**The Abbey Medieval Festival: What to Expect**

The Abbey Medieval Festival is hosted by the **Abbey Museum of Art and Archeology.**

The Abbey Medieval Festival is held on an open field, a short distance from the Museum.

We call this site **Abbeystowe**, which means 'meeting at the Abbey' in Old English.

The festival recreates what life was like during the Middle Ages (hundreds of years ago!) in Europe and the Middle East.

This is what you can expect to experience at the Abbey Medieval Festival:

**People dressed in traditional medieval clothing.**

Image Description: A family of two adults and three young children walk across an open field. The grass is a vibrant green and freshly cut beneath their feet. The mother is leading her family across the field, wearing a bright yellow medieval dress. A boy is holding her left hand, while he holds a stuffed toy horse in the other. The three children are all dressed in medieval clothing, in bright colours. The father follows behind wearing a black cape with animal skin draped across his shoulders.

**Performances of medieval tournaments and battles.**

During these performances, you can expect the sound of crowds cheering and loud, complex sounds.

Image Description: Two knights are riding on horseback in a joust, moving in opposite directions with a wooden fence separating the two riders. They both are holding broken lances in their right hands, having just been struck by their opponent. A seated crowd of people lines the joust arena, cheering.

**People practicing traditional skills and crafts.**

You may experience loud, unexpected sounds.

Image Description: A woman sits behind a table, holding a small sample of metal chainmail in her hands. She is wearing a black dress and a traditional white, cotton covering over her hair. A crowd of people are gathered and standing around her, looking at the items she has presented on the table.

**Animals, such as horses, dogs and birds.**

You can expect the smell and sounds of livestock.

Image Description: A young woman is standing in an open field, with vibrant green and freshly cut grass behind her. She’s wearing a bright red dress and a white cotton headdress. In her left hand raised to her shoulders, she is wearing a brown leather glove, with a large bird resting on her fingers.

**Stalls selling clothing, jewellery and crafts.**

Image Description: Items displayed on a table. In the left corner of the image, is an orange, round ceramic pot. In the center of the table is a rectangular wooden box, with pressed coins and jewellery inside. To the right of the box, is a translucent white, cotton tablecloth.

**Traditional European and Middle Eastern foods.**

You may smell spices, fragrant foods and smoke.

Image Description: A yellow and white tent protects piles of woven baskets, pots and a wooden table. In the foreground of the image there is a metal frame holding a cooking pot. Smoke blows away from the pot, as the stew bubbles and cooks inside. A fire burns below.

**Vendors selling drinks such as wine, beer and mead.**

Image Description: A woman and a man stand behind a table. The man is pouring a drink from a black and orange ceramic jug into a smaller ceramic mug. Both the man and the woman are wearing traditional medieval clothing and are smiling at the camera. A yellow tent protects them from the sun.

**Musicians, playing instruments and songs from the Middle Ages.**

Image Description: A woman sits in a chair, with a harp resting against the front of her body. Her fingers are pulling gently against the strings as she sings. She is wearing a long, white cotton top with animal skin draped across her shoulders. A white cotton headdress covers her brown hair.

**People sharing stories of medieval customs and practices.**

Image Description: A woman stands on a stage, with a bright red curtain draped behind her. She’s leaning in towards a microphone, addressing a crowd. She wears a blue dress and brown tunic with her hair held back in a white, netted headdress. The woman is smiling gently, holding herself with confidence as she addresses the audience in front of her.

**Activities for both adults and families.**

Image Description: An audience of children sit on strewn hay and grass. In front of them is a rectangular tent in the shape of a telephone box, with a wooden sign that says “Puppet Theatre”. Peeking out from the curtain is a hand puppet in the shape of a brown fluffy animal, entertaining the children seated below. A ring of adults are standing around, also watching the performance.

**Although many people will be wearing traditional medieval dress, you are welcome to wear comfortable, modern clothing.**

Image Description: A line of people wait behind a temporary fence made of orange bunting. While the line of people are waiting, a jester dances with juggling clubs in his hands, entertaining the crowd. The jester wears a red, green and yellow tunic with a yellow, pointed hat on his head.

Although we've done our best to give you accurate information, the sensory environment of the Abbey Medieval Festival may change unexpectedly, beyond our control.

This year, we are pleased to have a 'Quiet Tent' for visitors to retreat to as often as they need during the festival weekend. This area welcomes all ages!

The 'Quiet Tent' is located by the Sponsors Village, a short distance from the festival Gates.

The 'Quiet Tent' has been made possible thanks to our generous sponsors - Early Start, Mitre 10 & MBRIT