Migration Museum – a visual story for visiting schools

Getting Here

The Migration Museum is based in the centre of Lewisham in greater London. Most forms of public transport will take you directly to Lewisham station, which is connected by the Docklands Light Railway (DLR), the City, Greenwich and Lewisham (CGL) Rail and by bus.

When exiting Lewisham station, you should leave via this exit as this will take you directly to central Lewisham and Lewisham Shopping Centre, where the Migration Museum is situated.
When leaving Lewisham station, walk south and you will see Lewisham Shopping Centre directly ahead.

There is a busy road to cross to get to the shopping centre, but there is a pedestrian crossing around the corner. Always use this pedestrian crossing when getting to the shopping centre.

The entrance in this photo is the Rennell Street entrance, leading to the North Mall.
There are six entrances to Lewisham Shopping Centre, this is the main entrance by Lewisham High Street market.
Lewisham Shopping Centre

There are six entrances to Lewisham Shopping Centre, each of them will lead you to the central area where the Migration Museum is situated in Unit 11 on the South Mall walk. We recommend that you enter the centre via the West Mall entrance on Molesworth Street as this is where the toilets are located.
Toilets

When entering Lewisham Shopping Centre via the West Mall entrance on Molesworth Street, you will see public toilets. You may enter via a different entrance; in which case you will find the toilets beside Sainsbury’s near the central court.

Individual students may sometimes be permitted use the Migration Museum staff toilets with an accompanying member of staff or a responsible adult. These are located in the staff area upstairs from the exhibitions and galleries.
WALL installation

In the central court of Lewisham Shopping Centre, at our entrance we have an incredible installation called WALL. It is comprised of two large sections of the Berlin Wall with works from artists STIK and Thierry NOIR on each section.

This installation sits outside of the museum entrance, as a gateway to our exhibition space.
The Migration Museum is situated in the South Mall, between TK Maxx and Ernest Jones, opposite Starbucks near the central court.

The Migration Museum is open for self-directed visits during its public opening hours, Wednesday-Sunday 11am-5pm, the galleries will close at 4.45pm.

Facilitated educational visits can be booked from 10am Wednesday-Friday.

Lewisham Shopping Centre is often busy.
**Arrival**

When you arrive at the Migration Museum you will be greeted by a gallery supervisor. They will help you find your way around the museum.

If you have booked an educational workshop a member of the education team will come to greet you and show you to the education space.

We have a cloakroom available. This is reserved for facilitated workshop sessions but may be used when available upon request. Please ask a member of staff to see if it is available.
Migration Museum staff

During your visit you will meet our Museum Operations Manager, Gallery Supervisor, Education team and volunteers.

If you have any questions during your visit, please ask a member of our team and they will be happy to help. They will be wearing a blue lanyard.

Our staff also have access to radios to communicate with one another quickly. If a situation arises please ask the nearest member of staff to contact the Museums Operations Manager or senior member of staff.
Migration Museum Shop

The Migration Museum has a shop which you will pass through on your way to the education space and exhibitions.

We ask that when students wish to visit the shop to make purchases, they are in groups of no more than 10 people and are always supervised by a teacher or adult.

If you want to enquire about making a group purchase, please speak to the staff on duty in the shop or at the entrance desk.
Temporary exhibition space

At the front of the Migration Museum you will find our temporary exhibition space, which is where we host smaller exhibitions which engage different aspects of migration.

From February-June 2020 this will be the *Humanæ* exhibition. This is a powerful piece of art that explores every skin tone. Please see our Teachers Guide for more information about the temporary exhibition.

This temporary exhibition space is connected to the final gallery of the Room to Breathe exhibition.
Cloakroom

There is a cloakroom available for students in pre-booked workshops. When not in use, other groups may use this for bags and coats. Please ask a member of staff about using the cloakroom.

The cloakroom is kept safe and secure, as it requires a code to access. Please note that it is not monitored by a member of staff at all times.
Education space

The education space is situated at the back of the museum behind the exhibitions and next to the events space.

This space is used for educational workshops and is reserved for pre-booked groups.

When not in use with pre-booked groups, this space should not be used without explicit permission from museum staff.

If museum staff are not available to supervise this space it should not be used.
Room to Breathe

*Room to Breathe* is an immersive exhibition inviting you and your students to discover stories from generations of new arrivals to Britain. We invite you to journey through four rooms; a bedroom, a kitchen, a classroom and a barbershop, where students can discover the personal stories of people who have made Britain their home through a series of objects, videos and oral histories. This is a tactile experience in which students are encouraged to explore in order to discover the stories hidden within. Open the front door to begin your journey.
Room to Breathe - Bedroom

The first room you enter of the Room to Breathe exhibition is the Bedroom. This room explores the intimate stories of many recent arrivals through personal objects and artefacts, oral histories and short videos.

When visiting with Year 6 students we recommend leading them to specific stories in the room and facilitating a group discussion. We have also created an activity sheet for students to complete in groups.

When visiting the galleries with Secondary school students we recommend you set questions and allow your students to explore the gallery in pairs. Please make sure students are always supervised in the gallery.

Please see the detailed Exhibition Room Guide for finding individual stories to explore with your students.
Room to Breathe - Kitchen

The Kitchen can be accessed through the door in the bedroom. It explores the connection between food and migration.

Make sure you pick up and read the ingredients on the shelves; stories are hidden on the labels.

At the kitchen table, encourage groups of students to sit-down and listen. This will trigger an audio-visual display exploring four personal stories.

Some of the objects in this gallery are purely props, students often want to play with these. While we want students to have fun, please ensure they are acting sensibly and steer them towards reading and listening to stories, or to discuss their own food-stories.

Please see the detailed Exhibition Room Guide for finding individual stories to explore with your students.
Room to Breathe - Classroom

Through the doorway in the Kitchen you will find a Classroom. This room explores migration through spaces of learning.

On the teacher’s desk and students’ tables you will find a series of headsets, these are triggered to play when picked up. Please note that these are have differing running times. Some of the stories use strong language and may not be considered appropriate for young children.

Please see the detailed Exhibition Room Guide for finding individual stories to explore with your students.
The last room of the exhibition is the Barbershop. This room explores stories of community, culture and shared experience.

The two barbers’ chairs are designed to be triggered by visitors sitting down and putting the headphones on. Videos will then play through the mirror and various conversations from real London barbershops can be observed.

For students waiting to listen and watch the stories in the barbers’ chairs, they can read the accounts of several women about their relationship with hair and culture.

Please see the detailed Exhibition Room Guide for finding individual stories to explore with your students.
Coming soon… Departures

A large section of the Migration Museum is still under development while we create our upcoming exhibition Departures.

This is an exciting exhibition which will explore 400 years of emigration from Britain.

While this exhibition is being developed, we ask that you keep students from running in the space.

Departures is due to open mid-April 2020.