



London Museums and art galleries

Contents

- **The British Museum**
- **The Natural History Museum**
- **The National Gallery**
- **The National Portrait Gallery**
- **The Museum of London**
- **Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A)**
- **The Tate Gallery**
- **The Science Museum**



The British Museum

The British Museum, consisting of the national museum of archaeology and ethnography and the national library, is the richest of its kind in the world.

It was founded in 1753 by an act of Parliament. Its nucleus was founded the priceless collection of manuscripts of Sir Robert Cotton, and Sir Hans Sloane, who left his varied collections to the nation upon his death in 1753.

To this diverse collection of manuscripts, sculpture works of art, antiquities and natural history items the extensive library was added.



The sculpture of W. Shakespeare



The museum is famous for Egyptian mummies and Elgin Marbles.



The Natural History Museum

The collections of The Natural History Museum are divided into five departments covering botanic, entomology, mineralogy, paleontology and zoology.

The museum's collections were built up round the specimens collected by Sir Hans Sloane.

The continued expansion of the collections in the British Museum meant that a separate natural history museum was required. It was opened in 1881.

One of the first things you'll see on entering the Central Hall is the massive skeleton of Diplodocus – one of the largest creatures that ever lived.



The Natural History Museum

The National Gallery houses the national collection of Western European painting, comprising more than 2000 pictures dating from the late 13th to the early 20th century. The Gallery was founded in 1824



