AMGUEDDFA CYMRU

Visual Story

A trip to National Museum Cardiff









Visual Story

This is a visual guide for educational groups preparing to visit.

It includes useful information for all learners including those with additional needs.

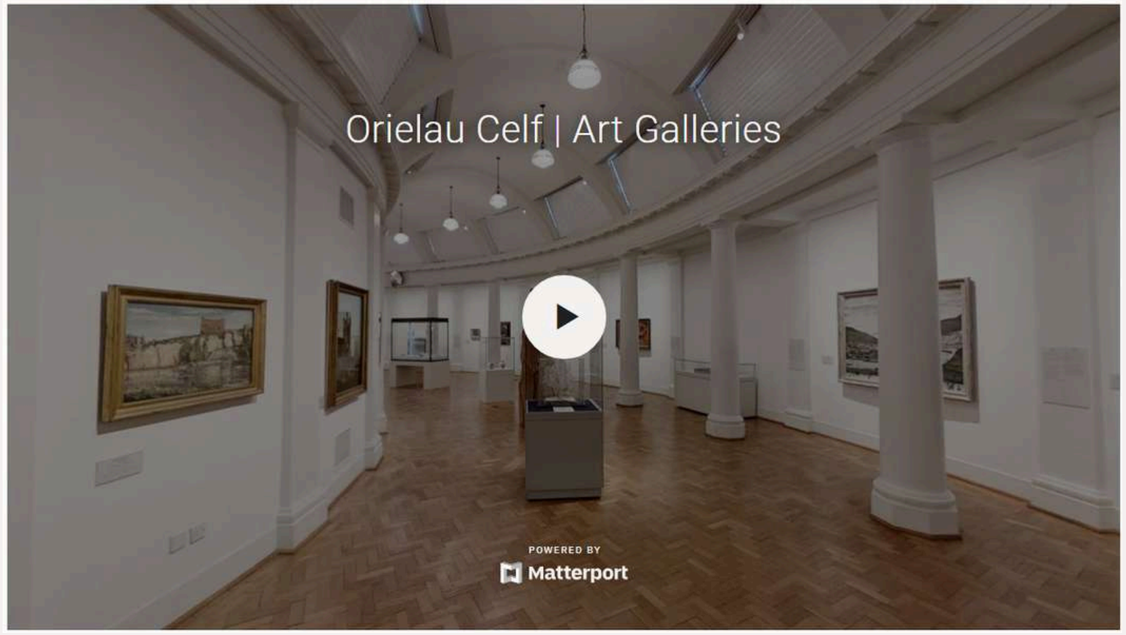


The Museum

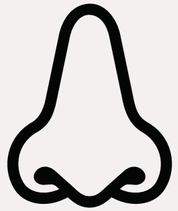
You can explore the galleries online before your visit if you wish.







Symbols used in this guide



This symbol shows when a place has strong smells.



This symbol shows when a place is noisy.



