

British Empire & Commonwealth Museum WHAT'S ON LISTINGS ~ SPRING & SUMMER 2007

1. Exhibitions
2. Guided tours
3. Special events
4. Opening times and prices

1. EXHIBITIONS

Permanent Galleries (ongoing)

The British empire was the largest the world has ever known and at its height covered a quarter of the world's surface.

The dramatic story of how Britain's overseas empire evolved into the modern Commonwealth is told through exciting, informative displays, using film, video, sound recordings, authentic artefacts and interactive exhibits. Sixteen galleries present 500 years of history from the perspective of both ruler and ruled, ending with a look at how Britain's colonial history continues to affect us today.

Entry is included with normal Museum admission. Open daily from 10am to 5pm.

NEW BREAKING THE CHAINS The fight to end slavery
(Official opening 23rd April 2007 at 2pm. From then on, see opening times below)

A ground-breaking exhibition about Britain and slavery opens in the Spring to coincide with the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade. The £1 million Heritage Lottery-funded exhibition will act as the centrepiece of the former major slave-trading port's commemoration programme. 'Breaking the Chains' will occupy an entire floor of the British Empire & Commonwealth Museum and has been developed in partnership with Bristol City Council's Museums, Galleries and Archives' service. The exhibition will run for two years.

Entry is included with normal Museum admission. Open daily from 10am to 5pm.

2. GUIDED TOURS

The Brunel Tour (weekly)

For the first time since its recent restoration public access has been granted to historic Old Bristol Station, built by the industrious Isambard Kingdom Brunel. Bristol's original station is located next to the current main station at Temple Meads and is the world's oldest surviving purpose-built railway terminus, pre-dating London Paddington by over a decade. Completed in 1841, it was regarded as a 'wonder of the Victorian Age'. It finally closed in 1965 and is now home to the British Empire & Commonwealth Museum.

Highlights of the guided tour include the massive Passenger Shed, cavernous underground vaults and the mock-Gothic grandeur of the Great Western Railway Boardroom. As well as demonstrating the immense achievement of the brilliant Victorian engineer the tour also offers a unique social history of a railway station at the beginning of the railway revolution. It is also the site of numerous claims of ghostly sightings of Brunel himself!

Tours are run on selected dates (both week and weekend dates are available). Please contact the Museum for availability. Pre-booking is essential.

As a working Museum, full access to the Brunel Boardroom and Passenger Shed cannot always be guaranteed. Free same-day Museum admission is included within the price of the Brunel Tour.

Adult: £7.95
Child: £3.95
Concession: £6.95

The British Empire & Commonwealth Museum has a 'no refund' policy and Brunel Tour tickets are not transferable.

3. FAMILY EVENTS

Drop-in arts & crafts weekends (monthly)

Feel creative? Why not join in one of our all-day themed make and take sessions on selected Saturdays, every month.

Suitable for all ages from three years upwards. Entry is included with normal Museum admission prices. Check with the Museum for dates and times.

Patchwork Art & Crafts (Saturday 26th May, 11am – 3pm)

A textiles workshop inspired by 'In Stitches', a hand crafted patchwork quilt on temporary display in the Museum galleries.

Suitable for all ages from 3 years and upwards. Entry is included with normal Museum admission prices.

World Crafts (Tuesday 29th May – Friday 1st June)

A variety of drop-in workshops throughout the Whitsun break, using arts from around the world.

Suitable for all ages from 3 years and upwards. Entry is included with normal Museum admission prices. Check with the Museum for times.

Heroes & Villains (Thursday 5th April – Wednesday 18th April 2007)

Herald your heroes and vanquish villains! A lively holiday programme engaging children with historic characters both worthy and wicked. Join in the action with a live interactive show, hear of fantastic feats and dastardly tales in storytelling sessions, enter the daily fancy dress competition and pay tribute to your own personal heroes.

Suitable for all ages from 3 years and upwards. Entry is included with normal Museum admission prices.

Down Under (Thursday 26th July – 2nd September)

Daily summer holiday activities inspired by travels to Australia and the art of its indigenous people. Themed craft workshops take place each Wednesday.

Suitable for all ages from 3 years and upwards. Entry is included with normal Museum admission prices.

Black History Family Weekend (Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th October)

Trails, artefact handling and craft activities exploring Africa and Caribbean culture.

Suitable for all ages from 3 years and upwards. Entry is included with normal Museum admission prices.

Spies (Saturday 20th October – Tuesday 30th October)

Half term activities including double agents, code breaking, storytelling and top-secret entertainment.

Suitable for children aged 3 years and upwards. Entry is included with normal Museum admission prices.

A Victorian Christmas (Thursday 20th December – Wednesday 2nd January)

A festive trip back in time with arts, crafts and entertainment, in an elegant 19th century drawing room.

Suitable for children aged 3 years and upwards. Entry is included with normal Museum admission prices.

4. SPECIAL EVENTS

In Stitches Quilt (Monday 23rd April – Monday 28th May)

A beautiful patchwork quilt handmade by women from British, African and Caribbean communities will be on display in the Museum galleries. The quilt was created in response to the bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade.

Free entry included within normal Museum admission prices.

Lonnie G Bunch (Tuesday 24th April, 11am – 12pm)

A talk by leading historian and Director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington. Advance booking recommended.

Free entry included within normal Museum admission prices.

Wole Soyinka (Wednesday 9th May, 12.30pm – 2.00pm)

A talk by the Nobel Prize winning author and Playwright as part of the Festival of Ideas. Advance booking recommended. Tickets: Adults £6, Concessions £4.

William Dalrymple (Wednesday 16th May, 6.00pm – 7.00pm)

A talk on Indian history by leading writer and historian, as part of the Festival of Ideas. Advance booking recommended. Tickets: Adults £6, Concessions £4.

Frederick Tuckett (Wednesday 24th October, 7.30pm)

A talk by Richard Fox on a Bristol abolitionist who fought for Maori rights in New Zealand. Advance booking recommended.

Free entry included within normal Museum admission prices.

A Jurisprudence of Power (Monday 29th October, 12.00pm)

A lecture by legal author and Professor, Rande Kostal on the influence of slave uprisings on the perception of human rights in Victorian England. Advance booking recommended.

Free entry included within normal Museum admission prices.

To reserve places for lectures, talks and bookable events contact:

T: 0117 925 4980

E: bookings@empiremuseum.co.uk

W: www.empiremuseum.co.uk

4. OPENING TIMES & PRICES

Opening times

Open 1st January – 31st December, 10.00 – 17.00 every day, except Christmas Day and Boxing Day

Admission Charges (Valid from 1st April 2007)

Please note, all exhibitions, events and activities are included within one single Museum admission price, unless otherwise stated.

Type		Price
Family	2 adults +2 children OR 1 adult + 3 children	£19.95
Adult	16 yrs and above	£7.95
Concession	Senior citizens, students	£6.95
Child	5 -15 yrs	£3.95
Child under 5 yrs		Free

All visitors paying the above admission prices are eligible for a **FREE ANNUAL PASS**. The pass allows unlimited visits to the Museum galleries and selected events for a whole 12 months.

- Large discounts for groups of ten or more and school parties.
- Shop, selling a wide range of souvenirs, books and gifts ideas.
- **NEW!** Caffe Gusto Siesta - serving delicious Panini's, good coffee, fresh smoothies and more...

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