

EGYPT CENTRE ACCESS STATEMENT

Introduction

This access statement is intended to provide additional information for visitors. It was produced in May 2018 and revised in October 2018.

The Egypt Centre is a holder of Visit Britain's Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Scheme Award, a consumer focused quality assessment service for all types of visitor attractions. The Centre also states in its Forward Plan, agreed by Senate in 2013, that one of its 3 core aims is widening participation. This includes eliminating barriers to its services. Barriers may be physical, sensory, intellectual, cultural, attitudinal or financial:

- Physical – We strive to enable people with physical disabilities to reach and appreciate every part of the museum service.
- Sensory – We strive to enable visitors with impaired vision or hearing to enjoy the Museum's services. We have a special handling display for all visitors, we can arrange special activities and our volunteers are available to help
- Intellectual – We recognise that people have different learning styles and provide interpretation in a range of learning styles from which you can choose (hands-on activities, quizzes, games, engagement with our staff, family learning and written information at different levels). We aim to ensure people with learning difficulties as well as those who are intellectually gifted can engage with and enjoy the museums and the collections.
- Cultural – We strive to consider the needs of people for whom English or Welsh is not a first language and for those who may not be familiar with British culture (limited information is available in Spanish, German and French; given notice, we will try to ensure that staff speaking your language are available to help; front of house staff all have diversity training, and we can arrange special activities or openings on request).
- Attitudinal / Emotional – We strive to ensure the museum environment and museum staff are welcoming to visitors from all sections of the community.
- Financial – We strive to ensure that enjoying the museum is not caused by lack of finance (admission is free, and charges for special activities are free, or kept as low as possible, our separate volunteering policy explains how we try to break down financial barriers to volunteering).

If you have any needs at all which you feel might hinder your enjoyment of the Centre, please contact us in advance and we will try to help.

Egypt Centre is situated on Swansea University's Singleton Campus and is part of the Taliesin Arts Centre (which has its own programme of exhibitions, films and performances (see www.taliesinartscentre.co.uk). The Egypt Centre is a small but lively museum of Egyptian antiquities.

Admission is free, though a small charge may be made for special, pre-booked activities. Where a charge is levied it is clearly stated on promotional material and within the Museum. We strive to ensure that costs are kept as low as possible.

Our Mission is: to collect, interpret and care for Egyptian archaeological material and related documentation for the education and entertainment of the University and the wider public now and in the future.

Location

- Address: The Egypt Centre, Swansea University, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP
Telephone: +44 (0)1792 295960
- Email: c.a.graves-brown@swansea.ac.uk
- Website: www.egypt.swansea.ac.uk
- Minicom: Not available
- National Grid Reference is SS 63082 92001
- Reference for Satellite Navigation is 51°36'34.83"N, long 3°58'53.52"W

Getting to us by bus

It may be easiest to visit us by bus as several buses drop off on campus, not far from the Centre. Visit us by bus

Bus numbers 2A, 3A, 4, 4A, 8, 14, 41 and 42 serve the University from the city centre Quadrant bus station. In addition, bus numbers 2, 2B and 3 stop on the Mumbles Road near to the University.

For further information on the local bus services and to plan your journey, visit <http://www.firstgroup.com/ukbus/wales/swwales/home/index.php>

You can also visit www.traveline.cymru for all public transport information in the area including train travel.

Getting to us by rail

Swansea is served by mainline services to London, Paddington. There are also links with Carmarthen and West Wales and station in Mid Wales via the Heart of Wales line.

From the railway station you can either take a taxi, walk to the Centre, or get a bus (buses leave from the Quadrant Bus Station which is about 10 minutes walk from the railway station)

Getting to us by foot from Swansea Town Centre

The Campus is about 40 minutes walking distance from the Town Centre. As you walk along the seafront, the Campus is on your right.

