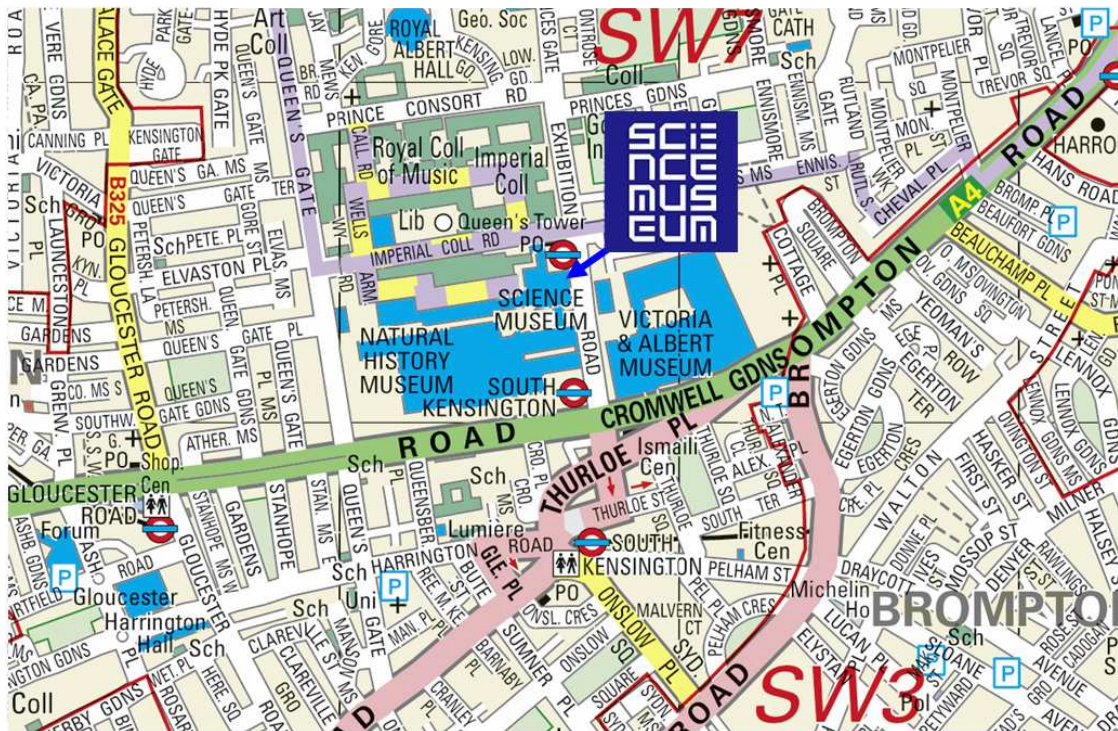




Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Science Museum



The Science Museum is one of the three major museums on Exhibition Road, South Kensington, London in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. The museum is a major London tourist attraction, attracting 2.7 million visitors annually.

Like other publicly funded national museums in the United Kingdom, the Science Museum does not charge for admission. Temporary exhibitions, however, do usually incur an admission fee. It is part of the National Museum of Science and Industry, having merged with the Museum of Science and Industry, Manchester in 2012.



A museum was founded in 1857 under Bennet Woodcroft from the collection of the Royal Society of Arts and surplus items from the Great Exhibition as part of the South Kensington Museum, together with what is now the Victoria and Albert Museum. It included a collection of machinery which became the Museum of Patents in 1858, and the Patent Office Museum in 1863. This collection contained many of the most famous exhibits of what is now the Science Museum. In 1883, the contents of the Patent Office Museum were transferred to the South Kensington Museum. In 1885, the Science Collections were renamed the Science Museum and in 1893 a separate director was appointed. The Art Collections were renamed the Art Museum, which eventually became the Victoria and Albert Museum.

When Queen Victoria laid the foundation stone for the new building for the Art Museum, she stipulated that the museum be renamed after herself and her late husband. This was initially applied to the whole museum, but when that new building finally opened ten years later, the title was confined to the Art Collections and the Science Collections had to be divorced from it. On June 26, 1909 the Science Museum, as an independent entity, came into existence. The Science Museum's present quarters, designed by Sir Richard Allison, were opened to the public in stages over the period 1919–28. This building was known as the East Block, construction of which began in 1913 and temporarily halted by World War I. As the name suggests it was intended to be the first building of a much larger project, which was never realised.

The museum is adjacent to the Natural History Museum and used to be connected to it by a public corridor, which is now closed. The closest London Underground station is South Kensington; a subway connects the museums to the station.

