

Guidelines for visiting the British Museum as a tour group

Thank you for your interest in visiting the British Museum. We warmly welcome tour groups, and ask you to read the following guidelines and Visitor Regulations, sharing them with your group before you visit and upon arrival.

Tour groups of 10 people or more must book their visit at least seven days in advance via the Museum's website: www.britishmuseum.org/visiting/group_visits. Groups without an advance booking may be denied immediate entry.

On arrival, please go to the King Edward Building Entrance on Montague Place where a uniformed member of Museum staff will be there to welcome you. We kindly ask you to inform coach drivers to turn their engines off when parked outside the Museum. Please note that our authorised staff may search your group's bags when you enter the Museum, particularly at times of heightened security.

You are responsible for the behaviour of your group at all times. To help to make everyone's visit as pleasant as possible, please note the following:

Consideration for others:

- Visitors may wish to see the same objects that interest your group; please be aware of others waiting to view a particular object and be courteous about moving on promptly.
- We suggest that groups of more than 30 are divided into separate groups with individual group leaders to make your visit more comfortable.
- Please allow other visitors to move freely by not congregating in doorways or on staircases.
- The Museum is a place for looking, thinking, and quiet contemplation. Although discussion in the galleries is encouraged, you should keep your voice low being mindful of others and ask your group to do the same.

Guiding in the Museum:

- Please note that British Museum staff (wearing Museum identity passes) conducting tours have priority over other groups in the galleries.
- Guiding in Rooms 62 and 63: *Egyptian death and afterlife: Mummies* is not permitted.
- Please do not point or gesture with sticks, umbrellas or flags. Laser pointers are not permitted.
- In the event of an emergency, please use the nearest fire exit and follow instructions from Museum staff.

Visitor Regulations:

- Visitors may not touch the objects. You may wish to discuss this topic with your group so they can learn two important aspects of the Museum: conservation and public display. Even with the cleanest of hands, the natural oils in our skin can cause damage to objects, which includes all types of stone and sculptures. We want to preserve the objects so that future generations can see and enjoy them too.
- Visitors are not allowed to consume food and drink inside the Museum, except in designated places such as the restaurant and cafes. You may, however, consume food and drink outside on the colonnade and forecourt.
- Mobile phones must be set to silent whilst in the galleries.
- We require you to abide by all of the Museum's Visitor Regulations, a full list of which are published here: www.britishmuseum.org/visiting. Copies are available from the Information Desk.

The British Museum is free but relies on donations to help support conservation and science, education, and research projects as well as exhibitions and curatorial departments. Please consider when planning your group visit that you are welcome to visit our shops, cafés and restaurants. Every purchase supports the Museum.

We hope that you and your group enjoy your visit to the British Museum.

The British Museum retains the right to change these guidelines at any time without prior notice.