



# THE ROYAL GUNPOWDER MILLS AND WALTHAM ABBEY

**WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH 2024**

**Cost: £42.00 per person**

**Our trip includes:** Admission to the Royal Gunpowder Mills site and all its attractions; tea and coffee on arrival and at lunch time, onward travel to Waltham Abbey, coach to and from Upminster; and coach driver gratuity.

The Royal Gunpowder Mills is set in 170 acres of natural woodland and parkland in the Lee Valley which is now essentially a nature reserve since manufacturing ended on the site. There are numerous buildings scattered around the site which illustrate the history of gunpowder over 300 years from the time of Charles II to the launch of rockets.

Most of the work undertaken on the site was top secret and even now the site is only open occasionally so this is a rare chance to learn about an important part of our history.

Our day will be full of variety. We will see a film, visit the armoury and rocket vault, visit a 1940s exhibition and a photo gallery illustrating the crucial roles women played during World War II (over 3000 women worked on the site during the war) We will have a 45 minute guided tour of the site on a tractor trailer and a trip on the gunpowder railway. We will be given tea and coffee on arrival and at lunch time. They have suggested that we each bring our own picnic lunches to eat in their café but we may be able to order take-aways to eat at lunch time that will be delivered to the site.



When our visit to the Royal Gunpowder Mills is over we will be taken the short distance to Waltham Abbey town centre where we will have an hour or so to explore the 17<sup>th</sup> Century Abbey Church with its Edward Burne-Jones stained glass windows and the Abbey Gardens where English Heritage has preserved a fine 14<sup>th</sup> Century Gatehouse and a bridge which remain from the original Augustinian Abbey on the site. (Free to visit.)

We will leave Upminster at 09.30 and should be back by about 16.45.

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