

The Museum of London Docklands – a visual story for schools



There is a sign on the building that says Museum of London Docklands.

Our museum is in an old Georgian warehouse that was used to store goods from all over the world. It is on the edge of a large dock filled with water.

The museum is open from **10am-5pm** every day of the week. The galleries close at **4.40pm**.

Entrance Hall



You will see the Entrance Hall as soon as you come into the museum. The Entrance Hall has old wooden pillars and wooden floorboards. There may be loud tannoy announcements in the museum letting you know when talks and activities are about to begin.

There is a large desk in the centre of the room. If you'd like some ear defenders to take round the museum you can pick these up from the desk.

People you will meet



Hosts

Hosts wear pink shirts and they are very friendly.

They know lots about the history of London's Docklands. You can ask them any questions about London's Docklands or the museum.



Duty Manager

Duty Managers wear earpieces and a badge with their name.

They know a lot about the museum.

You can ask them any questions about the Museum.

How to get around



The museum explores the history of London's Docklands. This is the area of London where the docks used to be.

The museum galleries are on four floors: 3rd floor, 2nd floor, 1st floor and ground floor (Entrance Hall). You can begin on the 3rd floor and work your way down.

There is a main staircase and two lifts to the left of the large desk in the Entrance Hall.



Useful places



When you arrive your class can leave their coats and bags on a coat rack in the Lee Boo room in the basement.

If your teacher has booked lunch tables you can eat your lunch here.



There are toilets in the basement near the lunchroom. If these are too busy, you can find more on the ground floor or on the 3rd floor.

Classrooms



There are two classrooms in the basement. They are called the Jack Petchey room and the Pocahontas room. They are at the far end of the basement, at the opposite end from the Lee Boo room.



If your teacher has booked a learning session for your class then it might happen in one of our classrooms.

Shop and café



The museum shop is open from **10am** to **5pm** and is to the left of the large desk in the Entrance Hall.

You can buy toys, books and souvenirs about London and its history here.

If you wish to buy something in the shop, take your item to the large desk and one of our hosts will serve you.



Behind the large desk there is a café. The café can become noisy and busy between **12** and **2pm**.

No. 1 Warehouse



This gallery looks at the history of the building our museum is in.

Find out about the different people who worked in London's docks. Have a go at touching and lifting some of the tools people would have used in this building.

There are two videos playing in the gallery that show people working in London's docks. These videos have heavy, rhythmic music in the background.



Trade Expansion



This gallery looks at the history of London's Docklands from 1600-1800.

Find out why large docks needed to be built in London. You will walk through a street called Legal Quay which shows you what the East End was like before the docks were built. As you walk through you will hear what it sounded like to be in a working quay.



There is also a video of people in a coffee house. If someone walks past this video, it will suddenly start to play.

London, Sugar and Slavery



This gallery looks at London's slave trade and how this was stopped.

Find out about the role our building played in the slave trade.



There is a video in this gallery about slavery. This video plays every 20 minutes. Before it begins the lights will dim and then you will hear voices speak. Lights are then projected onto three screens. The video plays for two minutes. If you would like to make sure you are not in the gallery when this happens just let a host know.

City and River



This gallery looks at the history of London's Docklands from 1800 to 1840.

Find out about how and why the docks were built in London. There is a model of St Katherine's Docks showing you what it looked like when it was first built.

This gallery is very quiet and doesn't have any videos playing. There is a drawing table in the corner of the gallery where you can draw a picture to take home or add to our wall.



Sailortown



This gallery shows you what a street would have been like in London's Docklands in the 1840s. It can be dark and smelly in here.

Find out what animals were sold in animal emporiums 150 years ago. Look through the window of this shop and see if you can find models of a camel, a monkey and a parrot.



You can walk through narrow, dark streets and listen to the sounds of 1840s London. If you would rather not walk through Sailortown, let a host know and they will take you on a different route to avoid the gallery.

First Port of Empire



This gallery looks at the history of London and its port from 1840-1880.

Find out about the different jobs people had in London's port. Learn about firefighters who worked here and see an early firefighting cart from before they had engines.

There is an interactive in this gallery which tells you about the Dockers' Strike of 1889. When no one is using this interactive you will hear a voice calling out to try and get your attention.



Warehouse of the World



This gallery looks at the different items that were kept in warehouses in London's Docklands from 1880 to 1939.

Find out about the different spices that were brought to London. There are boxes you can smell to see what the different spices were like.

There is a video showing you how tea was brought to London from China on clipper ships. There is music playing in the background of this video.

Docklands at War



This gallery looks at the history of London's Docklands during the Second World War.

At the start of this gallery there is a video about the Blitz. This video plays every ten minutes and begins with the sound of a loud air-raid siren.

Find out about the secret work that took place at London's Docklands during the war. As you walk around you will hear voices reminding you how important it was not to tell anyone what this secret work was.

There are videos playing that tell you about some of this secret work and these videos have music in the background.



New Port, New City



This gallery looks at the closure of London's docks and the building of Canary Wharf in their place.

Find out about the building of the Docklands Light Railway.

There are two videos playing in the gallery. When you enter the gallery you will see a video about people coming to London from around the world.



There is another video near the end of the gallery about the building of Canary Wharf. If someone walks near this video it will start to play.

Many East Ends



This gallery looks at the people who live in London's Docklands today, this is often referred to as the East End.

Find out about how London's Docklands have changed. There are videos playing with people talking about how London's Docklands have changed since they were children. You can put on some headphones to listen to these.

Learn about the music halls that used to be in the East End. There is a recording you can listen to of people pretending to be in a music hall.

Sainsbury Study Centre



This gallery looks at the history of the supermarket Sainsbury's from when it was founded in 1869 to today.

Find out what food Sainsbury's used to sell. You can look at how packaging has changed from 1869 to today. There are computers with more pictures you can look at.

This gallery is very quiet and open. There are sofas in the middle of the gallery and books you can look at.

Thames Life



This gallery looks at London's Docklands in the 1930s and the people who lived there.

Find out what it was like to live in London's Docklands in the 1930s. Look at shops showing you what you could buy in London in the 1930s.

This gallery is very quiet and there are no videos playing. The back of this gallery is quite dark.

There is no through path from this gallery. You will exit the same way you came in.

Mudlarks



This is our children's gallery and it has different activities you can do to find out about the history of London's Docklands. Mudlarks is free for schools, but your teacher will need to book time in this gallery if you want to go in during your visit.

Have a go at loading cargo onto boats and trains on our model dock.



School groups can book time in this gallery between 10am and 2pm during term time.

Evacuation – what to do if we need to leave the building



If you hear a loud voice telling you to leave the museum, you will need to leave the building quickly and calmly by the nearest fire escape.

Follow the instructions of the hosts in pink shirts and remember, do not use the lifts or the main staircase.



We look forward to meeting you soon
and we hope you have a great visit!

If you have any more questions about your visit email us at:
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