The Museum’s website carries an extensive range of information for visitors at britishmuseum.org. These visitor regulations provide for the safety, wellbeing and security of our staff, visitors, collection and premises. There is no public right of entry into or through the British Museum and it is a condition of entry that you abide by these visitor regulations.

1. Admission
1.1 We warmly welcome you to the Museum and wish you an enjoyable and enriching experience.
1.2 Admission to the Museum is free, but we may charge for parking of the Museum's vehicle entrance.

2. Opening hours
2.1 The Museum's galleries are open daily from 10.00 until 17.30. Selected galleries are open until 20.30 on Fridays.
2.2 The Museum's Great Court is open from 09.00 until 17.30, except on a Friday when it is open until 20.30.
2.3 You must leave the Museum by 18.00 (or 20.30 on a Friday). You may be asked by our staff to begin leaving up to ten minutes before closing time.
2.4 The Museum is closed 24-26 December and 1 January.

3. Bag searches and other searches
3.1 If asked, you must allow our security officers to search your bags when you enter the Museum or when you enter one of our special exhibition rooms.
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 found searching your bag, our security officers will 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, 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 take it to the police. Please be aware of regulation 6.1 below.
3.3 All at 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 is searched.

4. The Museum as Licensed Premises
4.1 The British Museum has a general licence for regulated activities under Licensing Act 2003, pursuant to which we require:
   a. any person who is intoxicated or behaving antisocially
   b. refuse to serve alcohol or to supply other services to any person who is intoxicated or behaving antisocially
   c. limit the number of people permitted into our premises at any time
   d. refuse to serve alcohol or to supply other services to any person who is intoxicated or behaving antisocially
   e. 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 required to exercise consideration for 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 welcome to draw and sketch in our galleries but you should consult our Information Desk about the rules for the use of art media, sticks and easels within the Museum.

6. Visitor Services and Security staff
6.1 Our Visitor Services and Security staff are identifiable by their British Museum identity passes. They are authorised by the Museum to enquire to comply with these visitor regulations or any directions given under them. If our security officers believe you are intoxicated or behaving antisocially or that your conduct causes or is likely to cause risk, annoyance or disturbance to other visitors, to our staff or to the collection or to its conservation, you may be asked to leave and/or may be escorted from the Museum premises.
6.2 Please be aware that we will not tolerate violence or abuse to any member of staff. In the event of any failure to comply 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 ten 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, its members, guide or leader will be asked to go to the Montague Place entrance.
7.3 No person other than a authorised staff may sell services as tour guides, leaders or speakers anywhere within the Museum.
7.4 Loudspeakers, voice amplifiers or microphones must not be used by tour guides or leaders when conducting or leading tour groups. Guides and leaders of tour groups should also take particular note of regulations 9.1 and 9.1 below.
7.5 Tour groups are not permitted in Rooms 61, 62 or 63 due to the number of visitors and space restrictions.

8. Parking of vehicles and provision for disabled visitors
8.1 We do not provide parking facilities, unless you have a disability.
8.2 If you have a disability, and you accompanying you may park you car as soon as possible at the Museum grounds by prior arrangement with our Information Desk.

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 staircases
   c. sit on any stairs or on the colonnade steps
   d. block or obstruct entrance doors in any way
   e. leave any children in your care unattended, or allow them to behave antisocially
   f. climb on any part of the collection, or the fabric of the building including walls, monuments, barriers and columns
   g. disregard any safety signs or barriers put in place for public protection
   h. cross barriers, cordon or protective spaces in front of objects on open display
   i. disregard fire alarms or any directions for the evacuation of the Museum
   j. use any laser pointer or laser pen (a small handheld device with a power source and a laser diode emitting a very narrow coherent beam of laser beam) for any purpose within the Museum
   k. paint or draw towards people or objects within the collection using sticks, umbrellas, pekes, flags or any other object
   l. 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 workshops.
9.2 If you do not comply with any part of this regulation you may be asked to leave the Museum. Please be aware of regulation 6.1 above.

10. Fire alarms
10.1 In Action Notice in the galleries explain how you should raise the alarm in the event of a fire or suspected fire.
10.2 Our fire alarm provides two audible signals:
   a. A constant alarm signal means that you must evacuate the Museum and leave by the nearest fire exit immediately. Our staff will ensure you are aware of the alarm and direct you away from any fire-affected areas. If you require help to evacuate the Museum you should seek the assistance of a member of our staff.
   b. An intermittent signal is a warning alert for our staff, and you are not required to leave the Museum unless the signal changes to the evacuation signal.
10.3 In the event of a fire evacuation, the cloakroom will be closed immediately and you must follow our fire evacuation instructions. Our staff will help to return your items from the cloakroom as soon as possible after the Museum reopens.

11. Access to non-public areas
11.1 If you are found by our staff in a non-public or closed area without authority you will be required to explain your presence and provide proof of identification. You may also be escorted from the Museum premises. Please be aware of regulation 6.1 above.

12. Cloakrooms and luggage
12.1 You must not bring into the Museum any item of luggage (other than fold-up pushchas, or mobility aids if you have a disability), which has a size greater than 40x40x20cm in weight heavier than 8kg.
12.2 Wheeled cases are not accepted onto the Museum premises.
12.3 Access to special exhibitions may be subject to additional restrictions on bags and luggage.

13. Unattended and lost property
13.1 Any property that you have left unattended.
13.2 If it is handed in to us, we will keep your lost property in the cloakroom as soon as possible after the Museum reopens.

14. Film, photography, 3D imaging and audio recording
14.1 Except where indicated by notices, you are permitted to use hand-held cameras (including phones) with flash and 3D imaging 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 use of the social media platform or website. More information about uses that we regard as ‘commercial’ may be found on our website.
14.3 You must make arrangements in advance with our Broadcast Unit if you
   a. need 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 If a visitor complains that your photography 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 of your own risk. You are not permitted to bring folding bicycles or adult scooters inside the Museum, nor are they accepted in the cloakrooms.

16. Food and drink
16.1 Visitors are not allowed to consume food and drink inside the Museum, except in designated places such as the restaurant and cafes or Great Court. You may, however, consume food and drink outside on the colonnade and forecourt. Please dispose of your unattended food and packaging responsibly.
16.2 Families with children may use the Food Centre for Young Visitors on the lower floor of the Museum's Great Court at weekends and during school holidays for eating.

17. Animals
17.1 Animals are not allowed in the Museum under any circumstances, unless you have a disability, when you may be accompanied by a guide, assistant or companion animal.

18. Demonstrations
18.1 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 are administering at the Museum, please be aware of regulation 6.1 above.

19. Closed circuit television
19.1 You should be aware that we operate a secure, closed circuit television system throughout the Museum in the public interest for the protection and safety of our visitors, staff, collection and property.

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. leave a message on facebook.com/britishmuseum
   c. tweet @britishmuseum
   d. write to The British Museum

21. Amendments
21.1 We may change our service provision or amend these visitor regulations from time to time and we recommend that you check the Museum website for our latest visitor information before visiting.

By order of the Director 2018

These regulations are marked as an unrestricted information document.