



The Natural History Museum, an English gem...

Located in Kensington's district in London, the Natural History museum holds one of the biggest science collections in the whole world! Indeed, this museum displays the notorious James Cook and Charles Darwin's collection. If you go inside this beautiful old building, you will not only see a few dinosaur skeletons and strange animals, but you will also immerse yourself in an amazing world full of science and you will end up with stars in your eyes !

A bit of history...

The original collection of the museum was that of Sir Hans Sloane's. His collections in 1766 included plants, animals and human skeletons. All that was originally stocked in the Montagu House (which was the home of the British museum). But in 1850, the palaeontologist Mr Richard Owen saw that the Natural History Department needed more space. After this, people described the museum as : « By making the Natural History Museum an institution for every-one, Owen transformed our expectations of what museums are for ». And it's in 1864 that the museum became this « institution for every-one » with a competition to design the new museum and his new architector, that we know today...

A unique architecture

Finally it's Francis Fowke who had won the competition and in 1873 the construction of the Natural History Museum started. But it took quite some time, until 1880 ! And in 1881 the museum opened its doors, nevertheless the opening persisted until 1883. Nowadays, guided tours start in the beautiful Hall (Hintze Hall) which is at the heart of the museum and allows access to other galleries.

And please, when you walk on our planet : the inside this gallery allow yourself to have a look at the tiles and bricks which feature many relief sculptures of flora and fauna, with living and extinct species...

An giant collection

The London's Natural History museum counts 70 million specimens ! These 70 million specimens are divided into five main collections : Zoology, Entomology, Paleontology, Mineralogy and Botany. The British colonial empire has largely contributed to the collection and naturalization of rare or distant specimens. The different exhibition galleries of the collections make it possible to exhibit these rare species and minerals as well as extinct species ; also, in the entomology's part, it is possible to find a large exposition on the human body's power. So if you are in love with science, the Natural London history is for you ! Indeed, this enormous building is where you can find anything that you want about earth sciences !

Museum's goals and visitor's opinions

The purpose of the museum is to show to the public the wealth and the diversity of life sciences and mineral's

on Earth. Of course with a collection of 70 million specimens, only a small part is displayed : some impressive pieces are represented like the diplodocus skeleton and the mastodon skeleton or the big mammals gallery. So the visitors can already bury themselves in this awesome world ! Actually, most of the visitors find the museum excellent but also giant and varied, and this is the power of the gallery ! Finally, the objective of the museum is also to favour the scientists research by the provision of the collections of Darwin Center, a part of the museum. In fact, the building is a fantastic house for scientists as well as for visitors !

Salomé Lafolie and Margaux Zorcie

When you go inside the museum, the first thing you see is this monumental blue whale skeleton.



Opening times:

=>Open Monday to Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5.50 p.m.
=>Night-time the last Friday of the month until 10.30 p.m.

+ The small journalist's message :

London's Natural History Museum is one of the most remarkable, gigantic and interesting places that we ever visited. It's a splendid area and its collections are just marvelous. We immersed ourselves in the heart of the earth...

Price : free !