



Digital guide

Download our digital guide on Bloomberg Connects, the free arts and culture app, to unlock exclusive content to support your visit.

- Explore the famous and fascinating on display through our Meet the Portraits Audio Tour (running time 60 minutes).
- Hear from Nicholas Cullinan, the Gallery's Director, and discover interviews with artists and sitters featured in the Collection.
- Access exclusive content around our exhibitions.
- Listen to an audio described version of the Meet the Portraits tour on Bloomberg Connects or through our raised button players, available for free from the Information Desk on Floor 0, together with an associated hand-held tactile map.



The Meet the Portraits Tour is available in British Sign Language, and all audio in the digital guide is accompanied by a transcript.



The Highlights Tour is available in French, German, Italian and Spanish.



Découvrez les visages célèbres et les œuvres les plus appréciées de l'exposition grâce à notre visite guidée en français (durée: 60 minutes).



Entdecken Sie berühmten Gesichter und beliebte Werke auf unserer Highlights-Tour auf (dauer: 60 minuten)



Esplora i volti famosi e le opere più amate attraverso il tour "Incontra i Ritratti" in italiano (durata 60 minuti).



Explora caras famosas y las obras expuestas más queridas a través de nuestra visita guiada en español Conoce los Retratos. (durata 60 minuti).

Sign up to our enewsletter at npg.org.uk to make sure you don't miss out on any new announcements

The Bloomberg Connects digital guide is supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies.

Scan the QR code to download the app:



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Please remember:



You can take flash-free photos throughout the galleries.



CCTV and Body Worn Cameras are in operation.



We do not permit the smoking of cigarettes and e-cigarettes.



Please do not consume food or drink in the galleries.

Your visit

Our portraits are arranged chronologically starting with the Tudors on Floor 3 and ending with the newest additions to the contemporary collection on Floor 0. A good way to start your visit is to take the lifts or escalator up to the beginning of the Collection.



Under 30 Mins

- Visit the History Makers Gallery on Floor 0 and see the people shaping the nation today.



30 Mins

- View a Gallery display – we have a varied programme of temporary displays. Pick up the free What's On guide to find out more.
- Have a drink in the Audrey Green Café (Floor -1) and pick up a souvenir from one of our Shops.
- Enjoy a free Portrait of the Day talk.

Don't miss our Portrait of the Day talks happening every day at 12.30

Access

We are committed to making the Gallery accessible and inclusive to all.

Tel: +44 (0)20 7306 0055 (lines open 10.00 – 18.00)
Text Relay Calls: 18001 020 7306 0055
Email: info@npg.org.uk

Pick up an access guide from the ticket desk on Floor 0 to find out more about our access provisions.



1 Hour

- Concentrate on a particular period of history. Use this map to find the relevant galleries.
- See a temporary exhibition. Visit the Information Desk in the Ondaatje Wing Main Hall to find out whats on.
- Download the free Bloomberg Connects app and take a highlights tour through the Collection.
- Grab a drink in the Café Bar (Floor -3).



2 Hours +

- Explore the whole Gallery from the Tudors to today.
- Explore our in-gallery digital interactives and films.
- Pick up a What's On or visit the website to find out about our events programme which ranges from family activities to specialist workshops.
- Dine in the roof-top Portrait Restaurant.
- Browse the shop for something special.



John Barry, O Kelly, Sonny and Richard Moore by Michael Armitage, 2022, in The National Lottery Heritage Fund Gallery. Photo by © Isy & Leigh Anderson

Audrey Green Café

Opening at 8am before the Gallery, the ground floor Café has its own street-level entrance and offers a range of hot and cold drinks, including specialty coffee, as well as delicious light lunches, snacks and cakes.

Floor -1

Café Bar

Open during the day for brunch, lunch and tea, at night, the space transforms into a bar, open late into the evening with cocktails and small plates, accessible via a 'hidden' entrance off St Martin's Place.

Floor -3

Portrait Restaurant by Richard Corrigan

The Portrait Restaurant returns led by acclaimed chef, restaurateur and star of BBC's Great British Menu, Richard Corrigan. With a menu focused on the finest British produce, the space boasts stunning panoramic views of London's skyline. Opens 5 July 2023.

Floor 4

Cloakrooms

Coats, umbrellas and bags or suitcases smaller than 56×25×45cm can be deposited in the cloakroom. Coats and small bags £2.50, cabin sized bags and suitcases £5. Folding bikes, adult scooters and other oversized objects are not accepted due to space limitations and to help protect the Collection are not permitted in the Gallery.

Floor 0

Membership

Experience a year of free, unlimited access to our exhibitions, exclusive Members events and 10% savings in our shops and restaurant and much more. Starting from just £5.50 a month.

