

SECTION 2

Good morning, and welcome to the museum – one with a remarkable range of exhibits, which I'm sure you'll enjoy. My name's Greg, and I'll tell you about the various collections as we go round. But before we go, let me just give you a taste of what we have here.

Well, for one thing, we have a fine collection of twentieth and twenty-first century paintings, many by very well-known artists. I'm sure you'll recognise several of the paintings. This is the gallery that attracts the largest number of visitors, so it's best to go in early in the day, before the crowds arrive. Q11

Then there are the nineteenth-century paintings. The museum was opened in the middle of that century, and several of the artists each donated one work – to get the museum started, as it were. So they're of special interest to us – we feel closer to them than to other works. Q12

The sculpture gallery has a number of fine exhibits, but I'm afraid it's currently closed for refurbishment. You'll need to come back next year to see it properly, but a number of the sculptures have been moved to other parts of the museum. Q13

'Around the world' is a temporary exhibition – you've probably seen something about it on TV or in the newspapers. It's created a great deal of interest, because it presents objects from every continent and many countries, and provides information about their social context – why they were made, who for, and so on. Q14

Then there's the collection of coins. This is what you might call a focused, specialist collection, because all the coins come from this country, and were produced between two thousand and a thousand years ago. And many of them were discovered by ordinary people digging their gardens, and donated to the museum! Q15

All our porcelain and glass was left to the museum by its founder, when he died in 1878. And in the terms of his will, we're not allowed to add anything to that collection: he believed it was perfect in itself, and we don't see any reason to disagree! Q16

OK, that was something about the collections, and now here's some more practical information, in case you need it. Most of the museum facilities are downstairs, in the basement, so you go down the stairs here. When you reach the bottom of the stairs, you'll find yourself in a sitting area, with comfortable chairs and sofas where you can have a rest before continuing your exploration of the museum.

We have a very good restaurant, which serves excellent food all day, in a relaxing atmosphere. To reach it, when you get to the bottom of the stairs, go straight ahead to the far side of the sitting area, then turn right into the corridor. You'll see the door of the restaurant facing you. Q17

If you just want a snack, or if you'd like to eat somewhere with facilities for children, we also have a café. When you reach the bottom of the stairs, you'll need to go straight ahead, turn right into the corridor, and the café is immediately on the right. Q18

And talking about children, there are baby-changing facilities downstairs: cross the sitting area, continue straight ahead along the corridor on the left, and you and your baby will find the facilities on the left-hand side. Q19

The cloakroom, where you should leave coats, umbrellas and any large bags, is on the left hand side of the sitting area. It's through the last door before you come to the corridor. Q20

There are toilets on every floor, but in the basement they're the first rooms on the left when you get down there.

OK, now if you've got anything to leave in the cloakroom, please do that now, and then we'll start our tour.

SECTION 3