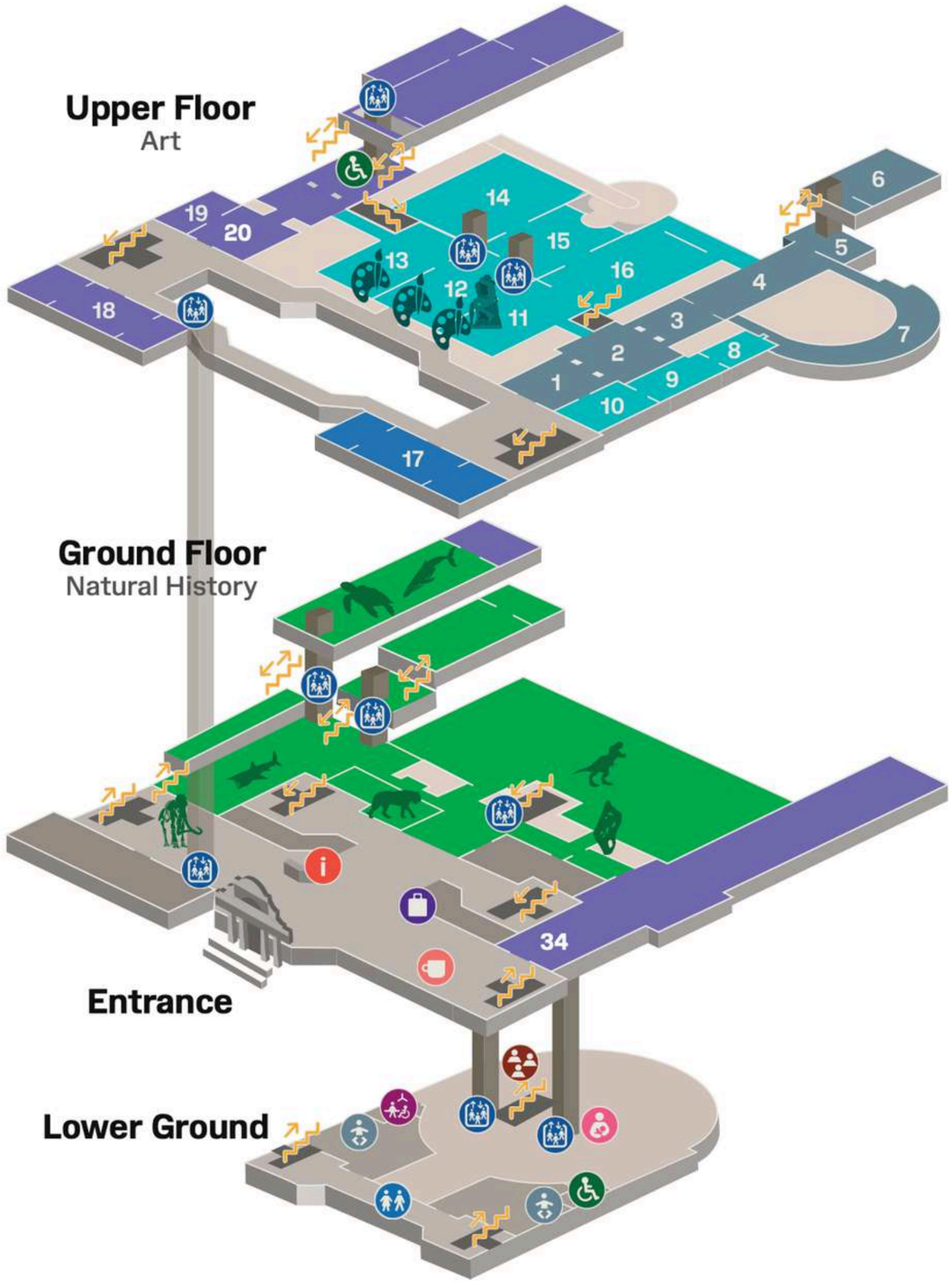
This symbol shows when a place has a change in lighting.



This symbol is used to highlight areas where you can touch objects.

Map

You can download the map here.



If you arrive by coach

Your coach can park outside the front of the museum.

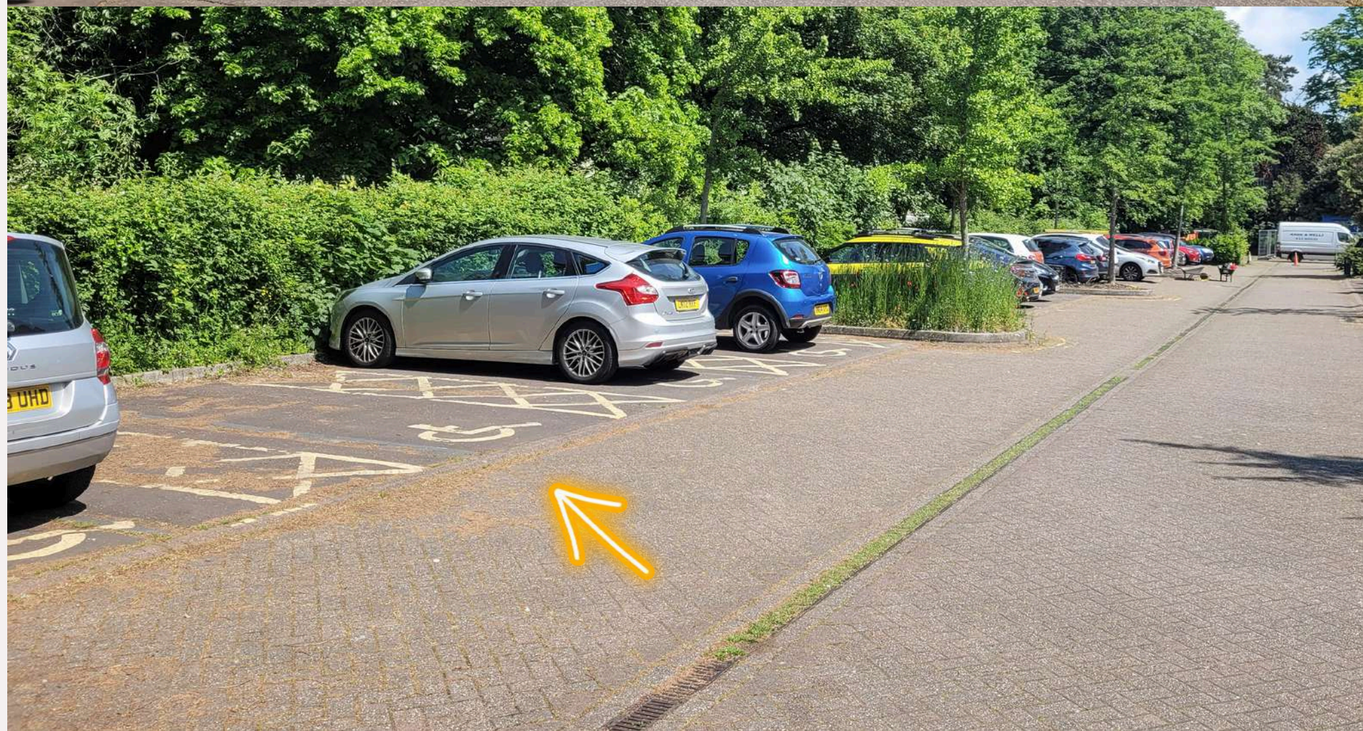
Your group leader will have a timetable. Check where you are going - before heading off.



