

A visitor's guide



Get the most out of your visit...



There are details on each of our main galleries, and ideas on key objects to include in your visit. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask one of our very knowledgeable Visitor Assistants.



We hope that you enjoy your visit to the River & Rowing Museum. Don't forget, your ticket entitles you to 12 months admission and **FREE** entry to all of our family fun days.

To keep up to date with events and activities at the Museum, visit rrm.co.uk. You will also find details of all of our popular courses and workshops for children and adults. There are always new special exhibitions to see.



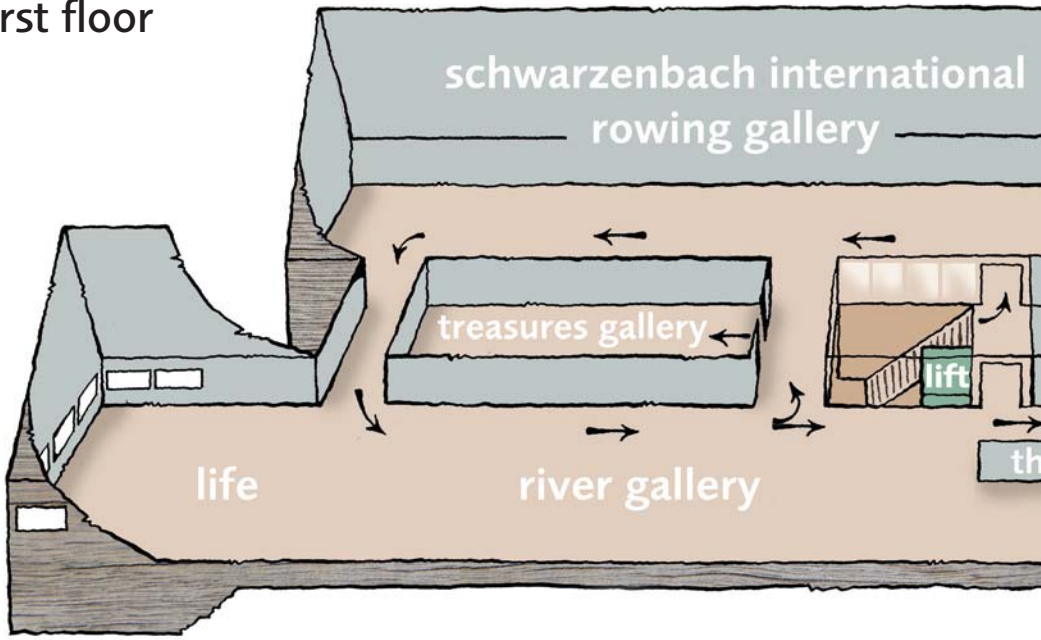
For a fun and unusual range of gifts and souvenirs relating to Henley, the River Thames and Rowing, why not visit **our shop**? Every purchase supports the Museum.

Children love our free Museum trail and colouring activities in the galleries. We also have backpacks full of games, puzzles and stories for children to take with them around the Museum.

