

LITTLE TREKKERS

Dear Grown-ups,

You might find this information useful while helping the children enjoy their visit and the activity trail.

Colours

Gold – there are lots of gold decorations on all the carriages in the Royal Mews. The gold that you see is not gold paint but very thin layers of real gold, called gold leaf. The Gold State Coach is gilded (covered with gold leaf) all over.

Red – red is a colour linked to strength and power and it can be found in many places around the Royal Mews, for example outside and inside of the carriages and in the livery (uniforms worn by coachmen, footmen and postilions).

Black – many of the coaches in the Royal Mews are painted in black. 20 coats of paint are used on the panels of the carriages and they are all painted by hand. It takes 9–12 months to paint a carriage.

Green – green leaves can be found in decorations painted on the sides of the coaches. They are called heraldic decorations and they represent different countries.

Shapes

These shapes are visible all over the Royal Mews. Some of the examples are below.

Circle

The Diamond Jubilee State Coach has wheels made from special strong, lightweight metals and built by a man who usually works on racing cars.



Triangle

A tricorne hat (with a broad brim, pinned up on either side of the head and at the back) can be seen in the display cabinet at the entrance/exit to the Royal Mews. Hats like this one are worn by coachmen.



Rectangle

Most of the carriages have rectangular windows. The Glass Coach was one of the first coaches that had glass installed in its windows.



Animals

Horse – you might have seen some horses at the beginning of your visit. If not, it is because The Royal Mews are working stables and the horses might be used or exercised elsewhere.

Do not worry – you might be able to come back for free using the 1-year Pass, just ask at the exit for details.

Lion and unicorn – can be found on the doors of the Scottish State Coach. Lion symbolises England and unicorn is a symbol of Scotland. Symbol is a picture that is used instead of a word.

Cat – Have you seen a cat sneaking around?

The Royal Mews is also a living community – the staff of the Mews, their families and their pets live on site.

Plants

Roses (for England), **thistles** (for Scotland) and **shamrocks** (for Ireland) can be found in the metal decoration at the top of the Irish State Coach. Palm trees are also there – they symbolise India. When Queen Victoria was made Empress of India in 1876 she had this whole decorative panel added.



Enjoy free re-admission for a year if you buy your ticket directly from us.

Simply ask us to stamp your ticket on your first visit.