

The Thames Barrier

The Thames Barrier is one of the largest moveable flood barriers in the world. It protects 125 square kilometres of central London, which means 1.25 million people, historic buildings including the Houses of Parliament, offices, power supplies, tube lines and hospitals.

We (the Environment Agency) run and maintain the Thames Barrier and other flood defences in London, including floodgates such as the Barking Barrier and raised river banks.

The Thames Barrier is also one of the most impressive and famous landmarks in London.

It stretches 520 metres across the River Thames near Woolwich. The Thames Barrier was completed in 1982 and has 10 steel gates that can be raised into position across the River Thames if a tidal surge is predicted.

When raised, the main gates are as high as a five-storey building and as wide as the opening of Tower Bridge.

Group Talks

Booking a Group Talk means your group will receive a tour of the Information Centre and outside exhibits with our Information Assistant.

Your tour will last approximately an hour and a half. Topics covered include the history of the river and the risk of flooding in London as well as describing the environment and wildlife of the Thames.

From Thursday to Sunday, during our usual opening hours, we can accommodate one Basic Group Talk per day. Our cafe will be open but we suggest ordering your food in advance to reduce the time you may have to wait to be served on the day.

From Monday to Wednesday we offer Luxury Group Talks. With this option, you will get exclusive use of the Information Centre and 'The View', our conference space overlooking the river and the Thames Barrier. We can accommodate single groups at 10.00am or 1.30pm or if you're bringing two groups, we recommend coming from 11am to 2pm. Our cafe won't be open, so please book refreshments or lunch in advance.

Basic Group Talk prices

- adults £150
- seniors or students £125
- children £100

Luxury Group Talk prices

- adults £175 per group
or £325 for two groups on the same day
- seniors or students £150 per group
or £275 for two groups on the same day

The Group Talk price includes the standard admission fee to the Information Centre. Maximum group size is 35.



The Thames Barrier Information Centre is a small, informative exhibition about the past, present and future of the Thames Barrier. It explains the flood risk to London and the history and environment of the River Thames.

The centre is open to the public from 10.30am to 5pm, Thursday to Sunday. Last admission is at 4.30pm and there is a small admission fee.

We have a cafe, childrens play and picnic area and parking for cars and coaches on site.

If you're bringing a group, we recommend booking in advance as this will give you more options and you'll be able to visit any day of the week. See inside for more details.

For more information about visiting the Thames Barrier, call us on 020 8305 4188 or email us at: learningcentre@environment-agency.gov.uk

To learn more about the Thames Barrier and the work of the Environment Agency, visit: www.environment-agency.gov.uk/thamesbarrier



Visiting the Thames Barrier