

KEW BRIDGE STEAM MUSEUM

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GROUP VISITS TO KEW BRIDGE STEAM MUSEUM

Thank you for requesting information about group visits to our Museum. Every year we welcome groups from all over Britain and indeed the world. Brief text guides are available in French, German, Italian, Dutch and Spanish.

We are an independent Registered Charity, and many of our visitors are surprised to find out that most of the people they meet during a visit here are volunteers.

Location

The Museum is situated in Brentford, West London, close by the north side of Kew Bridge, the River Thames, the M4 (Junction 2) and the North and South Circular roads.

Opening Hours

We are open from 11am to 4pm, Tuesday through to Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, throughout the year, with the engines in action for at least one day on most weekends*. Visits can be arranged outside normal hours with the engines in steam if desired.

What is there to see and do?

The Waterworks

The Museum is housed in a London waterworks, built in 1838. Most of the original engines are still in the place where they began operation in the early 19th century. These are massive engines, filling up three storeys of two Grade I listed buildings. There are five 'Cornish' type engines, of which four (three 'beam' engines and the unique 'Bull' engine) can be demonstrated, operating on live steam so that the sensation of these engines can be experienced first hand. There are no other engines of this size and type to be seen in steam anywhere else in the world yet it was the Cornish engine that sustained mines throughout the UK and the Commonwealth to generate the great prosperity of the 19th century.

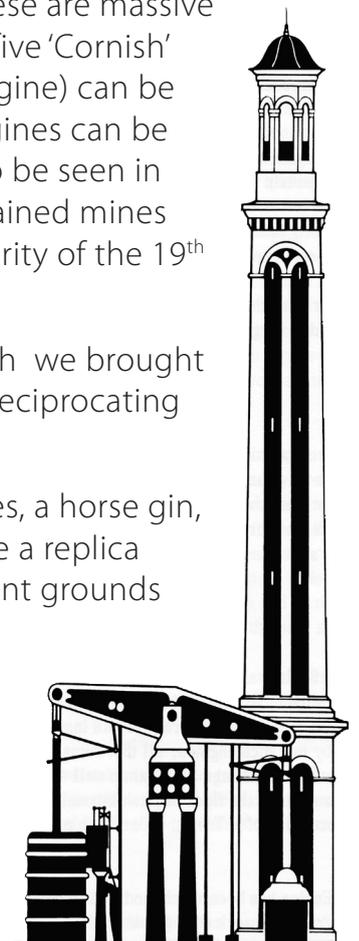
We also have a number of pumping engines from other waterworks which we brought to the Museum and put back into running order. One of these is the last reciprocating engine to use steam to pump water to London.

Other power sources for water pumping are represented by diesel engines, a horse gin, a waterwheel and auxiliary plant common in a water works. We even have a replica waterworks railway with a steam locomotive. The Museum is set in pleasant grounds and has a free car park.

Consult our leaflet or website for which engines will be in action on any specific day. If there is a particular engine you would like to see in operation, we can usually arrange to run it provided we have enough notice. There will be a fee for this.

** Please refer to the enclosed leaflet to find out which engines will be working on specific weekends.*

Visit 2011



The Water for Life Gallery

The Water for Life Gallery is the first ever permanent exhibition dedicated to the life-giving properties of water and the story of London's water supply. This Gallery has been designed to tell a complex story in an entertaining and informative way. One visitor described it as "a fun way to learn".

The gallery uses a combination of objects, text and interactive displays to explore the importance of water in London's history, the development of a clean water supply and sanitation control as well as the everyday use of water in the home.

Visitors walk through a section of the Thames Water Ring Main (donated by Thames Water) where they can discover the history of the ring main, its purpose and how it is monitored, surveyed and controlled.

The "Down Below" exhibit depicts the story of the development of sewers and the control of sanitation from medieval England to the present day. The clean water exhibit then explores how, throughout history, people have dealt with the need for a clean water supply, how it has been secured and how this has affected social conditions.

The Museum Trail

The Museum Trail is designed to answer those questions most often asked by visitors about the history of the site.

A series of panels, each dedicated to a specific area of the site, guides the visitor using a wealth of previously unseen plans and photographs to show how the site developed in response to changing requirements.

Visitors are encouraged to search for the tell tale signs within the fabric of the buildings indicating where engines were brought in or removed, where windows once were, or how the buildings were constructed specifically for their purpose.

The trail enables groups, who prefer not to have a guided tour, to gain much more out of their visit. There are also children's challenges for those groups with younger visitors.

Special Events

The Museum has a full programme of events, detailed in the enclosed leaflet. Groups are welcome at these events, but we regret we cannot offer guided tours, or guarantee coach parking, on these dates.