If you arrive by minibus or car

Your minibus or car might park in the museum car park at the back of the museum.





If you arrive by minibus or car

You will then need to make your way from the car park along the side of the museum to reach the front door.





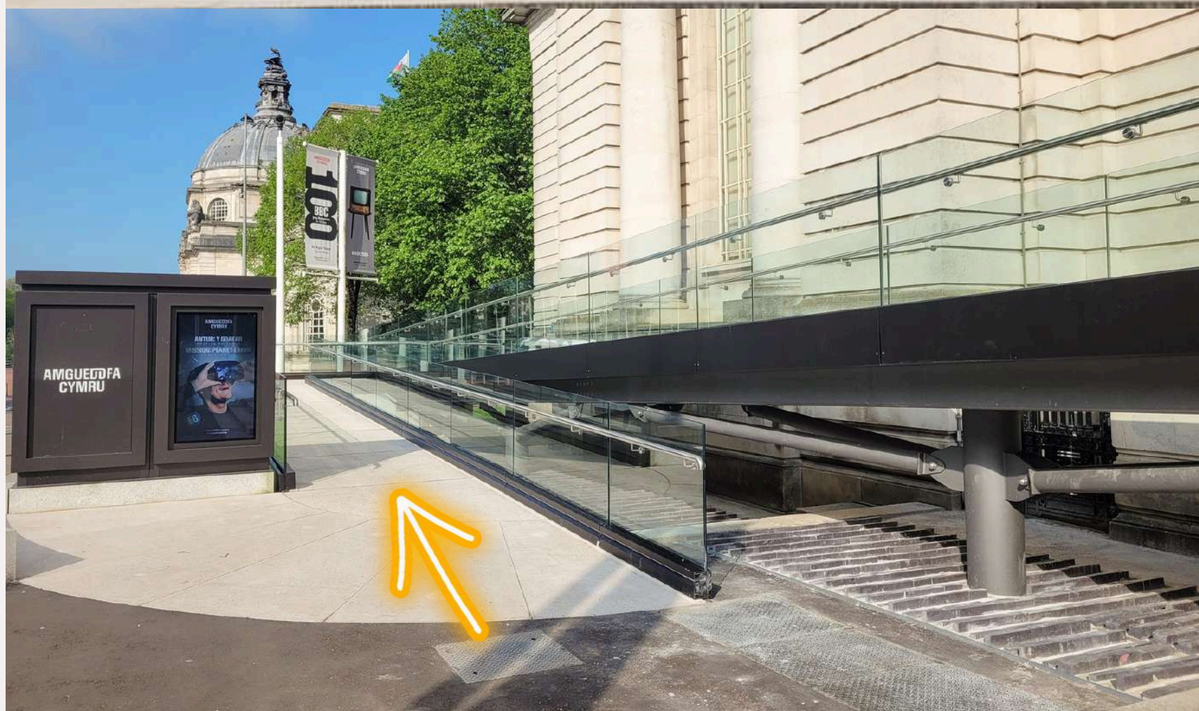
Getting into the museum

This is the front of the museum

There are lots of steps leading up to the front door

You can also use the ramp to get to the front door





When you get to the Museum

This is the front of the museum.

There are automatic doors so they can open suddenly.



People you will meet

Most of the museum staff you will see are called Visitor Experience Assistants (VEAs).

They usually wear black uniforms with turquoise text and illustrations.