Getting here

National Portrait Gallery
St Martin's Place
London, WC2H 0HE
📍 Leicester Square

Opening hours

Sunday – Thursday:
10.30 – 18.00
Friday – Saturday:
10.30 – 21.00

Contact us:

Online: npg.org.uk
Over the phone: +44 (0)20 7306 0055 (lines open 10.00 – 18.00)
Text Relay Calls: 18001 020 7306 0055
Email: info@npg.org.uk
In person: Visit the Gallery Ticket Desk

Group visits

Enjoy Collection and bespoke tours, exhibition lectures and exclusive group discounts.

Keep in touch

Register at npg.org.uk for the Gallery's free enewsletter and follow us on socials.



#NationalPortraitGallery

All images © National Portrait Gallery, London unless otherwise stated

Cover Image: Sir Anthony van Dyck by Sir Anthony van Dyck, circa 1640, Photo: Dave Parry



Elizabeth I (detail), c.1600

Elizabeth I by unknown English artist

Our Tudor portraits depict some of the most memorable figures in British history. This painting shows the Queen in her Coronation robes, holding the orb and sceptre of state. Tree-ring dating suggests it was made decades after her 1559 Coronation, and may have marked an anniversary.

Floor 3, Room 1

William Shakespeare, associated with John Taylor
Our 17th century collection depicts many people who defined their times, such as the most celebrated English playwright and poet, William Shakespeare. This portrait was the Gallery's first acquisition, in 1856. It's the definitive portrait of the Bard; with a good claim to have been painted from life, and a source for many depictions since.

Floor 3, Room 3



William Shakespeare (detail), associated with John Taylor, c.1610



Mai (Omai) (detail) by Sir Joshua Reynolds, c.1776

Portrait of Mai by Sir Joshua Reynolds
Our 18th century paintings offer a window into British history and its most fascinating characters, pre-photography. This is one of Sir Joshua Reynolds' most acclaimed portraits, of Mai (Omai) – a Polynesian who came to the UK with Captain James Cook and was painted during his unprecedented visit.

Floor 3, Room 18

Mary Seacole by Albert Challen
Our portraits from the Victorian era - when photography revolutionised portraiture - feature people whose lives were shaped by rapid change. Mary Seacole, a nurse born in Jamaica, won medals in the Crimean war, and went on to become a self-made businesswoman and pioneer of her age.

Floor 2, Room 21



Mary Seacole (detail) by Albert Challen, c.1869



Lucian Freud (detail) by Lucian Freud, 1963 © The Lucian Freud Archive / Bridgeman Images

Lucian Freud by Lucian Freud
Our 20th century collection features artists who expanded the possibilities of portraiture. This self-portrait is in the broadly painted, expressive style which came to define Lucian Freud's work. While Freud's gaze is direct, his features are abstracted; suggested in painterly swathes of flesh colour.

Floor 2, Room 26

Malala Yousafzai by Shirin Neshat
Our contemporary galleries highlight people who are making an impact today. This photograph of the human rights activist Malala Yousafzai is by Iranian-born artist Shirin Neshat, and is hand-inscribed with a poem by the Pashto poet Rahmat Shah Sayel from Peshawar.

Floor 1, Room 30



Malala Yousafzai (detail) by Shirin Neshat, 2018

4

Restaurant (Borthwick Room)
Toilets

3

DUVEEN WING • ONDAATJE WING
1300 – 1850
Tudors 1–2
Uniting Kingdoms: Creating a Nation 3
Civil War 4–6
Politics & Culture 7–9
Global Britain 10–11
Regency, Romantics & Reform 12–18

2

BLAVATNIK WING • DUVEEN WING • ONDAATJE WING
1850 – 2000
Victorians 20–23
Towards the Second World War 25–27
Making the Modern World 28
Exhibition:
– Yevonde: Life and Colour:
22 June – 15 October 2023
– Taylor Wessing Photo Portrait Prize 2023:
9 November 2023 – 25 February 2024
Shop

1

WESTON WING
2000 – Today
Reframing Women & Self-Portraiture 29
Contemporary 30–32

0

DUVEEN WING • ONDAATJE WING
History Makers 33
Exhibition:
– Paul McCartney Photographs 1963-64: Eyes of the Storm:
28 June – 1 October 2023
– David Hockney: Drawing from Life:
2 November 2023 – 21 January 2024
Ondaatje Wing Main Hall
Shop
Cloakroom

-1

WESTON WING
Café

-2

ONDAATJE WING • THE MILDRED AND SIMON PALLEY LEARNING CENTRE
Ondaatje Wing Theatre
Law Photography Studio (Learning Centre)
Toilets

-3

WESTON WING • THE MILDRED AND SIMON PALLEY LEARNING CENTRE
Café Bar
Toilets
Clore Studio (Learning Centre)
Art Studio (Learning Centre)
Spotlight Space:
– Hold Still:
22 June – 6 August 2023
– The Nation's Family Album:
10 August – 10 September 2023
Mildred Garden