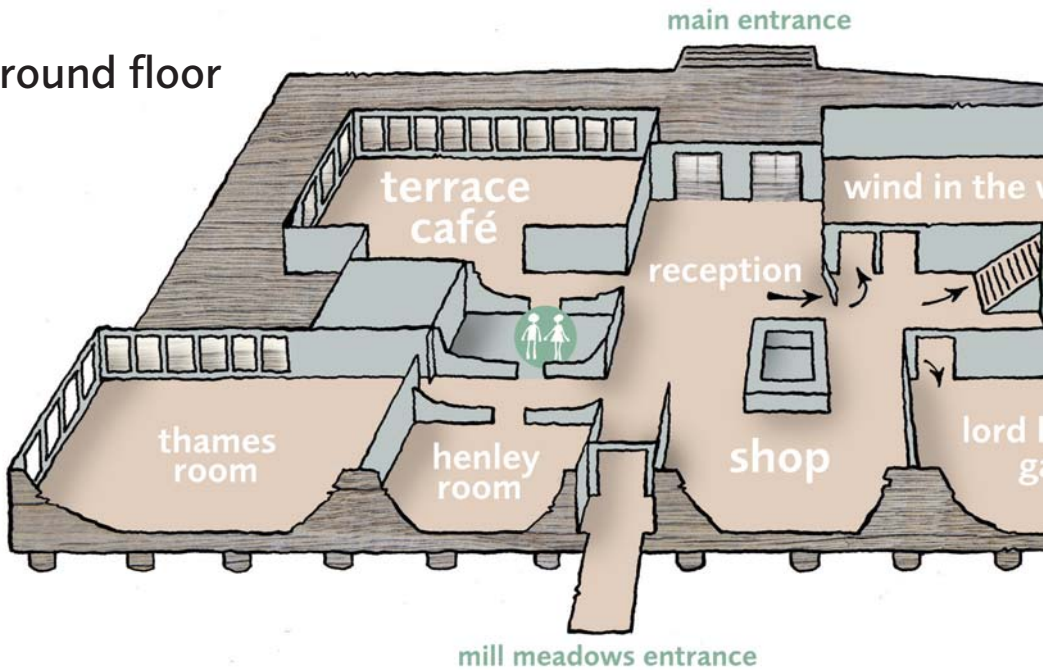


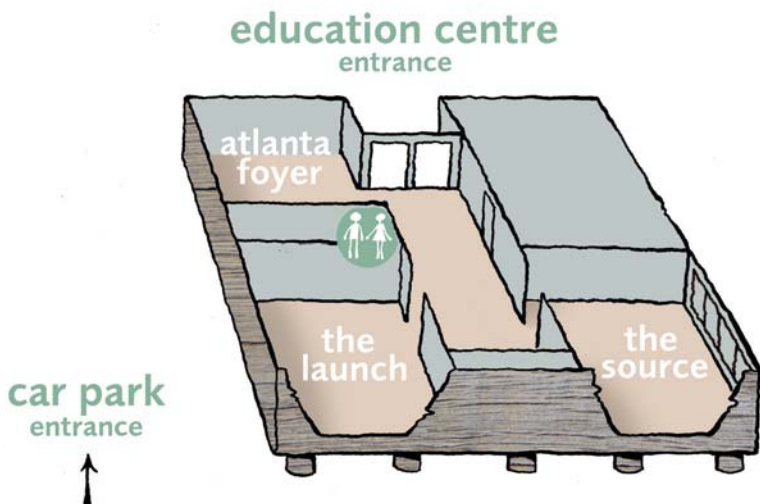
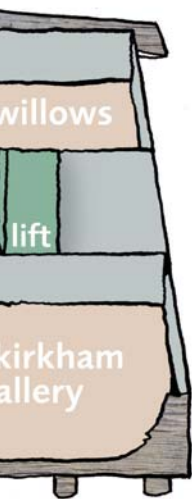
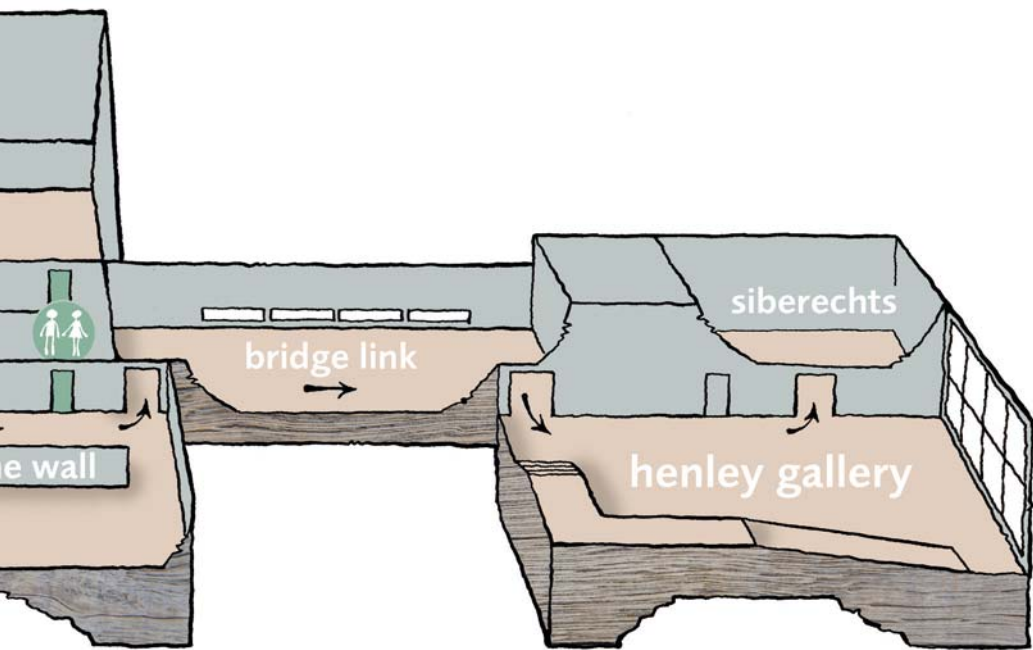
The **terrace café** is the perfect place to unwind, offering a fantastic selection of hot and cold dishes, childrens' lunches, great coffee or our delicious cream tea, the perfect summer treat!

