

Ard-Mhúsaem
na hÉireann
National Museum
of Ireland

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Visual Guide



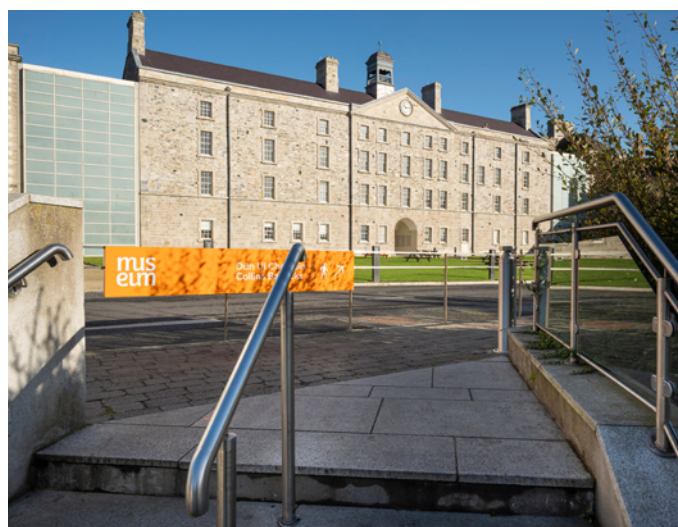
This is the National Museum of Ireland at Collins Barracks.
The Museum is free to visit.

Arriving at the Museum

I can enter the Museum grounds from two different entrances on Benburb Street.

This is the Luas Stop entrance.
This entrance is not wheelchair accessible.
These steps bring me up to the Museum grounds.

I might see people walking their dogs outside in the Museum grounds.



I can also walk or drive through this main gate entrance.
If I need to use a ramp, there is a gate to the left that I can use.



Clarke Square and Reception



If I arrive on foot, I will enter the Museum's central courtyard, called **Clarke Square**, through this stone archway. I might hear the clock chiming on the front of the building.



I can find the **Reception area** by looking for the two **Orange National Museum of Ireland banners** to the west of the Square.

The Museum is opposite the **Guinness Factory**, and sometimes I might notice a **strong smell of hops**, depending on the wind.

Parking

If I drive to the Museum, I will park in the **car park**.

I will need to get a **parking ticket** at the parking meter.



I can find my way to the Museum entrance by following the large orange arrow.



Inside the Museum



When I go into the Museum, I will see the **Information Desk** with **Visitor Security Officers (VSOs)**. They can answer any questions I have.



The Visitor Security Officers(VSO's) wear a uniform that looks like this.

They are also in the galleries and I can ask them for help throughout my visit if I need it.

Reception Area & Shop

The Reception area can be noisy if there are school groups, so I may have to wait before speaking to the person at the front desk.

If I want to rest, there are seats in the Museum or I can borrow a black stool from Reception to take with me.

I can use my ear defenders, sunglasses, and fidget toys in the Museum to help me feel comfortable. The Museum is also service-dog friendly.



In the Reception area, there is a **Gift Shop**. This shop is **not always open**. I can call the Museum ahead of my visit to check if the shop is open on that day.

Toilets



To the left of the Information Desk,
I will see the door to the toilets.

The hand dryers are very loud.



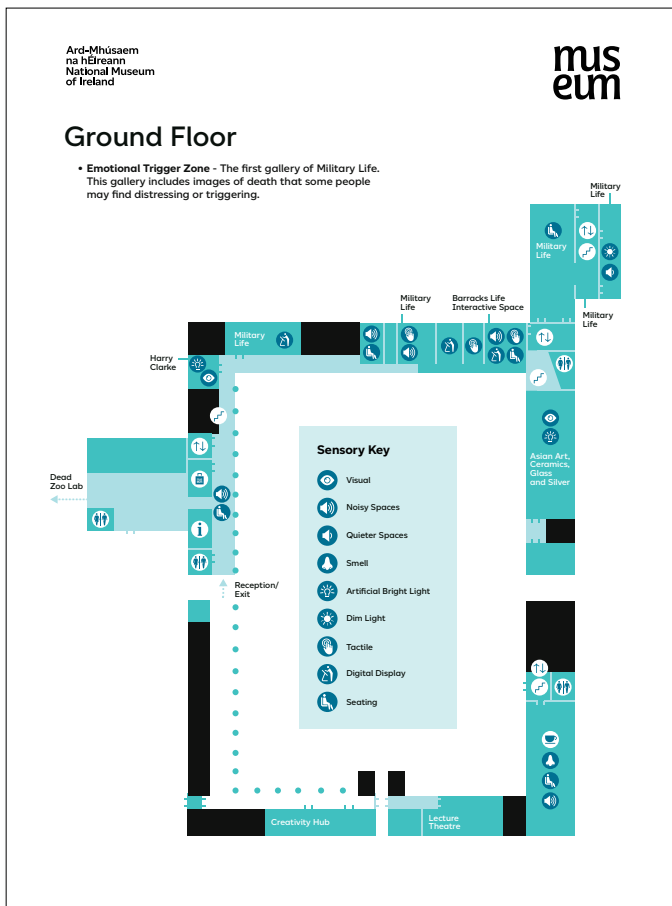
There is a **single accessible toilet**
to the left that I can use.