Access for Visitors with Special Needs

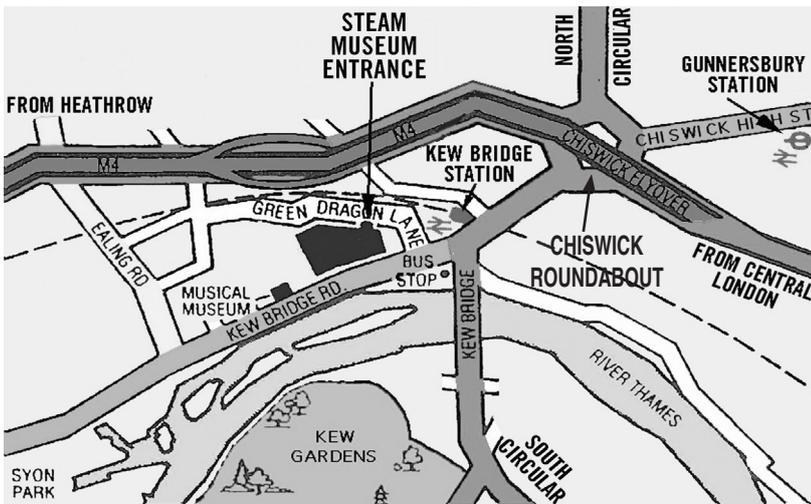
There is ramped or level access to 80% of the Museum plus a wheelchair accessible toilet and a wheelchair loan service. For visually impaired visitors, the Museum has produced a large print brief guide and touch tours can be arranged for pre-booked groups.

Other local attractions

While you are in the area, why not combine your visit with a trip to nearby Kew Gardens, Syon Park, The National Archives or the Musical Museum, just next door? Leaflets for these are available upon request from the Museum.

We hope we will have the pleasure of welcoming your group to our Museum this year.

How to get to the museum



From Chiswick Roundabout/M4 Junction 1

Follow signs to South Circular Road (A205). At 400 yards at traffic lights at the head of Kew Bridge bear right and follow sign to Brentford (A315). Green Dragon Lane is 100 yards on the right past the traffic lights. Look for our tower.

From Central London (A4) Follow signs for Heathrow and West. At M4 Junction 1 follow sign for Other Routes. This drops down to the Chiswick Roundabout. Follow directions as above.

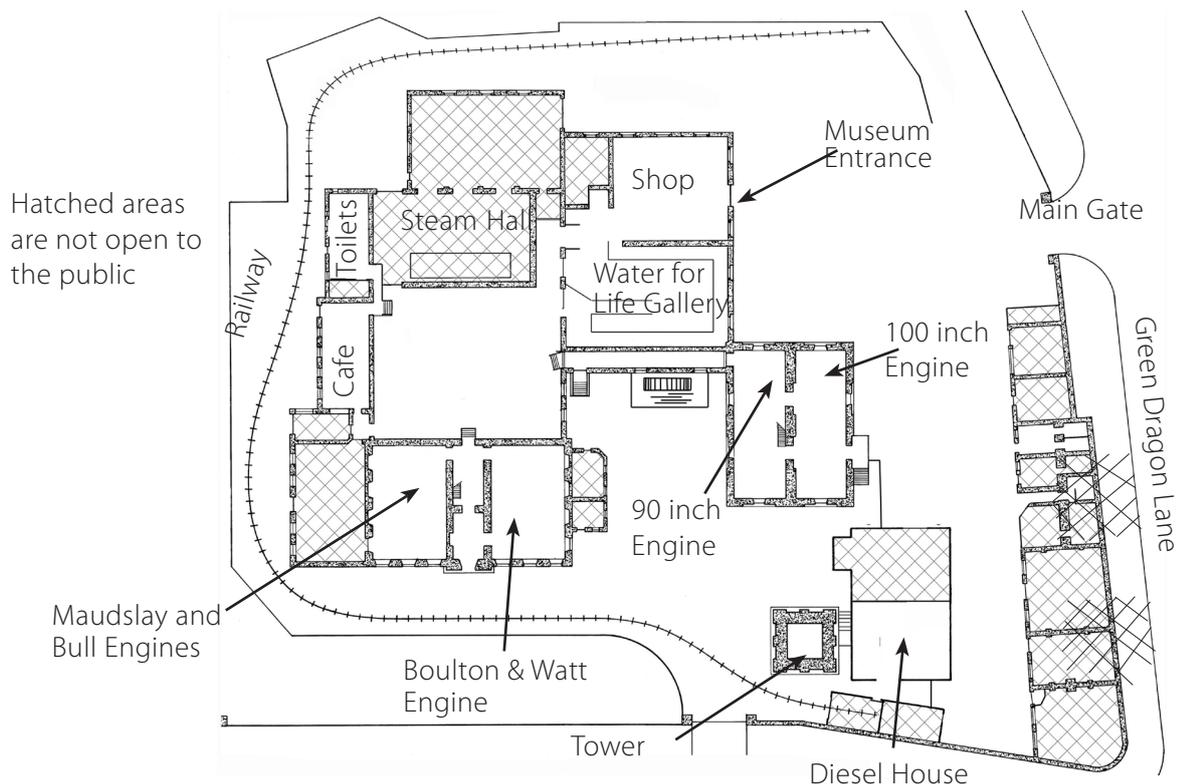
From Heathrow and West (M4) Turn off M4 at Junction 2 (A4). This will take you to the Chiswick Roundabout. Follow directions as above.