VEAs work on these information desks in the Main Hall.

Different VEAs work here every day.

You will also see staff who work in the shop, restaurant and coffee shop.



The Main Hall

When you go inside the museum you will walk into a very large hall.

The ceiling is very high. Sounds echo a lot in the Main Hall.

The floor is very hard and can be slippery.



The Main Hall

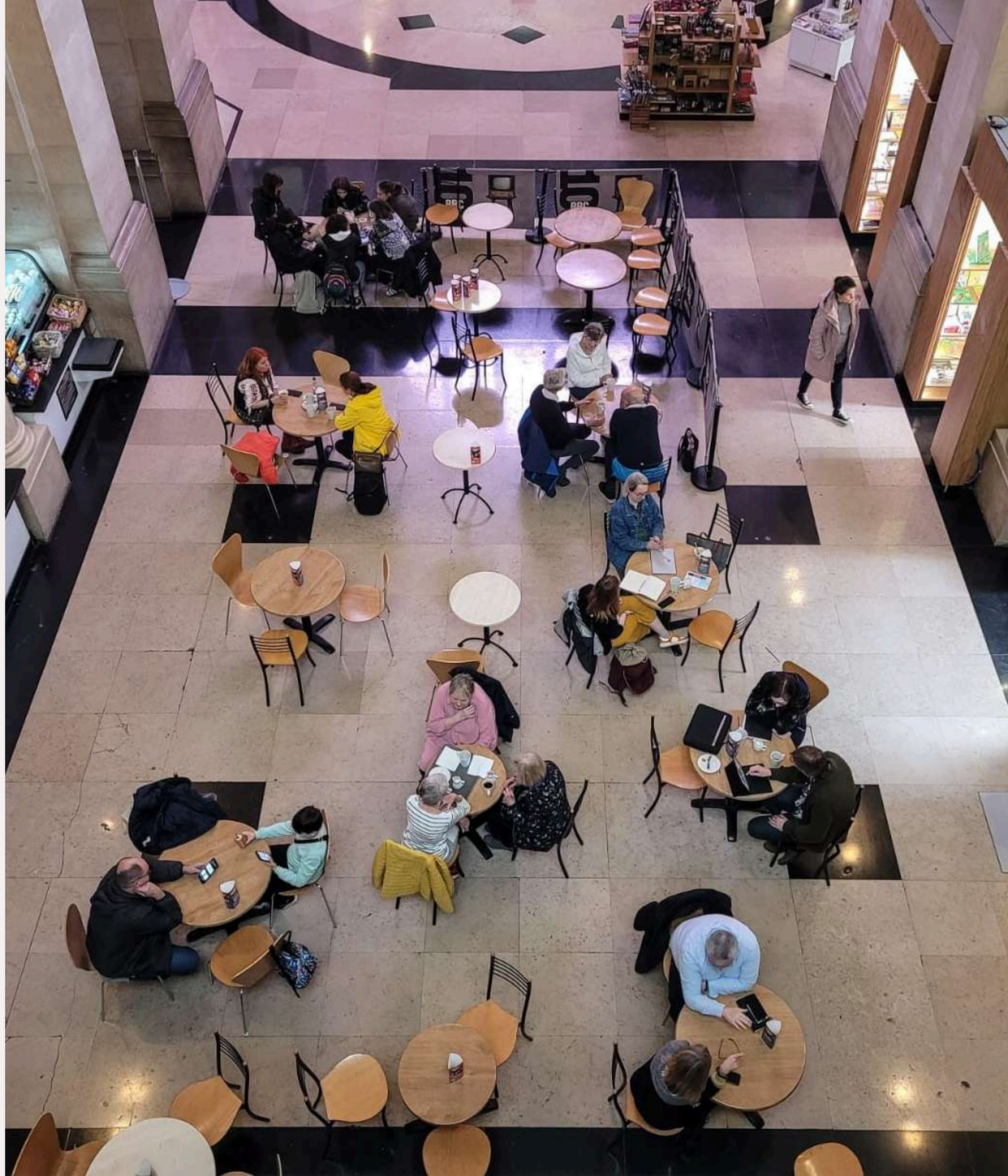
There is a Coffee Shop in the Main Hall.

This means there are lots of tables and chairs.

There can be noise from people talking and the sound of chairs scraping the floor.

There can be a strong smell of coffee and food.

This space can be very busy.



The Main Hall

There is a large woolly mammoth skeleton to the left of the entrance



The Schools Desk

Schools and other educational groups must sign in at the Schools Desk.

Here you will be welcomed by one of our team. They will help you settle in and get the most out of your visit.

