

The Brunel Museum

Setting

The museum is set in attractive landscaped grounds on three levels, circling Brunel's original shaft, and overlooks a quiet and pretty section of the river. Large double doors open onto a cobbled drive, enclosed lawn and garden, and the main entrance and café onto a paved terrace overlooking the river. With these fine weather spaces and a private roof garden above the Grand Entrance Hall, we can comfortably accommodate two hundred guests. A Scheduled Ancient Monument and International Landmark Site, the Museum sits amongst converted warehouses & listed buildings in the St Marychurch Conservation Area. The Museum has featured in films and TV programmes.



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The Engine House

A converted industrial building, comprising one large space divided into Upper Gallery, Lower Gallery and mezzanine. For a function or buffet on all levels, the Museum can comfortably accommodate a hundred people; for a meeting or function in the Lower Gallery, sixty people seated. For larger groups, a marquee is available to double the space on the ground floor or open onto the garden.

The Brunel Museum: Group Visits and Private Events

The Upper Gallery has electro-luminescent panels in each recess, and these tell the Brunel story. There are also watercolours, prints, statues, peepshows and technical models, and a display of souvenir items from 160 years ago. The eaves are dramatically lit.



The Upper Gallery

The Mezzanine leads to the riverside café and Museum shop, stocking a wide range of souvenir items, prints and books.

The Lower Gallery has an exhibition about Brunel's last ship the Great Eastern, launched a few hundred yards down the river at Millwall.



The Lower Gallery: wedding reception

The Grand Entrance Hall

We have re-opened a huge secret chamber. This underground space is half the size of Shakespeare's Globe, but has lain hidden and inaccessible for a hundred and fifty years. We are fitting out a gallery and performance space, so in the meantime entry is by low doorway and temporary staircase. Intrepid bookers should ask for more details...

The Brunel Museum: Group Visits and Private Events

Facilities

The Museum is heated and is a pleasant space for meetings or receptions. TV, DVD player, a projector for PowerPoint presentations and a screen.

Catering

The café serves light lunch and drinks & refreshments through the day. For the evening a modern well-equipped kitchen has everything an outside catering company needs. In the past the Museum has successfully worked with Moving Venue and other companies to provide high quality buffet meals for many events.

Guests may prefer to eat in the restaurant of The Mayflower, across the road from the museum. The upper room overlooks the river, and it was here in 1834 that Marc Brunel celebrated his 65th birthday with the Fellows of the Royal Society. The Fellows toasted Brunel's health, founded The Tunnel Club and vowed to meet there every year to drink his health. A plaque marks the spot and the tradition is still upheld.

Tours

Steeped in history, Rotherhithe was an East India Company Town long before it was a crossing point. The Tunnel was designed to move ships' cargo and a guided walk along the cobbled streets and atmospheric wharves reveals an older maritime Rotherhithe. From these jetties the Pilgrim Fathers left for the New World on the Mayflower and Turner painted The Fighting Temeraire.

For intrepid visitors, there are tours of the Grand Entrance Hall, inaccessible for 145 years but now re-opened. Half the size of Shakespeare's Globe but hidden underground, the chamber can only be reached by narrow doorway and temporary staircase.



The Grand Entrance Hall

The Brunel Museum: Group Visits and Private Events

The Museum is just a hundred paces from the railway station. By special arrangement with TfL, we offer Guided Train Tours through the Thames Tunnel. Your guide will point out the columns and Doric capitals of the world's first underwater shopping arcade, fairground and banquet hall...

Entertainment

Courtesy of the Education Department, the Museum can arrange for your event to be hosted by one of the actors from the schools programme. Isambard Kingdom Brunel himself could welcome your guests!

This successful dramatic re-creation has proved popular at many functions at the Science Museum, Transport Museum, Royal Institution and the opening of railway stations.

He also gives after dinner speeches. Alternatively, your guests could be entertained by a Victorian miner from the original works...



Mr Brunel

How to Find us

The Museum is easily accessible via Canada Water on the Jubilee Line and Rotherhithe station on the London Overground. We are two minutes from the Rotherhithe Road Tunnel and ten minutes from Tower Bridge by road.

To discuss your event ...

Contact the Museum director, Robert Hulse

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