

Group Tour System (GTS) at St Paul's Cathedral

What is the Group Tour System?

The group tour system is a system for guiding groups which allows the guide or group leader to communicate to the group via a microphone and transmitter to each of the group member's receivers.

Alternatively, the guide or group leader's transmitter can be connected to our new Multimedia Guide, allowing the guide to share their experience and craft their own tour but pick segments out of the recorded tour to supplement it.



Why introduce a group tour system at St Paul's?

- GTS allows the guide to be heard by the group without disturbing others. The group can also hear their guide much more clearly and so are more likely to be engaged.
- GTS is proven to keep groups closer together, which is helpful for large groups in a busy cathedral.
- Using the GTS with a connected Multimedia Guide (audio commentary available in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Polish, Russian, Mandarin, Japanese and Korean) ensures that groups who have not brought a guide with them can have the opportunity to learn about the history and life of St Paul's Cathedral directly from us, complimented by the group leader's own words.

Who is eligible for the Group Tour System?

- The GTS microphone and transmitter kit is available for all blue badge guides, registered guides and cathedral guides to use, if they wish.
- The GTS system with the connected Multimedia Guide will be available to groups who do not bring a guide but have a group leader.

Do I need to pay extra or book in advance?

There are no extra costs involved for having the Group Tour System and no deposit or identification is required to take the equipment.

You do not need to book, however if you are bringing in a large group, it might be helpful to contact us with your group size and estimated time of arrival so we can be ready for the group and get you quickly on the tour. Contact the Admissions Department: 0207 246 8357 / admissions@stpaulscathedral.org.uk (The Admissions Department is open Monday to Friday 0900 – 1400).

How big can my group be?

There is no maximum number; however, we would advise splitting larger groups into parties of 40-50 just for the enjoyment of the tour and also movement around the building.

How do I use the group tour system?

The GTS is always there for you to try. Feel free to go to the GTS desk (behind the right hand side of the two multimedia guide desks) and play with it. When you do, the staff will be happy to explain to you how it works but here are 5 easy steps to get you going:

1. Collect your group and bring them to the GTS desk.
2. Each of your group will be given a receiver and a pair of headphones to wear.
3. The guide will be given a lapel microphone and a transmitter to wear; a group leader will also be given a multimedia guide plugged into the transmitter.
4. 'Testing, testing can you hear me' to allow individuals to adjust the volume if necessary.
5. Off you go!

The on-site staff will have all the receivers and transmitters on and ready to go when you arrive. At the end of your tour, the equipment can be quickly dropped off at either the GTS desk on the cathedral floor or at the mobile multimedia desks in the crypt.

St Paul's Cathedral is open for sightseeing Monday – Saturday 8.30am to 4pm. Please visit our website www.stpauls.co.uk for full visiting information as well as to view the calendar for notice of any sightseeing restrictions.

Matthew Taylor, *Travel Trade Sales and Marketing Manager* – T: +44 (0) 207 246 8317. E: matthew@stpaulscathedral.org.uk