

THE BRITISH MUSEUM

Regulations

Admission

Visitors are admitted to the Museum at the hours and under the conditions stated below. Admission to the Museum is free, although a charge may be made for entry to specified exhibitions within the Museum.

The Trustees reserve the right to refuse admission to the Museum or to parts of the Museum to any person, or to require a person already admitted to leave the Museum, if his or her conduct or presence is considered by a responsible officer of the Museum to be causing or liable to cause annoyance to the public, or to endanger or be liable to endanger the exhibits, the fabric of the building, or to be otherwise undesirable.

The leaders or organisers of private parties may be required to divide their parties into groups which are small enough to avoid inconvenience to other visitors.

Groups of more than 10 are asked to book with the Education Department.

Opening hours

Except as indicated below, the Museum is open to visitors daily from 10.00 to 17.30, with selected galleries staying open until 20.30 on Thursdays and Fridays. The Great Court is open Sunday to Wednesday from 9.00 to 18.00, and Thursday to Saturday from 9.00 to 23.00.

The Museum is not open during the Christmas period, New Year's Day and Good Friday.

All visitors are required to have left the Museum by the appropriate closing time; visitors may therefore be asked to leave galleries before the time at which the Museum itself closes.

The Trustees reserve the right to close all or part of the Museum at any time without prior notice in the interests of security or for other reasons. If it is necessary to close the Museum temporarily, visitors may be prevented from leaving whilst the Museum is closed.

Parking

Visitors, other than disabled visitors, may not park cars or motorcycles in the Museum grounds. Vehicles belonging to disabled visitors may be parked by prior arrangement.

Pedal cycles may be left on bicycle-racks provided on the forecourt but may not be ridden across the forecourt. The Trustees will not accept liability for loss of or damage to pedal cycles which have been left on the forecourt, other than loss or damage caused by the negligence of the Trustees or employees of the Museum.

Bags and parcels

The Trustees reserve the right to refuse to allow any bag, case, parcel etc to be brought into the Museum, or to require the person in charge of any bag, case, parcel etc to submit it for inspection either before it is, or after it has been, brought into the Museum.

No bag, case, parcel etc may be left unattended anywhere in the Museum. The Trustees reserve the right to deal with any unattended object in such manner as seems to them best, and will accept no liability for damage which may be caused in consequence.

Cloakrooms

Visitors may deposit hats, coats, umbrellas and small hand luggage in the Museum cloakrooms. No valuables may be deposited in the cloakroom. The Trustees reserve the right to refuse to accept any individual item or class of item. There is a charge of £1 for each item.

The Trustees will accept no responsibility for any loss or damage sustained by items deposited in the Museum cloakrooms, other than loss or damage caused by the negligence of the Trustees or their employees.

Private objects

Visitors bringing privately owned objects into the Museum for examination should obtain a pass, identifying the object as private property, from the Information Desk in the Great Court. The issue of this pass in no way asserts or confirms that the object as described is a genuine article and it may not be taken as an indication that it is valuable either intrinsically or financially.

Exhibits

Visitors may not touch the objects on display unless specifically authorised to do so by the Keeper of the Department concerned, or via an authorised touch tour or event.

Photography

Hand-held cameras not requiring a stand, including cameras fitted with flash bulbs or electronic flash units, may be used for private purposes in the galleries except where otherwise indicated. Private photography or filming in the galleries requiring a stand or special lighting or other equipment is only permitted by prior arrangement with the Filming Officer; application for special facilities must be made at least five working days beforehand, indicating which objects it is proposed to photograph, and the galleries in which the objects are situated. A permit for private photography or filming in the Great Court or Concourse may be obtained from the Information Desk, without prior arrangement.

Commercial or professional photography must be arranged in advance through the Press Office.

Sketching

Sketching with pencil or crayon is permitted in the exhibition galleries. The use of Indian ink is prohibited; other wet materials (water colours, oils, pen and ink other than Indian ink), modelling clay etc may only be used if permission is obtained in advance in writing from the Keeper of the Department concerned.

The use of wet materials is prohibited in carpeted galleries.

Public events

Public events held in the Museum are free of charge unless otherwise stated. Large parties may be refused admission to lectures etc unless prior arrangements have been made with the Education Department.

The Trustees will not accept liability for any claim arising from the cancellation of a previously advertised event.

Disabled visitors

Information for disabled visitors is available from the Information Desk in the Great Court or telephone 020 7637 7384. Wheelchairs are available from both entrances of the Museum.

Miscellaneous

Smoking: Smoking is prohibited in all public areas within the Museum building, including the Restaurant and Café.

Food and drink: The consumption of food and drink by visitors is prohibited within the Museum building, except in the Restaurant and Café. Large parties may be refused admission to the Restaurant and Café unless prior arrangements have been made with the managers of the Restaurant and Café. Visitors are requested to deposit chewing gum in the waste bins at the entrances.

Visitors bringing their own food or drink may consume these outside, on the colonnade of the building or within the forecourt. Families may use the Ford Young Visitors Centre, space permitting. For safety reasons visitors are asked to refrain from sitting on the steps or feeding the birds.

Animals: Guide, assistance or companion dogs may accompany disabled visitors in the Museum. No other dog or other live creatures may be brought into the Museum.

Radios, mobile phones, etc: The audible playing of radios, tape recorders, musical instruments etc within the Museum building, on the colonnade, or within the forecourt is prohibited.

Visitors may not use laser pointers within the Museum. The use of mobile phones is only permitted on the Great Court concourse.

Enforcement

Gallery staff in uniform and other employees of the British Museum who can identify themselves as such are authorised by the Trustees to require compliance with these regulations.

Closed circuit television

Closed circuit television is in operation on this site. Images are being monitored for the purpose of crime prevention and public safety. For further information please contact the Deputy Secretary.

By order of the Director



N MacGregor
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