5.2 You are asked not to use your phone to make calls in special
consideration for other visitors.

1. Admission
1.1 We warmly welcome you to the Museum and wish you an
excellent experience.

1.2 Admission to the Museum is free, but we may charge
for entry to some temporary exhibitions and events.

1.3 We regret that it may be necessary, for example in the
interests of security or public safety, for us to alter the
Museum’s opening hours or close specific areas of the
Museum at any time, and without prior notice.

1.4 To ensure the necessary staff are available to staff
the Museum temporarily in any case, we may direct you to leave
by certain routes, or prevent you from leaving by certain routes.

2. Opening hours
2.1 The Museum is open daily from 1000–1700 and until 2030 on
Fridays. Staff may ask you to begin leaving up to 10 minutes before
closing.

2.2 The Museum’s Great Court is open from 1000 until 1730,
except on a Friday when it is open until 2030.

2.3 You must leave the Museum by 1730 (or 2030 on a Friday). Staff may ask you to begin leaving up to 10 minutes before
closing.

2.4 The Museum is closed 24–26 December and as otherwise
notified on britishmuseum.org.

3. Bag searches and other searches
3.1 If it is necessary, our security officers will search your bags
when you enter the Museum or when you enter one of
our special exhibitions.

3.2 A list of items that we do not allow you to bring into the
Museum is displayed in the search areas at the entrances to
the Museum. If you are wearing your bag, our security officers
find any of these items (or any similar item that may be a risk
to the collection, building, staff or other visitors) they will
remove it, store it and return it to you when you leave the Museum. If
our security officers find an illegal item in your bag they will
confiscate it, and hand it to the police. Please be aware of
regulation 6.1 below.

3.3 At our discretion, we may ask our security officers to carry
out more general searches as a condition of entry to the
Museum. The reason for such a search will be explained and
it will be conducted by security officers of the same sex as
the visitor who is searched.

4. The Museum as Licensed Premises
4.1 This Museum has a premises licence for regulated
activities under the Licensing Act 2003, pursuant to which
we must:

a. refuse any person entry (or ask any person to leave),
if our security officers believe that person to be
intoxicated or behaving antisocially.

b. refuse to serve alcohol or to supply other services to any
person who is intoxicated or behaving antisocially.

c. sit on any stairs or on the colonnade steps;

d. block or obstruct entrance doors in any way;

e. refuse to leave the Museum unless the signal
is cleared immediately and you must follow our fire evacuation
plan or any other object.

4.2 At the end of evening events, you are asked to leave
the premises quietly and with due consideration for
our residential neighbours.

5. Consideration for other visitors
5.1 The Museum can become very crowded at times. You
are asked to be patient and considerate to other visitors.

5.2 You are asked not to use your phone to make calls in special
exhibitions, and to turn your phone to silent in the galleries.

5.3 You are asked not to draw and sketch in the galleries but
you should consult staff at the Information Desk about
the rules for the use of art media, stools and easels within the
Museum.

6. Visitor Services and Security staff
6.1 Our Visitor Services and Security staff are identifiable by
their red jackets and can identify passers. They are authorised
by the Museum to require you to comply with these visitor
regulations or any directions given under them. If you fail to do
so, our security officers believe you are intoxicated or behaving
antisocially or that your conduct causes or is likely to
cause any risk to the safety, security or disturbance to other visitors,
our security staff, to the collection or to property, may give you
advice, but your phone may be seized.

6.2 Please be aware that we will not tolerate violence or abuse
against any member of staff, and that failure to
collaborate with the lawful directions of our security staff may
put you at risk of committing a criminal offence.

7. Tour groups
7.1 Tour groups (any group of 10 or more adults visiting the
Museum together) must book in advance using the groups
booking section of the Museum website.

7.2 All tour groups must enter by the Montague Place entrance.
If a tour group arrives at the Great Russell Street entrance
the members, guide or leader will be asked to go to the
Montague Place entrance.

7.3 No person other than the authorised staff may sell
services to tour guides, leaders or speakers anywhere
within the Museum. Guides and leaders of tour groups should also
take particular note of regulations 7.1 and 8.1 below.

7.4 Loudspeakers, voice amplifiers or microphones must not be
used by tour guides or in areas where conducting or leading
tour groups. Guides and leaders of tour groups should also
take particular note of regulations 7.1 and 8.1 below.

8. On-site accessible parking
8.1 We have a designated number of accessible parking spaces
for disabled visitors and Blue Badge holders.

