



THE OLD
OPERATING
THEATRE
MUSEUM &
HERB GARRET

Visual Story for Schools and Group Visits



A visual story is for anyone who likes to prepare for a visit to a new place.

It tells you how to get around the museum, who you might meet, and what your group will experience here.

If you have any more questions, please contact:
education@oldoperatingtheatre.com.

On our website there is a virtual tour of the museum, and detailed access information.

Virtual Tour



The Old Operating Theatre - Museum & Herb Garret

<https://my.mpskin.com/tour/oldoperatingtheatre>

[mpskin.com](https://my.mpskin.com)

There is a virtual tour of the museum space that you can use to look around before your visit.

The link is here: <https://my.mpskin.com/en/tour/t5k2hx3mk>

Getting to the Museum



The museum is in the roof of St Thomas' Church. There is a sign outside the door.

The road outside might be busy and noisy. We are near to London Bridge train station.

Arrival



When you arrive with your group, the Museum door will be locked and the sign will say 'Closed'.

The Museum is only closed to people who have not booked a visit. A member of staff will open the door when it is time for your visit to start.

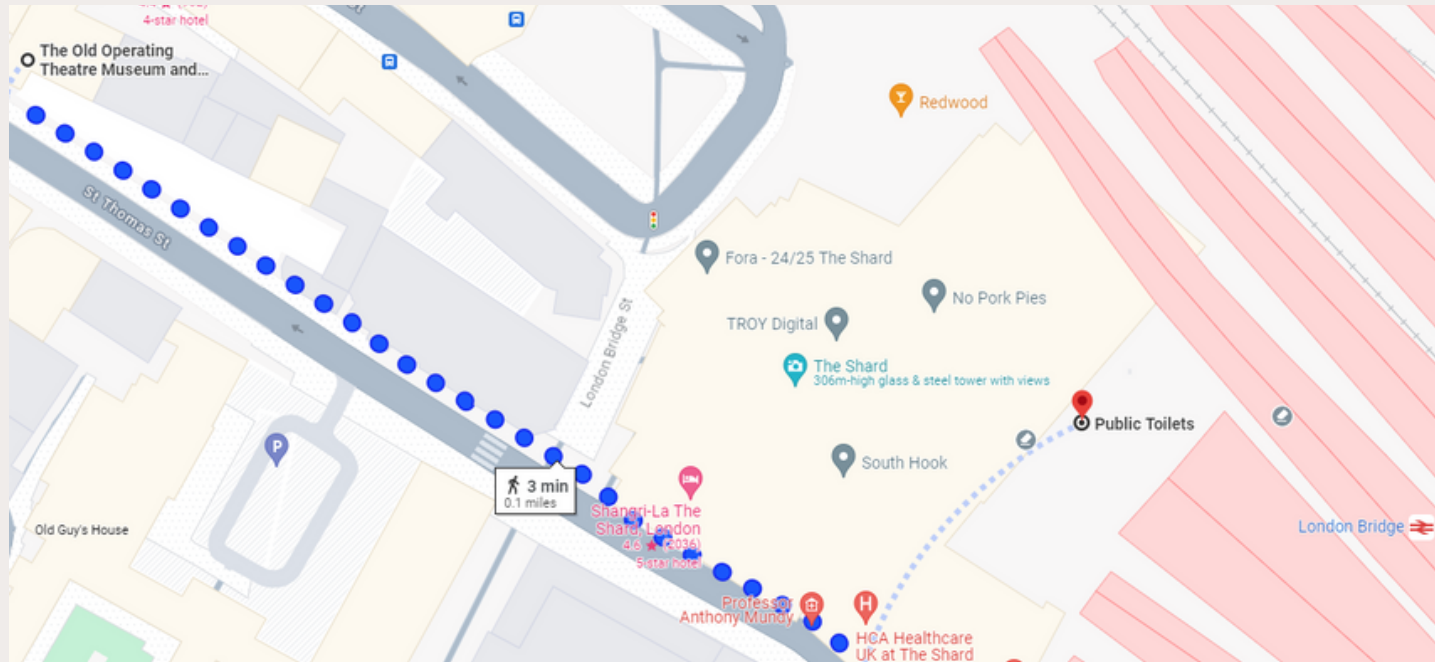
Toilets



There are no public toilets at the Museum.