The desk is to the left of the entrance, next to the mammoth skeleton.

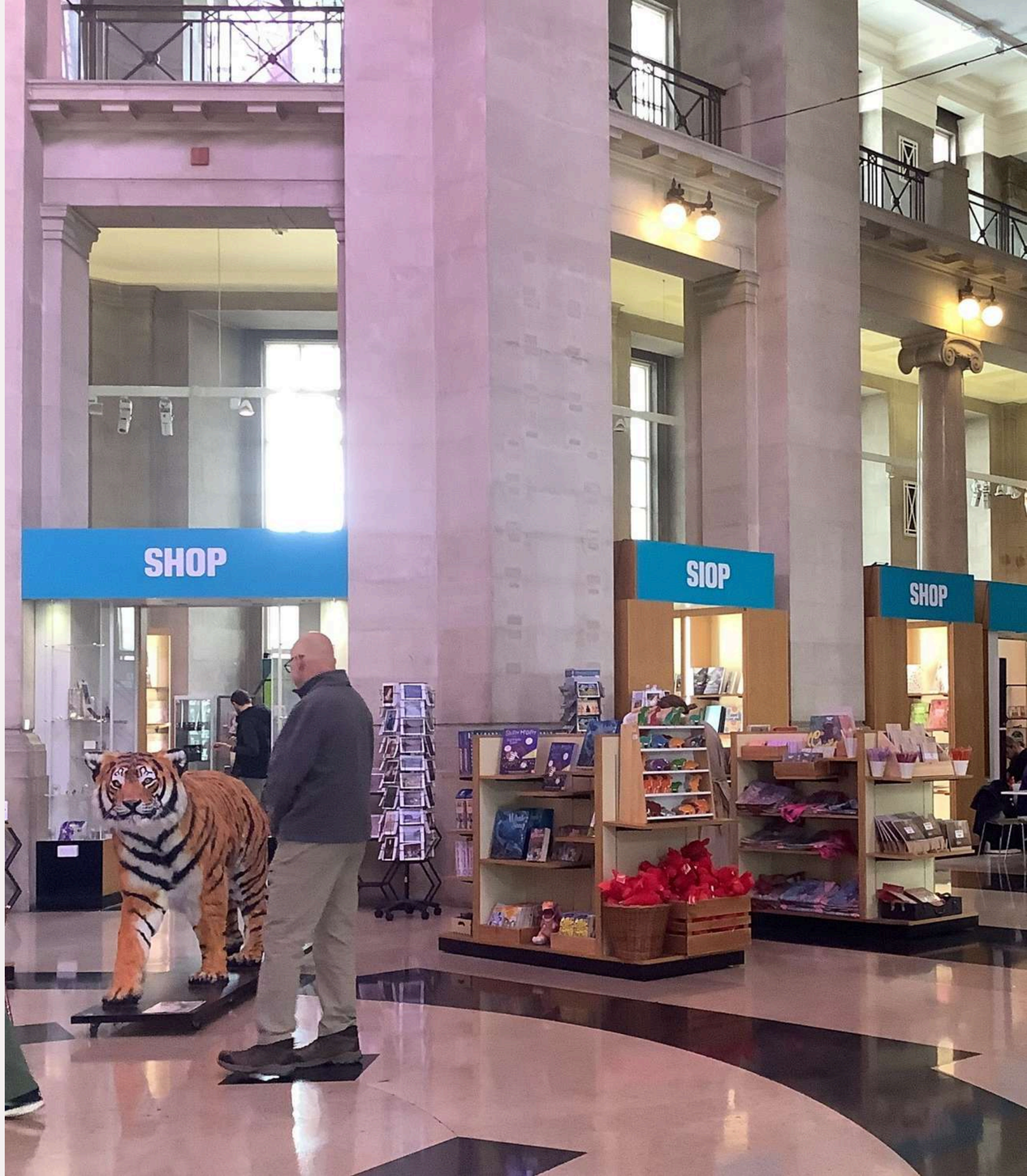


Gift shop

The gift shop is also in the Main Hall.

You can purchase items that are sold in the gift shop.

Sometimes the shop can get busy and crowded.



Lockers for groups

Coats and bags can be stored in these locked cupboards.

You can get to these cupboards by walking down this short spiral staircase.

You can also get to these cupboards by using a lift.

Museum staff will show you how to do this.





Lockers for individuals

Coats and bags can be stored in these lockers.

A coin is required to lock them and you get this back after use.

These are near the toilets on Level 1.

Ask Museum staff if you need any help.