first floor



ground floor





Wind in the Willows

The much loved book *The Wind in the Willows* is brought to life with 3D models, theatrical lighting and music. Walk through the story with an audio guide that tells you the tale of Mr Toad and friends, from Mole spring cleaning to the battle for Toad Hall.




'There is nothing - absolutely nothing - half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats.'

Kenneth Grahame



Things to do...

- Enjoy the story with the free audio guide 
- Borrow a torch to light your way through the dark woods



- Make a cup of tea in Mr Toad's caravan
- Count the birds on the telegraph wire over the river

Don't miss...

- Ratty, Toad and Badger having a picnic by the river
- Mr Badger snoring by the fire
- Mr Toad in prison - can you see what he dresses as to escape?
- Don't forget to press the button to watch the Weasels take over Toad Hall!



Did you know?

- Wind in the Willows was published in 1908 by Kenneth Grahame, after writing bedtime stories for his son
- Mapledurham House in Berkshire is believed to be the inspiration for Toad Hall
- The famous illustrations are by E H Shepard



Schwarzenbach International Rowing Gallery

See boats of all shapes and sizes suspended from the ceiling in this awe-inspiring space. Experience the history of rowing from the ancient Greeks to the modern Olympic Games.



Things to do...

- Have a go on Row Together
- Take your seat in a Greek Trireme
- Try out your technique on our indoor rower
- Check out the size of Sir Matthew Pinsent's shoes in the 2000 Olympic boat!



'Remember these six minutes for the rest of your lives. Listen to the crowd and take it all in. This is the stuff of dreams.'

Sir Steve Redgrave





Don't miss...

- Our 1948 Olympic Torch and 1908 Gold Medal
- The film on the big screen, the 'Power & the Glory'
- The boat that won the first Boat Race and the film of the most recent Oxford versus Cambridge race
- The story of rowing in the Olympic Games
- The exciting story of Extreme Rowing, with video footage of some extraordinary races



Did you know?

- The first Oxford/Cambridge Boat Race took place in Henley in 1829
- Rowing was included in the first modern Olympics in Athens in 1896, but no rowing took place because of bad weather!



- In 1914 the boat tents at Henley Royal Regatta were guarded for fear of attack by the Suffragettes
- The present Henley Royal Regatta course was introduced in 1924 and is

1 mile 550 yards long

- The longest running rowing race in the world is the Doggett's Coat and Badge, started in 1715 and we have the scarlet coat of Wag Harding the winner in 1886



River Gallery

Over the next few years, the River Gallery is undergoing a major redevelopment project with new displays and objects being added all the time. Discover the story of Britain's greatest river from prehistoric times to the present day.



Things to do...