8.2 These spaces must be booked in advance via the Box Office.
Email ticketingreservations@britishmuseum.org
Phone: +44 (0)20 7523 8181

9. Health and safety and the protection of the collection
9.1 In the interests of health and safety, you must not:

a. smoke anywhere in the Museum (and this prohibition
extends to the use of electronic cigarettes and vaping
products) except in the colonnade and on the forecourt;

b. run within the Museum, particularly in the galleries or on
classrooms;

c. sit in any aisles or on the colonnade steps;

d. block or obstruct entrance doors in any way;

e. refuse to leave the Museum unless the signal
is cleared immediately and you must follow our fire evacuation
plan or any other object.

9.2 You must not touch any collection object on open display,
including sculpture or stonework, except as part of our organised
events, which include Touch tours and object handling
displays.

9.3 If you do not comply with any part of this regulation you may
be asked to leave, or removed from the Museum. Please be aware of
regulation 6.1 above.

10. Fire alarms
10.1 You are not allowed to consume food and drink inside the
Museum, except in designated places such as the restaurant
and café or Great Court. You may, however, consume food
and drink outside on the colonnade and forecourt. Please
dispose of your uneaten food and packaging responsibly.

10.2 Wheeled cases are not allowed onto the Museum premises.
Staff may ask you to begin leaving up to 10 minutes before
Museum opening hours or close specific areas of the
Museum. If, on searching your bag, our security
officers find more general searches as a condition of entry to the
Museum.

10.3 You must leave your bicycle in the racks provided on
the forecourt at your own risk. You are not allowed to bring
to the Museum bicycles or adult scooters inside the Museum, nor are
they accepted in the cloakrooms.

11. Food and drink
11.1 You are not allowed to consume food and drink inside the
Museum, except in designated places such as the restaurant
and café or Great Court. You may, however, consume food
and drink outside on the colonnade and forecourt. Please
dispose of your uneaten food and packaging responsibly.

12. Animals
12.1 Animals are not allowed in the Museum under any
circumstances, unless you are a disabled visitor accompanied
by a guide, assistant or companion animal.

13. Mobility scooters are welcome in the Museum.
13.2 If it is handed in to us, we will keep your lost property in
accordance with our lost property operating procedure.
13.3 You must not leave your property unattended, or allow
any child in your care unattended, or leave any
property that you have left unattended.

14. Film, photography, 3D imaging and audio recording
14.1 Except where indicated by notices, you are permitted to use
handheld cameras (including phones) with flash and 3D
printing software, and audio and film recording equipment
not requiring a stand.

14.2 You may use your photographs, scanned data, film and audio
recordings only for your own private and non-commercial
purposes, which include use in personal, non-commercial
social media profiles, blogs and websites, provided no further
commercial reuse of the content is permitted by the terms of
the use of the social media platform or website. More information
about uses that we regard as 'commercial' can be found on our
website.

14.3 You must make arrangements with the Commercial Filming
Team if:

a. you wish to use a stand or special lighting or other
equipment for filming, photography or audio recording in
the Museum;

b. you wish to take any commercial or professional film or
photography.

14.4 You must respect the privacy of other visitors while taking
photographs, filming or making audio recordings in the
Museum. If a visitor complains that your photography, filming or
recording is intrusive you may be asked to stop or leave the
Museum. Please be aware of regulation 6.1 above.

14.5 The use of ‘selfie sticks’ (or similar devices) is not permitted
within the Museum.

15. Bicycles and scooters
15.1 Mobility scooters are welcome in the Museum.
15.2 You are not permitted to cycle or ride a scooter on the
Museum’s forecourt.

15.3 You may leave your bicycle in the racks provided on
the forecourt at your own risk. You are not allowed to bring
to the Museum bicycles or adult scooters inside the Museum, nor are
they accepted in the cloakrooms.

16. Demonstrations
16.1 If you are proposing to demonstrate inside or outside at the
Museum, you should notify our Press Office at least 24 hours
in advance. The Museum may set conditions on such events in
the interests of safety, security and other visitors’ enjoyment of
their visit. If you demonstrate at the Museum, please be aware of
regulation 6.1 above.

17. Film, photography, 3D imaging and audio recording
17.1 E you are not allowed to consume food and drink inside the
Museum, except in designated places such as the restaurant
and café or Great Court. You may, however, consume food
and drink outside on the colonnade and forecourt. Please
dispose of your uneaten food and packaging responsibly.

18. Demonstrations
18.1 You are asked to be patient and considerate to other visitors.

19. Closed circuit television
19.1 You are asked to be patient and considerate to other visitors.

20. Comments and feedback
20.1 We welcome enquiries, opinions and comments from visitors
and members of the public. You can:

a. email info@britishmuseum.org

b. message us at facebook.com/britishmuseum
c. tweet @britishmuseum
d. write to:

The British Museum
Great Russell Street
London WC1B 3DG

21. Amendments
21.1 British Museum visitor regulations are subject to
change by order of the Director.

21.2 These regulations are marked as an unrestricted
information document.