Taxis

Phone numbers for Swansea taxis:

http://www.south-wales.info/index.php?page=Swansea_Taxis

Taxis drop off outside Fulton House (see campus map:

<http://www.egypt.swansea.ac.uk/images/stories/map.pdf>)

Getting to us by car

From outside Swansea, exit the M4 at junction 42 and follow the signs to Swansea City Centre. From inside Swansea, follow the Oystermouth Road (the seafront road) in the direction of the Gower and the Mumbles. The Museum is located on the Singleton University campus on Oystermouth Road. If you are travelling out of Swansea, with the seafront to your left, the campus is the right-hand turning immediately after a large metal footpath spanning the road and immediately before that to Singleton Hospital. For satellite navigation purposes use the post code SA2 8PP. Arrival & Car Parking Facilities on Campus

- At the campus there is a gate with barriers. You will be allowed in to visit the Centre, though may be redirected if there are no carparking spaces available on campus.
- It is often difficult to park on the campus. Able bodied people may book in advance and use the pay and display car park at the entrance to the campus (it is signed as a visitor carpark) and when this is full can either pay to use the Pub on the Pond carpark or the carpark at the Recreation ground on Oystermouth Road. Both are about 10 minutes walk from the Egypt Centre. This is slightly uphill.
- Visitors with Disability Badges may park in any campus parking spaces (please see below for further information for visitors with disabilities).
- There is a drop off point outside Fulton House (the main University Building) for any visitors not able or wanting to walk from a carpark.

Getting to us by bicycle

The Promenade Cycle Path runs along the seafront in front of the University campus. Take the Promenade cycle track out of Swansea until you reach a large metal footbridge spanning the adjacent dual carriageway. The University entrance is clearly visible and signposted to your right. We estimate that the journey will take approximately twenty minutes from the railway station.

There are bicycle racks on campus but bicycles are left at owner's risk.

Coach parking

Unfortunately there is no coach parking on campus. However coaches may drop off outside Fulton House. Coach drivers can then park in the council run car park at the leisure centre it's called the LC2 car park and is a pay and display car park.

Here is the link for information: <http://www.thelcswansea.com/find-us>

Finding Us on the Campus

The museum is not well signposted on campus. You are advised to bring a campus map (downloadable from <http://www.egypt.swansea.ac.uk/images/stories/map.pdf>)

or ask directions. The Egypt Centre's main entrance is opposite that of the main University library. Students should be able to direct you to the main library. We are also an extension of the Taliesin building and students may know directions to that building.

Additional Information for Disabled Visitors

- Assistance dogs (guide dogs and hearing dogs) are welcome throughout the campus. Water can be provided on request at the Museum and dogs and owners might enjoy exercise in Singleton park (2 minutes walk from the Museum)
- Information is available in large print on request
- Within the Museum there is a lift to the upper floor
- If you feel you need assistance please let us know, preferably in advance. We will offer support where we can.
- Holders of Disabled Badges may park in any parking spaces on the campus, but please note that often no disabled parking is available near the building.

Within the Museum- General Access Information

- A modern purpose built two story extension to the Taliesin Arts Centre contains the foyer, shop, office and two galleries. Toilets and a café are usually available in the main Taliesin building.
- Access to the ground floor exhibition gallery is by means of a short ramp or steps and automatic doors, or via the Taliesin Arts Centre and through double swing doors.
- Access to the first floor gallery is either via the Taliesin Arts Centre, or a lift from the first floor. In both instances there are sets of double swing doors. The lift has an emergency alarm. The sliding door to the lift (operated by a push-button) is 79cm wide, and the lift measures 139x111cm.
- The Taliesin Arts Centre can be accessed either via a ramp or steps.
- Flooring throughout the Museum is vinyl.
- Seating is provided in the galleries.
- Wheelchair access to both galleries and displays therein is available
- Lighting within the galleries is low to protect objects, though torches are available.
- The environment is maintained by a zoned environmental system which aims to keep temperature below 23 degrees Celsius and relative humidity below 55% .
- A recorded Closed Circuit Television System (CCTV) operates throughout the building.
- In order to make the Museum experience enjoyable for all we ask that visitors with children ensure that the children are kept safe and do not spoil the experience for others
- Photography is allowed, but please, no flash.
- Noise levels vary, depending on whether or not we have a group of young people visiting.
- If you wish to visit at quieter times, school parties tend to leave by 2.30.
- Staff are there to help. We will do our best to anticipate your needs but if you feel you need further assistance please ask.
- Signage is available in English and Welsh
- Some information sheets are available in languages other than English and Welsh
- Front of house staff all have customer care, diversity and disability awareness training and are on hand to help our visitors. Many staff also have special needs themselves. Please ask if you have any special needs for which you need help.
- Front of house staff do not wear uniforms but can be identified by lanyards with badges