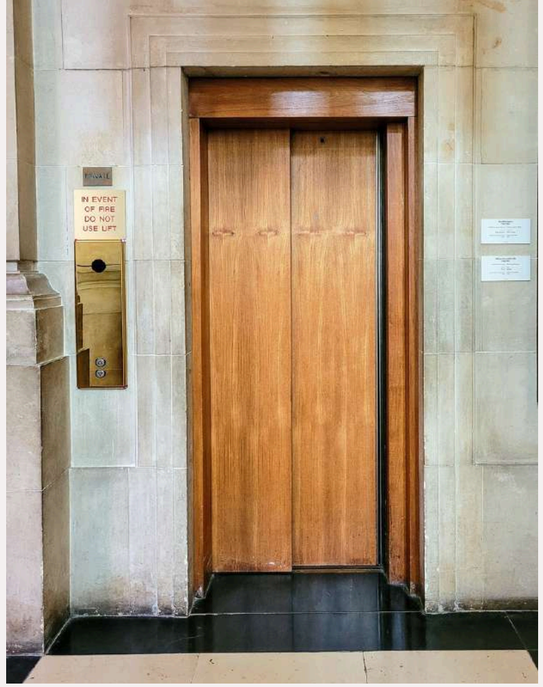


Lifts

There are several different lifts in the museum.

They can take you to the upper floors and down to the toilets on the lower floor.

Level 1: Toilets, Sandwich Room
Level 2: Ground floor
Level 3: Upper Natural History
Level 4: Art Galleries
Level 5: Upper Art Galleries







Places to eat lunch

You and your class may eat packed lunches in the Clore Meeting Place.

Sometimes this is called the Sandwich Room. There are steps or a lift to access this room.

You may eat your sandwiches in the Main Hall.

You cannot eat or drink in the galleries.

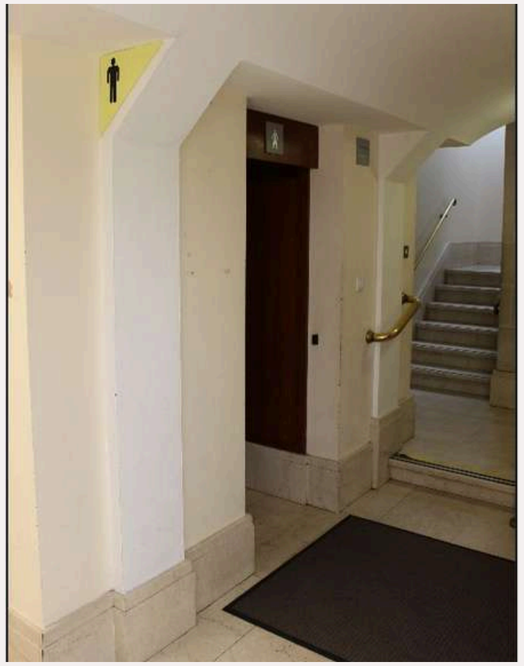


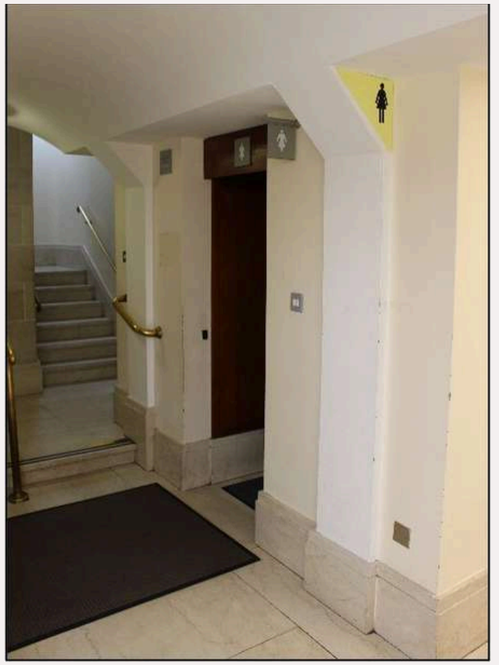
Toilets

The top photographs show the toilets on the Lower Floor.

The bottom left photograph shows the 'Changing Places' toilet on the Lower Floor. This toilet has a hoist.

The bottom right photograph shows the toilet in the Contemporary Art Gallery 21.









