

VISITING THE HUNTERIAN MUSEUM



As the Cab Guide Course students gathered outside the Hunterian Museum in Lincoln's Inn Fields they admired the front façade of The Royal College of Surgeons' building. It was designed in 1836 by Sir Charles Barry, architect of the Houses of Parliament.

DISCOVER THE ART AND SCIENCE OF SURGERY



Crystal Gallery

Inside this building is the Hunterian Museum, which brings together a fascinating collection of anatomy and pathology specimens; complete skeletons, bones, skulls and teeth; dried preparations, corrosion casts and wax teaching models; historical surgical and dental instruments together with modern surgical instruments and technologies; as well as paintings, drawings and sculpture. You do not need to be a medical student or medic to find this museum fascinating.



Science of Surgery

A statue of John Hunter (1728-1793) stands proudly in the main entrance hall. The collection of anatomical specimens housed in the museum began to be brought together by this 18th Century surgeon John Hunter. Originally he worked with his brother William, who has his own anatomical museum up in Glasgow. John Hunter was at the forefront of a systematic and scientific approach to anatomy. Throughout the Museum visitors are able to see a wealth of material, from early beginnings to pioneering treatments today. In those days, would be surgeons learned their skills by watching other surgeons, and the outcome of operations was not nearly as good as they are today. Examples of medical implements through the ages will make you glad that should you need surgery it will take place in the 21st century! In a fascinating collection of glass specimen jars are preserved embryos, diseased organs in jars, and the skeleton of the 7' 7" giant Charles Byrne. Many of the specimens disclose how medicine progressed and even the jars themselves have a history as when John Hunter was alive window tax was in place. Although known as a window tax, the tax actually covered glass in general so these jars would have been expensive to produce. As visitors wander through the ages of medicine in the gallery, there are hands on exhibits to try and visitors can even try their hand at keyhole surgery. Many of the specimens have unusual tales to tell - either about the history of medicine in London, or about John Hunter himself.



Charles Byrne and Art Area

London has over 20 museums of health and medicine. The Cab Guide course students were surprised by the number of exhibits and enjoyed the tour.

OPENING TIMES

The Hunterian Museum is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10:00-17.00. Closed Xmas/New Year Admission is free, but donations are most welcome. The Hunterian Museum is open to all. There is a free guided tour of the museum every Wednesday at 13.00. Groups must be booked in advance, Tel: 020 7869 6560 for more details.

ACCESSIBILITY

The main College entrance has six shallow steps up to the doors. There is a revolving door with two doors either side. The side doors open outwards from the inside. A member of the College staff will assist with entry through these doors. The reception desk has a portable induction loop. Alternatively visitors who use a wheelchair, have mobility problems or cannot use steps can access the building via The Nuffield College of Surgical Sciences entrance. Entry is provided via an external access lift. Please use the call button in the lift and a porter will provide entry into the building. The Museum advises that if possible it is good for less mobile to telephone ahead of their visit to ensure someone is immediately available on arrival. There is level access throughout the museum spaces. The upper galleries can be reached by using a platform lift within the museum. Museum staff are happy to provide assistance if it is required. Guide dogs, hearing dogs and other assistance dogs are welcome in the Museum.

CAB GUIDE COURSE

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