



**Laing Art Gallery:
Pre-visit Information**

Thank you for booking a visit to the Laing Art Gallery!

We hope you find this resource useful in planning your visit. If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact a member of our Learning Team.

About the Laing

The Laing Art Gallery, founded in 1901, is the principal art gallery in the North East of England. The Gallery houses an outstanding collection of fine and decorative art including examples of British oil painting and watercolours, ceramics, silver and glassware. Our extensive collection comprises around 7,000 decorative art objects, 4,000 watercolours and works on paper and 1,000 oil paintings!

Upon arrival

Please enter with your group through the automatic glass doors on the lower ground floor, into the lower shop and reception area. All visiting groups need to sign-in at the welcome desk just inside the front doors. If you've booked a workshop or tour, a member of our Learning Team will meet you and your students here.

Getting here

Metro

The nearest Metro Station to the Gallery is Monument, approximately 5 minutes walk away.

Public Bus

Buses stopping at Haymarket are approximately 10 minutes walk away; buses stopping at Pilgrim Street are approximately 3 minutes walk away.

Parking

Parking facilities outside the Gallery are very limited. There are parking meters to the side of the Gallery, including 2 disabled parking bays. There is also an NCP car park to the right of the building and one on Durant Road.

During your visit

Please remember that you are responsible for your group at all times. We ask that you do not leave children unsupervised or allow them to run or shout in the galleries. Touching the artworks is not allowed (unless otherwise stated). You may find it useful to remind students of this before your visit! If your students wish to use the shop, please make sure you factor in time for this outside of the time designated for the workshop. If you would like to take photos, please ask an attendant for details. Flash photography and tripods are not allowed in the gallery and no photography is allowed in any of the temporary exhibitions.

Getting around the building:

Exhibitions and facilities

Ground Floor

Entrance

Please enter the gallery through the automatic glass doors at the lower ground floor. This will lead you into our welcome desk. A lift to the right of this area is available to go to all floors.

Shop

The shop is split across two levels - the shop on the lower ground floor sells posters, postcards, art materials, and greetings cards. It also sells a range of small 'pocket-money' stationary items for under £3, perfect for trip souvenirs!

Toilets

Male and female accessible toilets are located on the ground floor to the rear of the Café Laing. There are two additional accessible toilets near the main staircase in the Marble Hall.

Northern Spirit Gallery

Located behind the upper ground floor craft shop, Northern Spirit is a major permanent exhibition celebrating the achievements of artists, manufacturers and makers from the North East of England. Internationally acclaimed art from the gallery's collection feature in this impressive display, including work by 19th century painter John Martin, and engraver and naturalist Thomas Bewick.

Marble Hall and Rotunda

The Marble Hall is located just outside the craft shop, where you can find the main staircase up to the galleries. The Marble Hall and the Rotunda are distinctive examples of the original, Baroque-style architecture of the gallery. The Hall takes its name from the beautiful marble floor which features tiles of local Frosterly marble, embedded with fossils.

The Studio

This versatile space, located at the bottom of the spiral staircase, is used for school workshops and lunches. If you would like to use The Studio during your visit, please remember to pre-book with a member of our Learning Team.

First Floor

Temporary Exhibition Galleries A, B and C

The Laing offers a range of temporary exhibitions throughout the year. These three galleries host a rolling programme of fascinating exhibitions, combining imaginative displays from the permanent collection with wide ranging innovative exhibitions. Including both contemporary and historical displays, many of the featured exhibitions are on tour from national or international collections of art!

Admission to temporary exhibitions

Children 12 and under and accompanying adults go in free, with concession charges for older students. You can gain entry to these exhibitions on the day of your visit, subject to other bookings, but it's always best to let us know you're coming beforehand, to avoid disappointment!

Exhibition Gallery (next to the lift)

This space hosts a changing programme of contemporary and modern art. Please ask at the Welcome Desk for details of current or forthcoming exhibitions.

Gallery D

Here you will find important paintings from our collection which are permanently on display. This Gallery features works from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, including* two world-famous masterpieces of Pre Raphaelite art: William Holman Hunt's *Isabella and the Pot of Basil* and Edward Burne-Jones' *Laus Veneris*, displayed alongside paintings by Arthur Hughes, Alma Tadema, and Thomas Gainsborough. The Laing has one of the most comprehensive collections of the work of locally born, British Romantic artist John Martin and you can see some of his works on display in this exhibition.

*These artworks intermittently come off display for conservation or as loans to other galleries. Please contact the gallery in advance of your visit if you wish to see a specific artwork.

Barbour Watercolour Gallery

This small gallery, accessible from the spiral staircase, is not to be missed and features changing displays of paintings from the Laing's collection of approximately 4000 watercolour paintings.

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