From North Circular Road (A406) Follow North Circular Road anti-clockwise until you reach the Chiswick Roundabout. Follow directions as above.

From South Circular ((A205) Follow South Circular Road clockwise until you cross Kew Bridge. At the north side of Kew Bridge turn left and the museum is 100 yards on the right.

Parking The museum has adequate car parking. There is on site coach parking but please contact the museum in advance to arrange reserved space.

Layout of museum site



KEW BRIDGE STEAM MUSEUM

LOCAL INFORMATION

Accommodation Hotels in order of proximity to the museum are:

1. Travelodge. 6 minutes walk towards Brentford. No restaurant.
2. Premier Inn. 15 minutes walk towards Brentford. Restaurant.
3. Coach and Horses. 15 minutes walk. On Kew Green. Restaurant. Wheelchair accessible rooms. Family rooms.
4. Holiday Inn. At western end of Brentford beside the Grand Union canal. 237 and 267 buses to Museum in about 10 minutes. Frequent service. Full hotel facilities.
5. Moran Hotel, Chiswick. Not far down Chiswick High Road from N. Circular roundabout. Buses 237 and 267 to Museum in five minutes. Full hotel facilities.

Eating There are many food outlets within walking distance varying from McDonalds to Anthony Worrall Thompson.

Nearest is the Express pub. 200 yards towards Kew Bridge station. Kitchen open at 1800

In Brentford; on or near the main road to the west:

1. Fat Boys: Brentford main road near Premier Inn. Thai cuisine.
2. Poppadoms. Dockside area behind Premier Inn. Indian cuisine.
3. The Weir. Behind Town Hall. Upmarket pub.
4. And many others

At Strand-on-the-Green 5 minutes walk downstream from Kew Bridge, north bank:

1. Cafe Rouge. Food always available
2. Bell and Crown. Riverside pub. Kitchen opens 1830
3. City Barge. Riverside pub. Has small car park. Kitchen open when pub open.
4. The Bull. Riverside pub. Has car park. Kitchen open when pub open

On Kew Green 10 minute walk maximum across bridge. Parking possible after 5pm:

1. ASK Italian Pizza and Pasta chain. Always open.
2. Rose and Crown. Pub; kitchen always open.
3. Greyhound. Pub.
4. Coach and Horses. Pub with accommodation.
5. Botanist. Restaurant.

Other Attractions

From Kew Bridge it is possible to walk on both sides of the river upstream and down. The walk upstream to Richmond (40 minutes) is rural. The north bank walk upstream, signposted "Thames Path", is picturesquely industrial. There are also paths on both sides of the river downstream. That on the north bank quickly leads to the interesting houses and pubs of Strand-on-the-Green. That on the south bank is rustic and leads to Barnes Bridge and beyond.

Musical Museum: Four minutes walk to west from KBSM. We offer a joint visit with the Musical Museum.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew: Main entrance is on Kew Green, 15 minutes walk.

The National Archives: Reached from the Museum by crossing Kew Bridge and going downstream on the riverside path. Turn right immediately after the railway bridge and find the pedestrian entrance on the left about 200 yards along the former road. Excellent bookshop, large cafe, permanent and temporary exhibitions. Entrance free. Walking time to NA is about 20 minutes.

Kew Retail Park: Just beyond the National Archives. M&S, Boots, Next, Mothercare, TK-Maxx. Both the NA and the Retail Park can be accessed by car from the South Circular Road.

Syon Park: At the western end of Brentford close to the Holiday Inn. Stately home with large grounds and garden centre. Cafe is in interesting stables conversion and has free access. London home of the Duke of Northumberland

Chiswick House (English Heritage) and **Hogarth's House** are close by to the east just off the A4.

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GROUP VISIT BOOKING FORM

PLEASE NOTE: Telephone bookings will not be deemed by the Museum to be definite, until this form is completed and returned.

GROUP DETAILS.

Title of organisation _____

Visit Organiser Name & Address _____

Visit Date _____

Arrival time _____

Departure time _____

Daytime telephone number _____

No. in group: Adults _____ OAPs/Students _____ Children _____

VISIT REQUIREMENTS:

Would you like a basic tour? Extended tour? No tour

Would you like a Special Weekday Steaming? RX1 RX2 CX No

Do you require coach parking? Yes No

Joint Offer with Musical Museum Discounted Whole Day Experience

Special tours can be arranged for partially sighted or other special need groups. If anyone in your group has a special need please indicate here:

PAYMENT: Full payment must be made in advance. We will then post you a pre-paid ticket group ticket for each member of your group. These must be shown on admission. A deposit of £40 is required with this form.

Cheques should be made payable to KEW BRIDGE STEAM MUSEUM.

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Deposit enclosed _____ Date received _____

Date confirmed _____

Guide _____ Driver _____