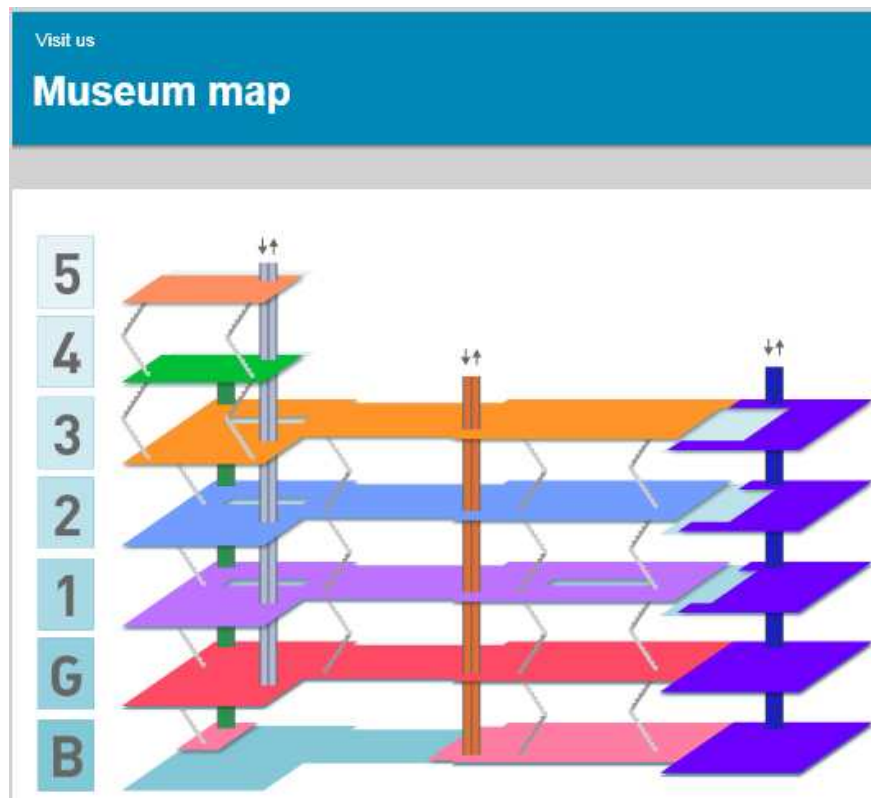
At the front of the museum to the east is Exhibition Road. Immediately to the south is Museum Lane and the Natural History Museum. To the rear is Queen's Gate and to the north is Imperial College.



Open and free

Open every day except 24 to 26 December

10.00 to 18.00 (last entry 17.15)



Highlights

The Science Museum is 'one of my favourite places' - Stephen Hawking. Discover some of our highlights below.

4

Glimpses of Medical History

Explore medical scenes in vivid detail from Neolithic times to 1980, including dentistry and open-heart surgery.



5

The Science and Art of Medicine

Be amazed by this display of over 5000 medical objects that reveal the history of medicine over thousands of years across many cultures.



3

Fly with the Red Arrows in Fly Zone

Discover the thrill of flying in the cockpit of a Red Arrows jet in our breathtaking Red Arrows 3D flight simulation theatre. Or take the controls yourself in Fly 360°, a thrilling interactive flight simulator.

Charges apply



Launchpad (Ages 8-14)



From firm favourites to world firsts, *Launchpad* is packed with over 50 hands-on exhibits, plus electrifying shows and lively demos, all from the wonderful world of physics.



2

Atmosphere ...exploring climate science

Step into a whole new world and explore the science of our changing climate in this interactive and immersive gallery.



Signs, Symbols, Secrets: An Illustrated Guide to Alchemy

Marvel at this beautiful display of historical books and illustrated manuscripts relating to the ancient art of alchemy.



1

Universe of Sound

Step inside a virtual Philharmonia Orchestra: conduct and play with this new interactive digital installation based on Holst's *The Planets*.

Created by Esa-Pekka Salonen and the Philharmonia Orchestra

Open 23 May - 8 July



Who am I?

What makes you you? Discover more about what makes you unique in this fun interactive gallery that looks at the brain and genetics.



G

Codebreaker: Alan Turing's Life and Legacy

Explore this extensive special exhibition examining the achievements of pioneering computer scientist Alan Turing.

Opens 21 June



Antenna - science news

Explore *Water Wars: fight the food crisis* and discover how technology could secure more water to help prevent a global food crisis.



IMAX 3D Cinema

Journey through distant galaxies, explore the universe and be part of the action in our IMAX 3D Cinema - the world's most powerful and immersive movie experience.

Charges apply

IMAX® is the registered trademark of Imax Corporation



Making the Modern World

Chart the development of modern society in this peerless display of original iconic objects that have shaped our lives.

Or have James May bring them to life for you with the *James May Science Stories* app!



Legend of Apollo 4D Cinema

Feel the impact of a Saturn V rocket launch, take a trip on the lunar rover and discover the smell of space - watch *Legend of Apollo* in our Force Field 4D motion effects theatre.

Charges apply



B

The Garden (6 years and under)



With a hands-on water zone and a sensory exploration area, young children are free to explore science in this exciting learning environment.



Hands-on

This symbol highlights the galleries where visitors are encouraged to get hands-on, and where trained Explainers help you get the best from the exhibits.