Resources

Beside the toilets, I will see Museum resources I can take such as the Family Guide and Activity Books.



Sensory Map & Withdrawal Spaces



I can download the Museum Sensory Map from the Museum website.

The Sensory Map shows the different sensory experiences in each part of the Museum.

The map also marks **Emotional Trigger Zones**, showing exhibitions that may explore distressing or sensitive topics.



The Museum does not have a specific quiet sensory room, but the map helps me find quieter galleries such as Asian Art on the 3rd floor.



If I need time to rest or regulate, I can go to one of these quieter areas, or I can step outside into the Museum grounds, which are a calm place to take a break.

There are picnic benches outside where I can sit and relax or eat.

Café

If I am hungry, I can buy food at the **Synge & Byrne Café**, across the square on the ground floor.



There is a **single accessible toilet** beside the café.



Sometimes a **coffee truck** outside is open, depending on weather and staffing. I can call the café ahead of my visit to check.

The Dead Zoo Lab

The **Dead Zoo Lab** is a temporary space displaying part of the **Natural History Collection** while the Merrion Street Museum is being refurbished.

Here I can see rocks, mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and marine life. It can be crowded at weekends and during school holidays.



I can find my way to the Dead Zoo lab by walking down this corridor off the main Reception Area. This corridor is past the Information Desk to the left off the Shop.

I can return to Reception along the same corridor or exit to the car park through this door.



Exploring the Museum

After Reception, I can explore the ground floor by following the corridor to the right, or take the **stairs** or **lift** to the upper galleries.



The **lift** is to the left of the stairs.



People I Might Meet

In the Museum, I might meet:



Tour Guides



VSOs



School groups



Other groups

Touch

There are **interactive areas** where I can try on clothes, sit on replica chairs, or touch some objects.



I might also see “No Touch” signs. This means I **cannot touch** those objects that are not behind glass to protect them.



Visual

The Museum is a **very visual space** with many objects displayed behind glass. Lighting and glass can create **reflections** in some areas.

The galleries with the most reflections are:



*Out of Storage
(1st floor)*



*Clothing & Jewellery
(3rd floor)*



*Asian Art, Ceramics, Glass & Silver which also
has **fluorescent lighting** (Ground floor)*

Things I Might See

In the Museum, I might see:



Coins



Mannequins



Clothing from the past



Tanks and planes

Sounds

I might hear the humidifiers in some galleries.
They are loudest in:



*Asian Art, Ceramics,
Glass & Silver
(Ground Floor)*



*Clothing & Jewellery
(3rd floor)*

The last Military Life Gallery on the 1st floor has noisy audio-visuals. I might want to wear my ear defenders when visiting this gallery.

Learning More

Panels on the walls and labels in cases tell me more about what I see.



I can also use interactive screens or watch videos to find more information.



Exiting the Museum & The Asgard



When I'm finished exploring, I can return to **Reception** and exit through the front doors I came in.



In the car park, I will see the entrance to the **Asgard Exhibition**. I can use the **ramp** or **stairs** to enter.



The **Asgard** is a large yacht rebuilt inside the building! This area is usually **quieter**, with **natural light** and **benches** to sit on.

Before I Visit

The National Museum of Ireland is excited about my visit! Their staff are here to make sure I have a safe and enjoyable time.

For more information on the following I can click on the links below

- [Accessibility at the National Museum of Ireland](#)
- [Monthly Quiet Hours](#)
- [Planning Your Visit](#)
- [Events and What's On](#)

If I need help or more information, I can:

Email: bookings@museum.ie
Phone: 01 648 6453

To contact Synge & Byrne Café
Telephone: + 353 (0) 1897 2200