Centre Main Entrance and Reception

- The main entrance doors to the ground floor are automatic sliding doors (1.2 metres wide)
- Immediately on entering there is door matting, flush with floor beyond which is the vinyl Foyer/Reception area
- There are no steps to negotiate on the ground floor
- Entry to Museum is free of charge unless you have booked a special activity
- The reception area is well lit
- The reception area is always staffed when the Museum is open to the public
- Reception staff have disability and diversity training

Shop

- Area in Foyer/Main Reception selling souvenirs, toys, jewellery, books, postcards and prints related to ancient Egypt
- We accept cash, cheques, credit & debit cards (Maestro, VISA, MasterCard)
- Shop staff are available to help
- The counter is 76cm high

Public Areas - Toilets (WCs)

- There is a male toilet (WC) on the first floor in the main Taliesin building. This is usually available
- There is a female toilet (WC), on the first floor in the main Taliesin building. This is usually available. A small step stool is available for children.
- There is one unisex accessible (Disabled) toilet (WC) on the first floor in the main Taliesin building with baby changing facilities. This is usually available
- Information on the disabled toilet: - the height of the toilet is 49cm - the toilet is positioned so that transfer on/off the toilet would be to the user's left - there is no adult changing table - the height of the washbasin is 70cm - the tap is a lever operated thermostatic mixer tap - the floor area is c. 150x200cm - there are grab rails to the right of the toilet - there is an emergency cord at the right of the toilet - access is available via a single leaf door which open outward and to the left Café
- Hot and cold beverages, light snacks, including some hot dishes are usually available for sale in the main Taliesin building

Café

- There are usually limited vegetarian options.
- Tables and upholstered chairs are situated in the café area.
- There may also be other catering outlets available on the University Campus, particularly during term time. There is less availability during holiday periods.

Public Areas - Outdoor Facilities

- There are areas of open grass on the campus which visitors may use. Seating, is however, very limited
- There is a park adjacent to the University grounds. It is only 2 minutes walk from the Egypt Centre.

Attractions within the Museum

- The Egypt Centre is adjacent to Singleton Park and is on the seafront, in a parkland setting
- A wide variety of ancient Egyptian artefacts are displayed including jewellery, textiles, coffin fragments, pottery and stonework.
- Artefacts are mainly exhibited in glass cabinets
- Laminated printed guides are available in both galleries.
- Object labels are designed for the non-Egyptologist with a reading age of 12
- We also have additional information next to cases for those who require more information. Some of this may require more specialist knowledge, but we hope some of it will interest you. You may ask our staff to explain.
- Our front of house staff are able to explain exhibits to those who might not otherwise be able to access information
- Some guides are available in braille (please ask in the reception area)
- Volunteers are usually available to help you enjoy the galleries. Please ask if you need assistance or further information.
- Family friendly displays
- Children's school holiday activities and family learning activities throughout the year
- Hands-on activities for all ages and abilities
- Guided tours and extra activities in the Museum available on advanced booking

Access to collections not on display

- Approximately one quarter of the collection is on display. The rest is held in our stores
- Any visitors may see those items not on display by appointment
- We do not charge to see the collections not on display
- We normally ask that visitors make an appointment to see any items not on display on a Monday as that is when we are closed to the public
- We will need to know which items you wish to see in advance as they will be brought out of the store and into the Museum for you. For this reason, numbers of items you can see during anyone visit may be restricted
- The catalogue with all objects is online on a searchable database at:
<http://www.egyptcentre.org.uk/>
- The catalogue can also be viewed in the Centre
- Front of House staff can help you search the database (though we advise that you let us know in advance so we can ensure that someone is there to help you)

Additional Information

- No smoking within 5 meters of University buildings
- All staff, including volunteers, attend Disability and Diversity awareness training
- First Aiders are available on campus

Hours of opening

Tuesday to Saturday 10am - 4pm (closed Sundays, Mondays and Bank Holidays) We are also closed over the Christmas Period (please phone or check our website for the exact days)

Nearby Restaurants and Accommodation

- The nearest restaurants are in Swansea, though there is a public House serving some snacks at the Pub on the Pond. The Pub on the Pond is 10 minutes walk
- Bed and Breakfast accommodation is available along Oystermouth Road and in other areas of Swansea.

Attractions Outside the Museum

- The Taliesin Arts Centre has programme of films, performances and exhibitions. For more information see: www.taliesinartscentre.co.uk
- For other attractions see: <http://visitswanseabay.com>