



## The Pottery Wheel Experience

**Items fired - 3**

**Duration -** 2.5 hours on a pottery wheel + free glazing workshop of approximately 2 hours.

**Age - 18 +**

**Accessibility -** If you would love to join this course but have any health restrictions you feel might affect your ability to participate, please email or pop by the shop to discuss how we may be able to accommodate your needs.

### On the day...

In this lesson you will experience what it is like to throw on a pottery wheel.

An experienced potter will give a quick health and safety talk and a walk-through demonstration on a pottery wheel of how it's done; and then it's your turn!

Each student will have their own wheel set up, ready to go and with clay pre-prepared. You'll be learning some of the basic skills you need to create your own hand-thrown pieces: experiencing how the clay behaves; how to 'pull' the clay up and shape it into cylinders and bowls. You will also be shown the basics of centring the clay; however, as this can take months to master, the emphasis in this lesson is on forming your own pots, therefore the tutor will be on hand to centre the clay if needed.

Once the lesson has finished you may choose up to three of the items that you have made to continue with into the next processes towards completion. Your chosen items will then go through various phases before they are ready to be glazed. So, before you leave your throwing lesson you can book onto a free glazing workshop where you will come back for roughly 2 hours to glaze your pots under guidance from your tutor.

**Behind the scenes ...** A day or two after your throwing experience, once your work is just a little drier, The Potter's Wheel will then carefully turn your pots, trimming off any excess clay. Then the drying process begins properly (it takes about two weeks to fully dry). Next, your items will go into the kiln for their initial 'bisque' firing to 1000°C. This hardens the clay but allows just the right amount of absorbency for the glaze to be painted or dipped on to the pots during your glazing workshop.

Once the glaze is dry, your items are ready for their final firing to around 1250°C. When the kiln has cooled down and your work is ready for collection, which may be several weeks later, The Potter's Wheel will let you know and you can pop by and pick it up.

### **Before you arrive -**

Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear; taking note of the recommended personal precautions detailed in the Terms and Conditions PDF.

### **We provide -**

- Aprons
- Eye protection
- Masks

### **Facilities on site -**

- Tea, coffee and fruit squash is available for you to make refreshments
- Accessible toilet facilities

### **Parking -**

The nearest car park to The Potter's Wheel is Goldsmith's Lane carpark (accessed from the High Street) offering 2 hours free parking as well as a number of disabled spaces and electric charging points.

It is about a 3 minute walk to The Potter's Wheel from there.

**For information regarding The Potter's Wheels' cancellation policy as well as important health and safety considerations please refer to the Terms and Conditions PDF.**

*If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.*