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Fitzwilliam Museum: Take a Walk in My Shoes

Author	Bradfield, Emily
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Take a Walk in My Shoes: top tips for first time visitors

This research project explored experiences of how it feels to 'be' in the Museum and how the experiences of people affected by non-visible disabilities can be used to inform and support health and wellbeing in the Museum.

We've created this postcard blog series as a way of sharing our experiences with you - in each series we reflect on different aspects of being in the museum, and share our thoughts as postcards to a friend.

Emily, Georgie, Jo, Alex, and Dale

The research project was facilitated by Dr Emily Bradfield (Practitioner Researcher).



**This series includes our
top tips for people
visiting for the first time.**



Take a Walk in My Shoes: top tips for first time visitors

Dear Museum

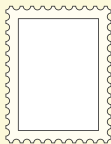
I'm visiting Cambridge for the day and would like some information on accessibility to help me plan my trip.

Could you point me to details about entrances and exits, current exhibitions, how long a visit typically takes, where I can find rest stops like benches, and are there quieter times you'd recommend?

If this information is available on your website, I'd appreciate a link. Thank you!

Emily

Image: padded seats with high backs in gallery 3.



Take a Walk in My Shoes was a research project running March - October 2024.

Plate 1, Frontispiece to Jerusalem with additional text

The first version of this plate is unique in having text incorporated into the image that was removed in all later versions. In 1822 Blake announced his aim "to speak to future generations by a Sublime Allegory, which is now perfectly completed 1842 David Power..." This plate marks the beginning of that ambitious

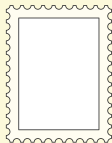
Plate 2, 1844 engraving: The Execution of Sir Isaac Newton
The engraving on the right side of the plate is a reproduction of the original engraving. The original engraving was published in 1844.

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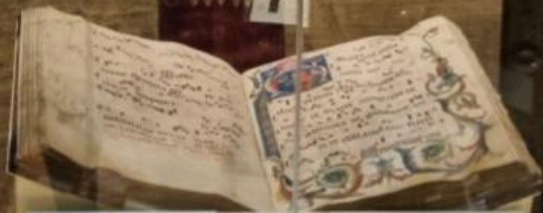
The Fitzwilliam is free to enter, meaning you can visit for only a short time without worrying about the entrance fee. There are lots of exhibitions to see, but I'd recommend just choosing one to focus on. Parking is a challenge as there's nothing nearby, so plan this carefully, but entering through the courtyard entrance, there are wheelchairs available to borrow if helpful (these are self-propelling, or come with a friend to push you). Try to go outside peak times so there are fewer people in the way and it's easier to see what you want.

Jo

Image: looking up at temporary exhibit from wheelchair.



Take a Walk in My Shoes explored experiences of how it feels to 'be' in the Museum.



מסכת סוטה
פרק טו
פ"ג
ה'תק"ל



Take a Walk in My Shoes: top tips for first time visitors

Dear friend,

I know that you're coming to Cambridge next month. Don't forget to book into the Study Room at the Fitzwilliam Museum. I know you'd like to see those Rossetti drawings that we spoke about. The room is quiet and calm, allowing for a really slow and indulgent experience of looking at the collection. It's especially magical, when the Museum can be so busy, to have this quiet space to engage with works of art. I wish more people knew about this amazing resource, where even objects that are in storage can be viewed.

Alex

Image: manuscript in gallery 32.



Take a Walk in My Shoes
was funded by the
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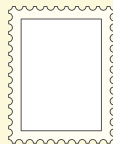
Take a Walk in My Shoes: top tips for first time visitors

So excited that you're finally visiting Cambridge - watch out for all the cobbles and bicycles! It's a short walk from the centre to the Fitzwilliam Museum and you'll love it there. You'll want to go in the front, but take the courtyard entrance - its quieter, and way less overwhelming.

Head to the back of the ground floor to the ceramics. It is a fabulous collection of studio pottery, check out the Lucy Rie vases for sure. The café can get busy, so if you can, go through the galleries and avoid the crowds. You don't have to see everything in one go, plus it leaves you with an excuse to visit again!

Georgie

Image: grass at the front of the museum.



Take a Walk in My Shoes explored experiences of being 'in' the Museum with people affected by non-visible disabilities.