- Look out of the window to see 'Ratty's Refuge' wildlife garden
- Find out how much water you use daily in our 'Water on Tap' interactive
- Do some plumbing by putting together a drain pipe
- Learn about which bugs live in the river
- Put together a food web and see who eats who!

'The Thames is no ordinary waterway, it is the golden thread of our nation's history.'

Winston Churchill



Don't miss...

- The new hands on Life area – discover more about the animals, birds and bugs that live in, on and by the river
- Learn about the royal tradition of Swan Upping
- Log Boats – discover how our ancestors used the river as a super highway to trade goods and move from place to place



- The Wall – our community exhibition space, always something new and exciting to see

Is it a kite... or is it a buzzard?

Kites and buzzards are the largest birds of prey in the Thames Valley. It is not always easy to tell them apart. Here are some spotter's tips.

Buzzard

Buteo buteo

Fan-shaped tail

Wings get narrower towards tips

Flies in wide circles



Red kite

Haliaeetus milvus

Distinctive forked tail

Dark feathers at wingtips look like fingers

Twists and turns in flight

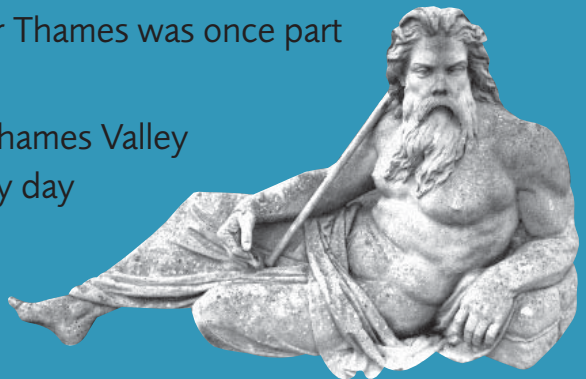


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Did you know?

- Eels can wriggle across land and swim in rivers. They can also swim backwards as well as forwards!
- In prehistoric times the River Thames was once part of the Rhine
- The average person in the Thames Valley uses 150 litres of water every day
- Tanya Roseberg was the first woman lock keeper on the River Thames, in 1998



Invesco Perpetual Henley Gallery



Learn about the history of Henley since 1150, see our beautiful steam launch 'Eva' and exhibits on Henley's historic buildings and local companies. On the bridge link, marvel at John Piper's 1959 mural 'Landscape of the Two Seasons'



Things to do...

- Dress up in Victorian costume for a day out at Henley Royal Regatta
- Pull out drawers to find out more about some of Henley's earlier residents
- Listen to extracts from Mr Bulstrode Whitelocke's diary to discover the impact that the Civil War had on the town
- Watch the amazing footage of Henley from 100 years ago



Don't miss...

- Siberecht's 'Henley from the Wargrave Road', 1698
- Eva, the first Umpire launch for the Regatta, built on the Thames in 1876
- Unique Iron age hoard of gold coins discovered near Henley after 2000 years
- The Pike's head, prehistoric creatures that still inhabit the Thames!



*'O, Come down to Henley, for London is horrid;
There's no peace or quiet to sunset from dawn.
The Row is a bore, and the Park is too torrid,
So come down and lounge on the "Red Lion" lawn!'*

Extract from 'Henley in July' by J. Ashby-Sterry 1886

Did you know?

- Trees from Henley were used to re-build London after the Great Fire in 1666
- Lead crystal glass was pioneered in Henley during the 17th Century using locally sourced flint
- Rudolph Hess, Hitler's deputy, was held and interrogated at Huntercombe during World War II



Opening Times

The Museum, terrace café and shop are open daily

Summer (1 May to 31 August) 10am - 5.30pm

Winter (1 September to 30 April) 10am - 5pm

Closed Christmas Eve/Day, Boxing Day and
New Year's Eve/Day

Tickets give FREE admission for a whole year*

*Free re-entry applies when you buy a standard admission ticket and not tickets for lectures, workshops etc.



The River & Rowing Museum is an independent Museum and a registered charity.
Thank you for your support.

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River & Rowing Museum Foundation

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