

Friday late Celebrating the Islamic world

Friday 19 October, 18.00–21.30

Free, just drop in

Welcome to the British Museum's special Friday late, celebrating the cultural diversity of the Islamic world to mark the opening of the Museum's newest gallery – The Albukhary Foundation Gallery of the Islamic world (Room 42-43).

Enjoy free performances, talks, storytelling and craft activities across the Museum, as well as curator introductions and object handling in the gallery. Look out for Asma Elbadawi, winner of BBC Extra's *Last Word* competition, who will be chronicling the event and don't miss a special performance by the London Syrian Ensemble at the Great Court at 20.30.

Supported by The Albukhary Foundation.

Performances

Whirling Dervishes (Mevlevi Turning)

G 18.00, 18.50 & 19.30

Witness a Mevlevi Dervish Turning, part of the ceremony known as *Mukabele* or *Sema* originally developed by followers of the Islamic scholar, theologian and Sufi mystic Rumi. The whirling will be undertaken by *Semazens* of The Study Society in collaboration with Faiths In Tune.

Khiyo

33 18.30–19.00 & 19.30–20.00

Listen to Bangla music with a twist as the London-based band Khiyo perform in Room 33. Fronted by vocalist Sohini Alam, who is featured in Akram Khan's Olivier-Award-winning piece *DESH*.



Khiyo. Photo: Nasser Ghazi

London Syrian Ensemble

G, 20.30–21.10

Join us in the Great Court as the London Syrian Ensemble – a collective of some of Syria's finest musicians based in the UK – play a diverse repertoire of classical and traditional music from the region in this special performance.

Attab Haddad Quintet

41 18.15–18.45

Join us on an instrumental musical journey through Andalusia and the Middle East, with a performance from Iraqi *oud* player and composer Attab Haddad and his quartet.

Sheikh Muhammad Al-Hussaini

41 19.00–19.45

Sheikh Muhammad Al-Hussaini, winner of the Gaelic Voices Festival 2014, performs *sean nós* (Irish 'old-style' singing). His performance will be followed by a Q&A with award-winning presenter Shemiza Rashid.

Female Muslim Creatives

41 19.50–20.30

Join this all-female Muslim poet panel as they discuss women's contribution to Islamic art and society across time. In collaboration with Poet in the City.



The London Syrian Ensemble

Workshops and demonstrations

Discover Islamic geometry

G 18.00–21.15

Learn the techniques of Islamic geometry at this drop-in participatory installation in the Great Court, presented in collaboration with The Prince's School of Traditional Arts.

Islamic calligraphy demonstration

36 18.00–21.00

Explore the different styles and techniques of traditional Islamic calligraphy at this drop-in demonstration on the Great Court terrace. Presented in collaboration with The Prince's School of Traditional Arts.

Make your mark with OOMK

G 18.00–21.15

Discover the work of female Muslim creative publishing collective One of My Kind (OOMK) and design your own original artwork inspired by influential Muslim women throughout history. Get collaging to create a set of large stickers exploring the achievements, inventions and ideas of Muslim women from different disciplines.



OOMK

Film zone

36 18.00–21.00

Relax in the Great Court terrace and enjoy screenings of short films from across the Islamic world.



Khayaal Theatre – photo credit Peter Sanders

Storytelling

Enjoy storytelling performances for all-ages beneath the Nereid Monument from ancient Turkey in close proximity to sculptures from the Parthenon, which itself once functioned as a mosque.

Stories from the Shahnameh

17 18.00–18.30 & 19.20–19.40

Dive into the majestic mythology of Persia with performance storyteller Xanthe Gresham Knight as she presents episodes from *The Shahnameh* accompanied by Kurdish Iranian virtuoso Arash Moradi.

Khayaal Theatre

17 18.40–19.10 & 19.50–20.20

Be transported to distant lands by Khayaal theatre, as they share a dazzling array of Muslim heritage stories from a mosaic of subcultures.

Food and drink

G & 36 18.00–21.15

Enjoy Halal culinary delights such as Baba Ghanoush, Malaysian beef curry, Pilar and Umm Ali at the Museum's pop-up cafes, alongside the evening's activities.

Please note a designated contemplation and prayer space will be available in the Clore Education Centre, beneath the Great Court.