

GUIDE COURSE VISITS THE SCIENCE MUSEUM

A group of taxi drivers who have been studying for their Cab Guide Badge recently visited the Science Museum. The group, who are studying the course run by The Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers, visited Launchpad - the Museum's popular hands-on gallery, and the Museum's core collection including Exploring Space, the Flight gallery, and Making the Modern World.



The group in Making the Modern World in front of the Apollo 10 command module

It is now a year on since the Science Museum's most popular hands-on, brains-on gallery was reinvented and relocated. From firm favourites to world-firsts, Launchpad is packed with over 50 interactive exhibits, plus electrifying shows and lively demos. Visitors can find out how the world works by testing out the 35m long Echo Tube, the beautiful Icy Bodies and other interactive exhibits demonstrating light, sound, electricity and magnetism and more amazing physics phenomena. Launchpad is particularly suited for children aged 8-14 years old.

In the Exploring Space gallery there are a selection of rockets, satellites, space probes and landers. This is where you can find out how the space age started in 1957 with the launch of Sputnik 1 and how we've gone on to launch thousands of satellites around Earth, send spacecraft to other planets, walk on our Moon and peer into the heart of our galaxy and beyond. Above your heads are two real space rockets, and you can also see a full-sized replica of 'Eagle' - the lander that took astronauts Armstrong and Aldrin to the Moon in 1969. The Spacelab 2 X-ray telescope - all 3.5 metres of it - which was actually flown on the Challenger Shuttle in 1985 is also on display.

The Flight gallery is brimming over with extraordinary exhibits reflecting both British and international achievements in aviation. From the flight dreams of the Renaissance through to the jump-jet and the wide-body aeroplanes of today, you'll find them all in the Flight gallery. Exhibits on display include a complete slice of a genuine Boeing 747 jumbo jet and the most authentic Antoinette monoplane (1909) to be seen anywhere in the world. In the Making the Modern World gallery, there is a series of exceptional objects which mark innovations in technology and science that have framed our world. On display are iconic items such as Stephenson's original Rocket locomotive, Babbage's Difference Engine No. 1 and Crick and Watson's DNA model. These objects and many others are laid out in a chronological sequence that, in effect, comprises a cultural history of industrialisation from 1750 to the present day.

The visit made by Guide Course members touched on just a small part of the Museum but all agreed what a fascinating Museum it is, which offers something for everyone. Since the group's visit, a new exhibition has recently opened called Japan Car: Designs for the Crowded Globe and

this will run into April next year. This exhibition takes a sideways look at the how 'the spirit and the soil' of Japan influences Japanese car design offering a glimpse into the possible future of global transport. Japan Car, an exploration of the car as a "mobile cell", has been conceived by two innovative thinkers from the design world: Kenya Hara, noted graphic designer and Shigeru Ban, the distinguished Japanese architect. The exhibition includes 14 unusual cars from the past decade, concept cars and special home market models, many of which are being shown for the first time in the UK. The Science Museum is open 7 days a week from 10.00 to 18.00 except 24 to 26 December. Entry is free

SUBURBAN TAXI DRIVERS PLYING FOR HIRE OFF AREA

Shortly before Christmas the PCO warned that they are receiving an increasing number of reports of yellow badge taxi drivers plying for hire in central London. Mary Dowdye, Head of Standards and Regulations at the PCO said: "Suburban drivers are reminded that under the London Cab Order 1934, paragraphs 27 and 31, their licence limits the area in which they may ply for hire. Any driver who is convicted, cautioned or warned by the police for plying for hire off their area, will have their fitness to remain licensed considered by the Licensing Authority. Offences identified by PCO staff during compliance activity will be considered in a similar manner."

GET YOUR BARNET SORTED OUT

'Reeds of London' have been cutting hair in Waterloo for over 100 years. The current owner of this hairdressing business is taxi driver Russell Reed. Five generations of the family have been involved with the business which is at 109 Waterloo Road, just opposite the fire station. This is a good location for cabbies who don't want to venture too far from a main rank to get a haircut. Russ says that he is well aware of the difficulties some drivers may have in finding parking spaces, but once you have located one, most likely in The Cut, you can have your parking meter fee of £4 for one hour refunded when you pay for your haircut.

So why not go along, take a break from the traffic, and enjoy a cuppa and return to work comfortable having had your quiff, perm or highlights sorted. Appointments are not normally necessary and the shop is open for styling for men and women from 9am till 6pm. Just give Charlotte, the manageress a call on 0207 981 9814, her stylists are poised ready to sort out your 'barnet'!