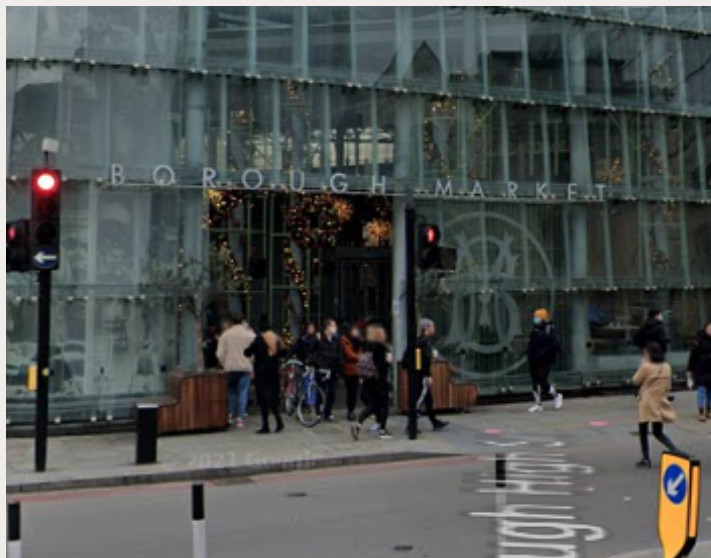
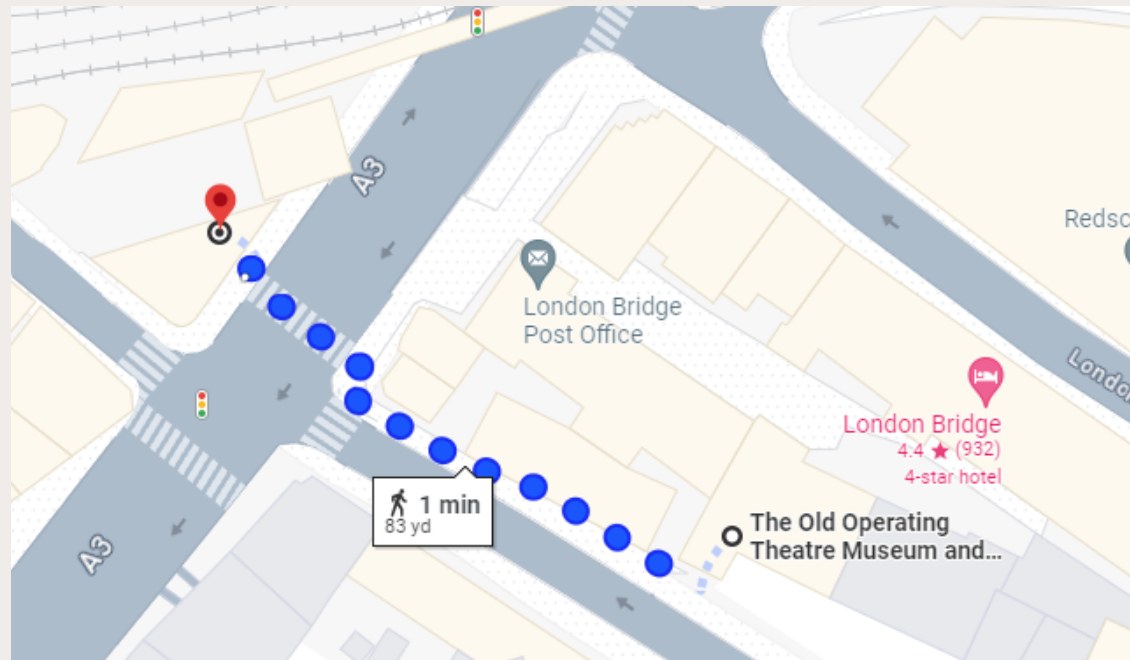
The nearest public toilets to the Museum are at London Bridge Station or at Borough Market. Please try to use these before you arrive for your group visit.