Things you can touch



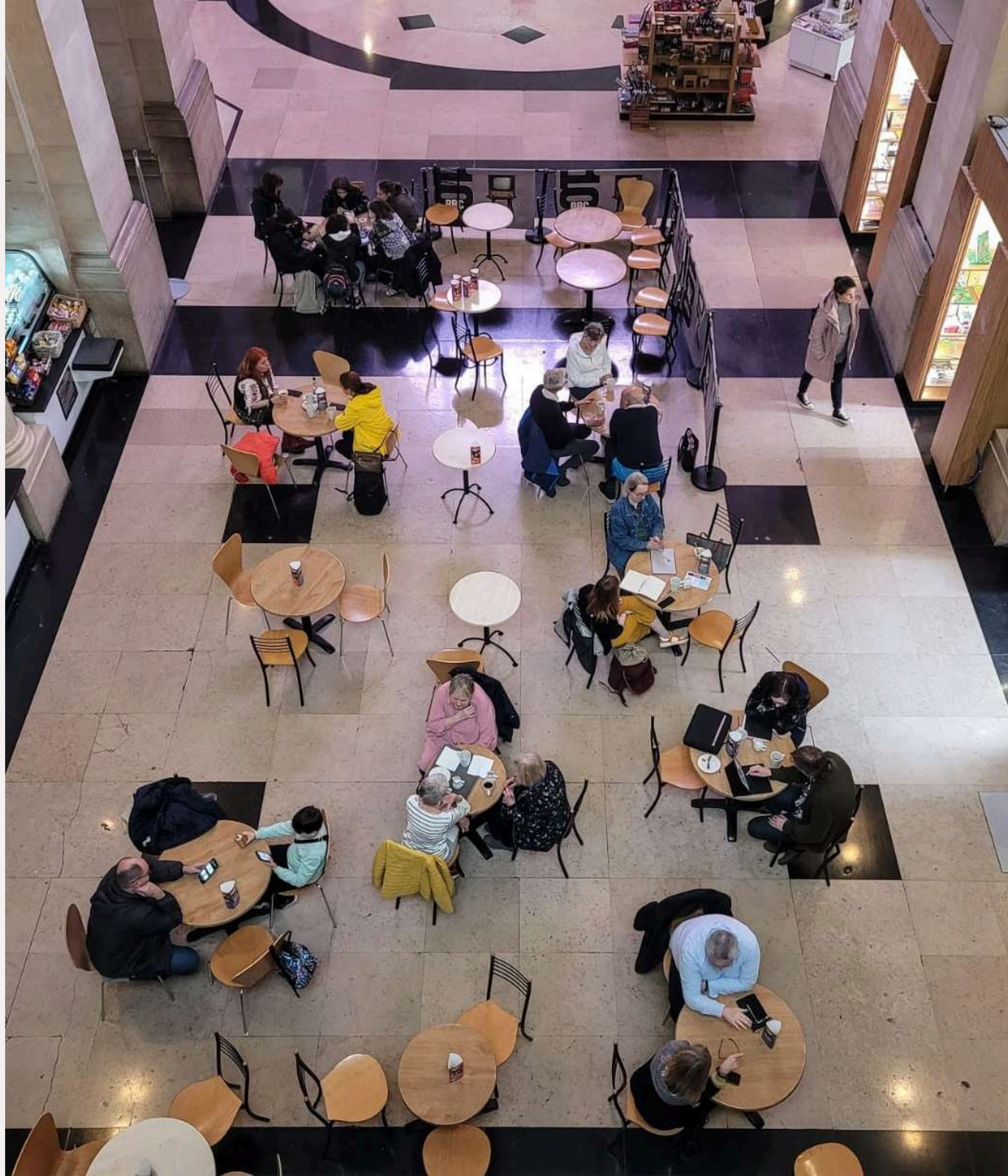
There are lots of things in the museum that are just for looking at.

There are some things that you can touch. Please ask a member of staff before you touch anything.

Different flooring

Be careful because the floor levels can be different and there are different types of floor coverings, especially in the Evolution of Wales galleries.

Sometimes the light reflects from the floors and the rooms can seem very bright.



Sounds and video

There are lots of screens showing short videos around the museum.



Some of them might look like your television at home but some might be really big and on the walls.

Some will switch on suddenly, especially in the Big Bang section of the Evolution of Wales galleries.

You will need to press a button for others to work.