The National Gallery

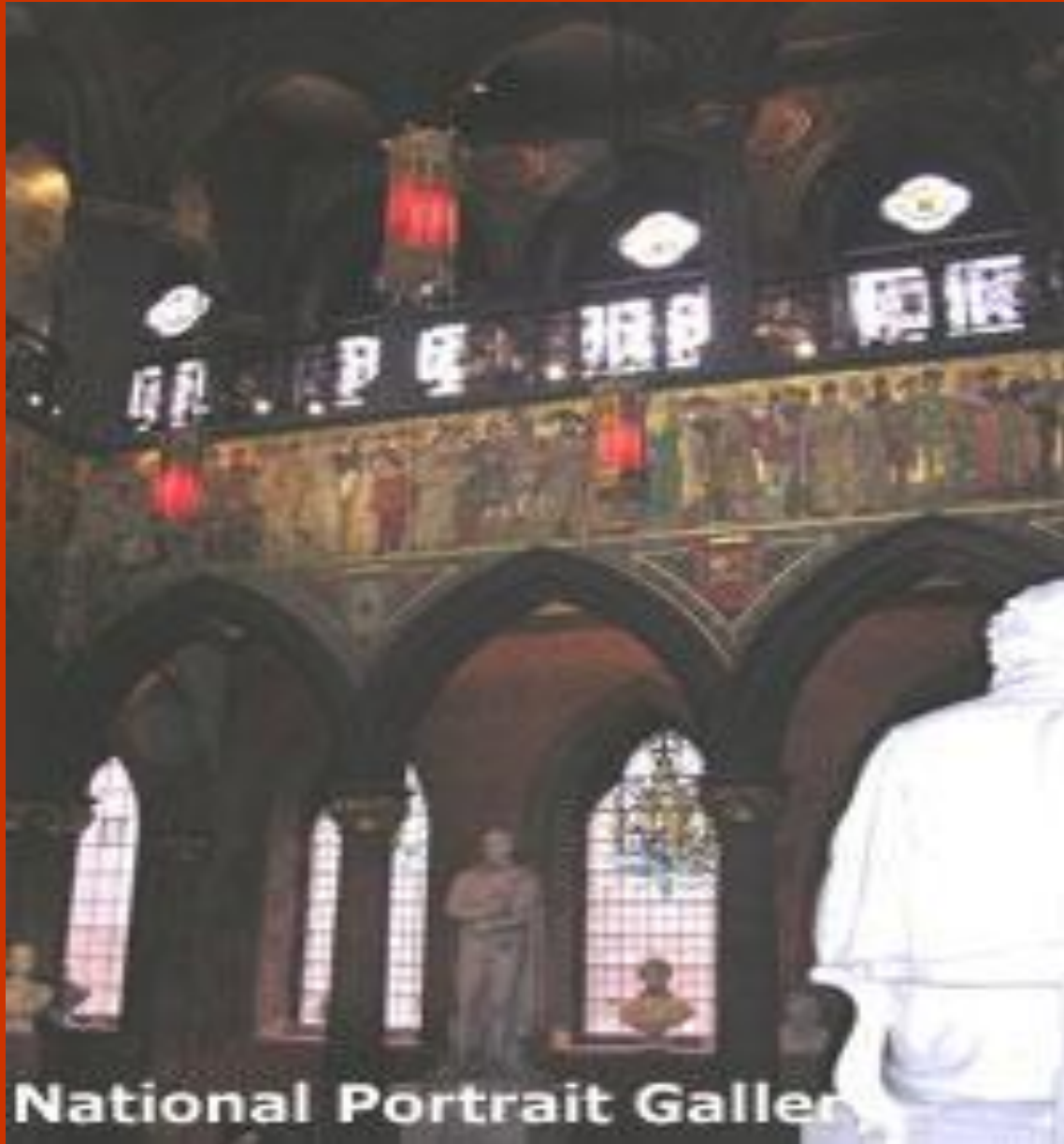
The national Gallery



. All great artists are represented by masterpieces: Leonardo and Raphael, Titian, Bellini, Caravaggio, Rubens, Van Eyck, Rembrandt, Hogarth, Turner, Constable, Reynolds, Monet, Degas, Manet, etc

Gauguin Harvest Le Pouldu, 1890

The National Portrait Gallery



The National Portrait Gallery was founded in 1856.

Today the collection constitutes a unique record of the men and women who created the history and culture of the nation. The Gallery houses over 9000 works.

The National Portrait Gallery



The collection which is arranged chronologically, begins with the Tudors and their predecessors.

The collection includes such treasure as Holbein's Cartoon of Henry VII, portrait of Queen Elizabeth I, the portrait of Shakespeare and celebrated images of Charles I, Charles II and his mistress.

Portrait of a young man by Botticelli

The Museum of London



The Museum of London is the largest and most comprehensive city museum in the world. It is dedicated to the story of London and its people. Where else could you see a Roman bikini, an old Selfridges's lift, an 18th-century debtor's prison, as well as royal treasures?

The Museum of London



You can also see a Lord Mayor's State Coach, stand in Roman kitchen, and Relieve the Great Fire of London, and look down on the city's Roman Wall.

The image shows the grand, red-brick facade of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. The building features a prominent central pediment with a statue on top, and a series of large, arched windows and doorways. The architecture is a mix of Gothic Revival and Italianate styles. In the foreground, there are some green plants and a fountain with several jets of water.

Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A)

V&A is the finest museum of the decorative arts in the world. Its collections, housed in magnificent Victorian buildings, include sculpture, furniture, fashion and textiles, paintings, silver, glass, jewellery, books from Britain and all over the world.

The Museum was opened in 1857 at Marlborough House. Additional buildings were designed by Sir Aston Webb.

The foundation stone was laid by Queen Victoria in 1899 and the Museum re-opened, in 1909 as the V&A.

The Tate Gallery



Painting of the Month

The Tate Gallery is two national collections in one:

British art from the 16th century to around 1900, and international modern art from the Impressionists until now.

Opened in 1897, the Gallery was named after the sugar millionaire Sir Henry Tate who gave his Victorian paintings and paid for the building.

The Tate Gallery

The British collection includes masterpieces by Hogarth, Gainsborough, Reynolds, Constable, William Blake and Turner.

The Modern collection includes highlights by Monet, Pissaro and Van Gogh, Matisse, Picasso.



Thomas Gainsborough Portrait of Henry Duke of Cumberland



Van Gogh Sunflowers

The Science Museum



The Science Museum in South Kensington doesn't look very interesting from the outside. Its galleries are full of objects, models which demonstrate a particular subject in science of engineering.

The Science Museum



There are a lot of clocks, telescopes, cameras, steam engines, computers, domestic appliances, aeroplanes, the world's first locomotive and George Stephenson's Rocket.