll be soon coming to the museum for a museum lesson!
To make it easier to find your way around, this document gives you an impression of what the museum looks like, inside and out, and tells you what you'll be doing during the museum lesson.



The front of the museum. Photo: Gerrit Vermeulen

BUILDING

The photo shows the front of the museum. The entrance is indicated by the white arrow. This building used to be a royal palace. It's now used as a museum where you can enjoy the famous artworks by Maurits Cornelis Escher.

ENTRANCE HALL

As you enter with your class, you arrive in this hall. Here, the museum teachers will welcome the class and give you a brief explanation about the artist M. C. Escher and the unique building you are in.





The entrance hall with ticket counter

MUSEUM TEACHERS

The museum teachers are the people who will guide you and your group through the museum. There are usually two museum teachers per school group. They know a lot about the artist M.C. Escher and about the building, which used to be a palace.

SUPERVISION

The groups own teacher comes with you to the museum. There's another adult present as well, for extra supervision. This can be a parent or another teacher from your school.

TIME SLOT

A museum lesson generally begins between 09:00 and 11:00. At that time, the museum is still closed to other visitors, so it's not crowded in the building. You and your class don't have to wait in a queue at the ticket counter. You may, however, have to wait briefly outside for the museum door to be opened for you.

The museum is open to the public from 11:00, and from that moment onwards, the museum could be more crowded.

CENTRAL HALL

From the entrance hall, you and your class follow the museum teachers to the central hall. You'll see a large photo of Queen Mother Emma in this high-ceilinged hall. The palace used to belong to her. It's now a museum that exhibits the artworks of famous artist Maurits Cornelis Escher.



The central hall with the staircase



The stone staircase to the basement

BASEMENT

You follow the museum teacher down the stone staircase to the basement. Part of this floor is underground. It's slightly lower than the street, but there are windows and doors. If you and your class stand in front of the palace entrance, you can already see a few of those windows and doors from outside. They are to the left and right of the stairs to the entrance.



CLOAKROOM

The cloakroom is in the basement, with a coat rack for hanging up your coat. The museum teacher will point it out. If you have a bag with you, you can put it on the floor under the coat rack, since only small handbags are permitted to be carried into the museum. There are also lockers, but those are for regular visitors.



Lockers and cloakroom with coat rack



Sometimes, the coats and bags are stored in a roll cage. This is done when there are already other visitors in the museum. The museum teacher locks the roll cage with a padlock.

Roll cage for coats/bags

TOILETS

The toilets are in the basement. Unfortunately, there is no extra broad toilet in the museum for wheelchair users.



Toilet signs

MORE THINGS IN THE BASEMENT

The atelier is also located in the basement; it's the workplace where the workshops are given. And there are a few rooms for museum staff there too. Some are used for meetings. This is an old building, so it might smell different to what you're used to.

THE STAIRS AND THE LIFT

There are a lot of different stairways in the museum. Two stairways come out into the basement. The museum teacher will always tell you which stairway you'll be walking up or down. Escher's artworks are on the ground floor (the floor where you entered) and on the first floor.

There is a small lift in the museum. If you're not able to walk up the stairs, you can take the lift. The schoolteacher or supervisor will go with you. You can take the lift to the floor the rest of the class is going to.

HOUSE RULES

There are a number of museum house rules that apply to everyone visiting the museum. The museum teacher will go through them with the class:

- RULE 1** We keep a distance from the artworks
- RULE 2** In the museum, we don't rush and we talk quietly
- RULE 3** We keep a distance from museum walls and glass display cabinets
- RULE 4** We're allowed to take photos, but not with flash nor with a selfie stick
- RULE 5** We may not eat or drink in the museum*

*You may eat and drink if you have medical reasons for having to do so. If you must sometimes eat or drink at school at a different time than your classmates, you might have to do that during the museum lesson too. In that case, the museum teacher will make sure you can. You can tell the museum teacher this beforehand or ask your schoolteacher to do that. The museum teacher will make sure there's somewhere that you can eat or drink something. The schoolteacher or the other supervisor will go with you.

