

Victoria and Albert Museum

About the Museum and its Collection

V&A Museum

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With a permanent collection that tops four million pieces, the Victoria and Albert Museum is the largest decorative arts museum in the world. It's also one of London's most interesting and diverse museums.



Entrance Hall, Victoria & Albert Museum

Founded in 1852 and opened at its current location in 1857, this amazing museum boasts three thousand years worth of artifacts from the world's richest cultures. The collection includes everything from paintings and photographs to jewelry, ceramics, and textiles.



Cast Court, V&A Museum

The museum's British Galleries are especially impressive and house the most comprehensive collection of British design and art anywhere, spanning four centuries, from 1500 to 1900. Visitors can also explore the four-thousand-year history of glass, browse through myriad examples of post-classical European sculpture, view a photography collection that began back in 1852, and wander through rooms full of childhood treasures, including dolls, toy cars, games, and costumes



Neptune and Triton (Bernini), V&A Museum

The museum's collection is so diverse it is difficult to pinpoint the highlights. At the end of the nineteenth century, when most people weren't fortunate enough to travel around the continent, casts were a popular way of showing famous foreign monuments to the people. Among others, there are casts of Trajan's column in Rome, the Portico de la Gloria from the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Spain as well as a plaster replica of Michelangelo's David sculpture.



An impressive collection of East Asian decorative arts

The V&A also has an impressive collection of East Asian decorative arts, a fashion and jewelry exhibit that ranges from the seventeenth century until today, an impressive metalwork display, and more than fourteen thousand pieces of furniture from Britain, Continental Europe and America that date from the Middle Ages to the present day.



Galleries

The museum has now decided to expand underground with a gallery designed by Amanda Levete Architects. A few galleries were redesigned in the 1990s, and in 2001, the museum released the details of what they dubbed "Future Plan". To date, many galleries have already been redesigned and work continues with the help of many well-known architects and designers. The museum also opened two new galleries in 2009: one displays ceramics and another houses an extensive collection of Medieval and Renaissance artifacts.



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