Toilets - London Bridge



To get to the toilets at London Bridge Station, walk along St Thomas's street towards the Shard. Go in the entrance pictured. Walk straight ahead and then turn right, into the station. There will be signs directing you to the toilets.

Toilets - Borough Market



To get to the toilets at Borough Market, walk along St Thomas street away from the Shard. Cross Borough High Street at the light and go in the entrance pictured. The toilets are to your right and are marked W.C. There might be a queue. The market is usually closed on Mondays.

Stairs and Lift



There are narrow spiral stairs up to the museum. There are 52 steps and a rope to hold onto in the middle. There is a small access lift if you need it. Please ask a member of staff if you need to use the lift.

Fire Alarms



The fire alarm is a loud continuous note. If the fire alarm goes off you need to leave the building quickly and calmly by the safest route.

This will probably mean going through the fire doors near the Operating Theatre. Follow the instructions of staff and do not use the lift.

Shop



At the top of the stairs is the shop and information desk.

Sometimes when school groups visit, the shop is closed.



There is an online shop that you can visit on our website if you like.

Entering the Museum



To go into the museum, you go through a small tunnel, and then up a ramp.

Entering the Operating Theatre



The first place your group will go is into the Operating Theatre for the Surgery Talk. You will have time to look around the Museum after the Talk is finished.

Operating Theatre Seats



You will sit down in the Operating Theatre for the Surgery Talk. You will still be able to see and hear the presenter.

The Operating Theatre Talk



A member of the museum staff will tell you about the history of St Thomas' Hospital and about what happened in the Operating Theatre.

You can raise your hand and ask questions if you like. The presenter is there to help you learn.

Surgery Demonstration



The presenter will ask for a volunteer to come and help them demonstrate the surgery.

They will not really be doing surgery, just pretending.

Surgery Demonstration



The presenter has surgery knives. They are very careful and will not hurt anyone.

They might put on an apron that looks like it has blood on it. The blood is not real blood.

Waiting Room



If you are not feeling well or would like a break from the Surgery Talk, you can go out into the museum. There is an area called the Waiting Room. This is a quiet space where you can sit and think.

The Operating Theatre



After the talk is over, you can go and look around the Operating Theatre.



There are costumes to try on here, and you can lay down on the operating table if you like. You can take photos if you wish.

Looking Around

The rest of the museum has lots of objects. Things that you can touch have an “interactive display” label, which has a hand.



Other things are for looking at because they are old and delicate. These have a “look only display” label, which has an eye.



Antechamber



The Antechamber is a narrow corridor leading to the Operating Theatre.

There are more museum objects and information in this space.

The Museum and Herb Garret



This is the Museum and Herb Garret. It is old and creaky, and some of the floorboards are raised. It can smell dusty in the museum. It can be cold in winter, and warm in summer. If there are lots of people in the museum it can be quite loud. There are sections for different stories about medicine.

Staff Areas



There are some places in the museum that are just for the people who work here.

There are signs for this, and ropes showing that you can't go into some places.

Pathology Section



The Museum has a small section that contains some human remains. They are in glass cases that are labelled. The human remains are in the Museum because they are part of the study of pathology. Pathology is a branch of medical science that focuses on the study and diagnosis of disease.

Leaving the Museum



To leave the building you go back through the shop and down the spiral stairs.





We hope you have a great visit. We look forward to meeting you.

If you have any more questions about your visit, please email education@oldoperatingtheatre.com.