THE MUSEUM LESSON

The museum lesson consists of two parts. The first part is a guided tour through the museum. In the second part, you'll be given a creative workshop and with the museum teacher's supervision, you'll make a drawing, collage or linoleum cut. This workshop is given in the atelier.

TWO GROUPS

When the coats have been hung up, the museum teacher will ask your schoolteacher to divide the class into two groups. Each group will go into the museum with a museum teacher and an adult from your school: either your schoolteacher or another supervising adult.

Dividing the class means it's not as busy and you can see the artworks better.

THE GUIDED TOUR

The museum teacher will lead you past M. C. Escher's artworks to view, compare and discuss them. There will be viewing games and hands-on assignments in between. Sometimes the museum teacher asks questions. If you have a question, raise your hand.



Museum teacher during a hands-on assignment with the pupils. Photo: Fred Ernst

MUSEUM ROOMS

M. C. Escher's artworks are hanging on the walls and presented in glass display cabinets. You'll see chandeliers hanging from the ceilings: large lamps made of crystal. There are decorations of wood and gold leaf and there are mirrors. Sometimes, there are also old paintings on display, high up on the walls or on the ceilings. You can tell that this museum used to be a palace.

Sometimes, artworks by other artists are on show in the museum, next to those of Escher.

We walk through various halls in the museum, on different floors. We get there using a number of stairways. As we already mentioned, there is a lift for anyone who has difficulty walking up the stairs.

TEXT PANELS AND CAPTIONS

There are text panels and captions on the walls. People can read more information about the artworks and the artist(s) here. But that's not necessary during a museum lesson, because the museum teacher will tell you everything.



Pupils during a guided tour Photo: Fred Ernst



A window screen



WINDOW SCREENS

There are screens with texts and photos hanging in front of many of the windows. They're like curtains: they protect the artworks from too much daylight - artworks on paper react badly to daylight. The texts and photos on the window screens tell you more about what the palace looked like a long time ago and what the rooms were used for when the museum was still a royal palace.



THE WORKSHOP

After the guided tour, the two groups get together again in the atelier. The atelier is a workplace where the workshop is given. The museum teacher will explain what you have to do and help you with the assignment.



Pupils making a linoleum cut in the studio Photo: Fred Ernst

Some of the materials used in the atelier can smell a bit strange, such as pieces of linoleum or the printing ink. So the atelier sometimes smells different to what you're used to.

In the atelier, you'll see a wallpaper on the wall with a pattern of birds and fish. And on the floor, there's vinyl with a pattern of black and white cubes. On the other wall, you'll see linoleum cuts made by other museum visitors.

TAKING TURNS

With most museum lessons, the two groups go into the museum at the same time. Both groups are given a guided tour. The museum teachers each take a group with them and show them M. C. Escher's artworks.

With some museum lessons, one group starts with the guided tour and the other group with the workshop. After that, the groups change places.

We do that when there's not enough space in the studio for everyone at the same time. In the end, both groups do the same: one guided tour and one workshop.

QUIET SPACE

There is no separate quiet space in the museum. If you do need a quiet moment, you can look for a space: for example, walk to another room with your schoolteacher or supervisor and sit on one of the wooden benches. As long as the museum is closed (until 11:00) you can certainly sit there in peace and quiet.

Sometimes, you can go to the studio a bit earlier, with your schoolteacher or supervisor. When the other group isn't here yet, it's nice and quiet there too. If you need a quiet moment during the workshop, the museum teacher will find a quiet place for you and your schoolteacher.

END OF THE MUSEUM LESSON

When the museum lesson is finished, you put on your coat and get your bag. The museum teacher will help with this. They will then take you and your classmates to the basement exit and you'll go back to school with your own teacher.

Your teacher will take the drawings, collages and linoleum cuts you all made back to the school.

LASTLY

It's important to us that everyone feels welcome in the museum.

If you have any questions about the museum visit or ideas on how we can better prepare you, please send an email to educatie@escherinhetpaleis.nl

The museum staff wish you a great museum visit!