Light and dark places

There are changes in lighting in the Evolution of Wales gallery

The Contemporary Art gallery is very light but sometimes there are cinema areas which are very dark

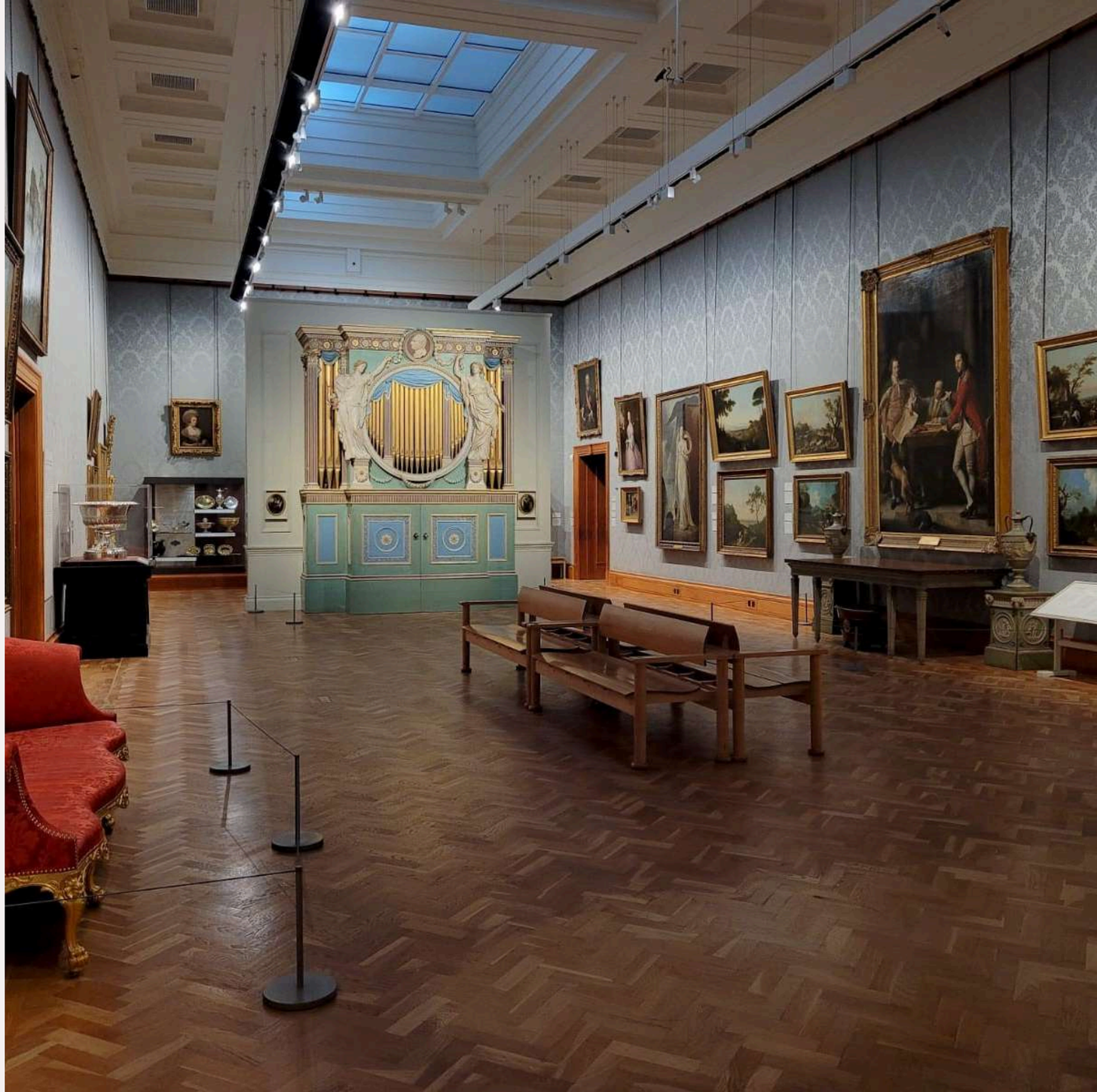




Quiet areas

If you need to go to a quiet space, speak to one of the VEAs.

They can guide you to a quiet room like the Clore Meeting Place if it is empty, or a quiet area of a gallery.



The Clore Discovery Centre

The Clore Discovery Centre is on Level 2 (ground floor), off the Main Hall.

It is a pre-booked learning space for schools, families and community groups.

It is an interactive gallery filled with objects from the museum collection that you can actually touch.



Foyle Art Space

The Foyle Art Space is off the art gallery on Level 5

It is a pre-booked learning space for schools, families and community groups.



Galleries on the ground floor



Natural History



Evolution of Wales

Galleries on the ground floor



Natural History



Evolution of Wales

Galleries on the upper floors



The contemporary art galleries



The Post-Impressionism galleries

If we need to leave the building quickly

If you hear a loud, continuous, siren noise, that means we need to leave the building quickly and calmly.

Sometimes you will only hear a short alarm. You can carry on as normal if the alarm stops quickly.

The museum staff will find you and will show you where to go.

Do not use the lifts.

Do not go back inside unless a person who works at the museum tells you that it is safe to go back inside.

