

# SPiRE™

## Child-Friendly Museum & Art Gallery Tours

By Chantal McLaughlin  
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SOME KIDS MIGHT be intimidated—or bored—by the hushed, hallowed halls of the great museums, but not if they’re on a private tour with an enthusiastic art historian who knows how to keep kids engaged and get them excited about art. Based in New York, Art Smart specializes in tailor-made museum and gallery visits for small groups, be it families or just adults. Its founder, the very charming Judith Walsh, earned a master’s degree in art history from Columbia University and worked for several years as a lecturer at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She and her team of art history graduate students are adept at turning a potentially feet-dragging experience into a fun-filled art and culture class, which includes a treasure hunt. Learning to be culturally conversant isn’t just kids’ stuff; Art Smart also caters to adults, whether they want an in-depth look at the Guggenheim’s latest exhibit, or need advice on expanding their contemporary painting collection. The business primarily offers visits to cultural institutions in and around New York City, but custom itineraries and guides can be arranged for elsewhere in the US, as well as abroad. One family hired Walsh to accompany them on their European Grand Tour, during which she enlightened them about paintings, sculptures and architecture from Paris to Athens. “My clients, whether adults or their children, have a broad range of experiences with art,” says Judith, “but they all have a desire to be delighted by it. We pride ourselves at finding just the right balance of imparting cultural knowledge, instilling appreciation, and delivering sheer pleasure.”

[www.artsmart.com](http://www.artsmart.com) | Phone: +1 212 595 4444  
P.O. Box 28 | New York, NY 10113 United States