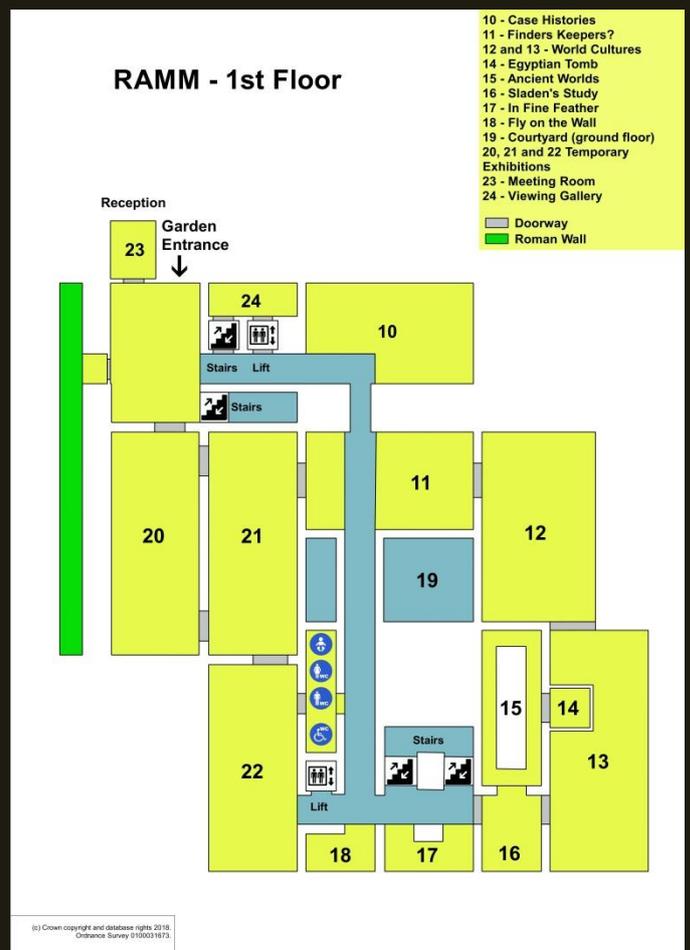
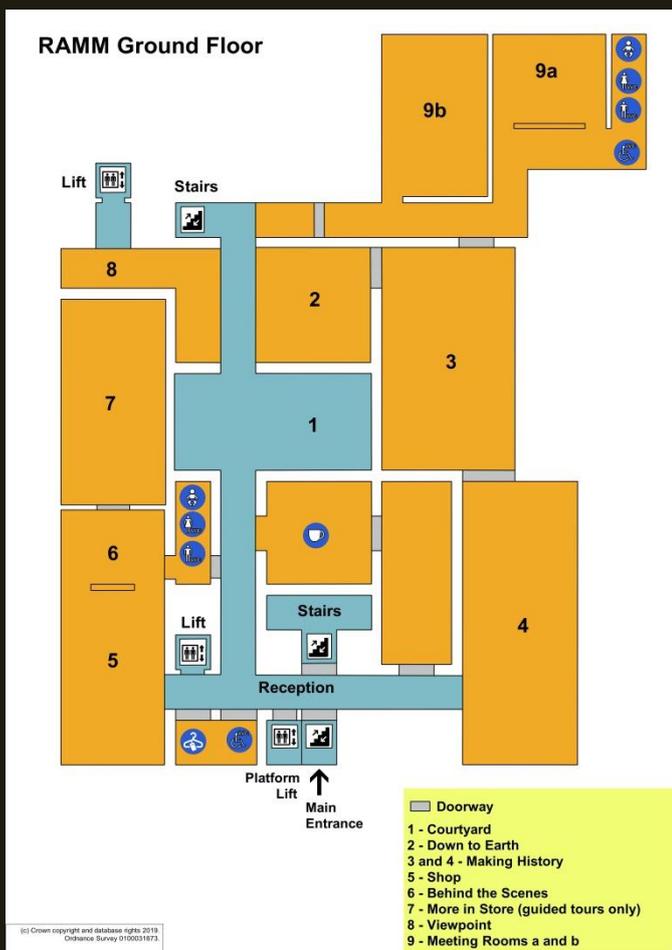


# rammm

► Home to a million thoughts

## Royal Albert Memorial Museum Large Print Guide



**Hello and welcome! This guide will help you navigate around the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM).**

**There are galleries, a play area, a café, a shop and more to explore at RAMM. You might even find yourself taking part in activities in our Courtyard.**

**RAMM is wheelchair accessible and there are benches throughout the galleries and public areas. There are also folding stools that visitors can collect from either the Queen Street Entrance or the Garden Entrance.**



**You can take any route that you like around RAMM.**

**Part 1 of this booklet will take you around the Ground Floor and Part 2 will take you around the First Floor.**



**There are accessible toilets on both floors.**



**There is free WiFi.**

**No dogs are allowed at RAMM, except for Assistance Dogs.**

**Please return this guide and map before you leave.**

**Thank you.**

# Ground Floor

On the Ground floor of RAMM you can:

- travel through the history of Exeter in our Making History galleries
- come Down to Earth to our geology collections
- tell us your Viewpoint
- find More in Store
- discover the cabinet of curiosities in our Courtyard
- eat and drink at our Café
- explore Behind the Scenes and shop – at our Shop!



You can take any route that you like around RAMM. This guide begins at the Queen Street Entrance.

**1– Courtyard:** an internal courtyard with displays and space for activities.

The Courtyard features a spectacular two-storey high display case about eight metres square. It features an unusual selection of diverse objects and specimens, reminiscent of the ‘wonder-cabinets’ of the Renaissance.

A bold statement runs across the bridge explaining that this case displays just 0.01 percent of RAMM’s collection!

## **2 – Down to Earth: RAMM’s geology gallery.**

**The story told here starts with a cascade of flint hand-axes, marking the change from human history to geological history. Down to Earth travels back to more than 4 hundred million years ago, where it finishes with the Devonian period. In between, the gallery displays the strengths of RAMM’s geology collection and uses an audio-visual presentation to bring dramatic geological events to life.**

## **3 and 4 – Making History: the largest gallery in RAMM.**

**Drawing on the archaeology, decorative art, costume and fine art collections, as well as physical and screen-based interactives, it delivers a coherent picture of Exeter and Devon through the ages.**

**It consists of two joined spaces:**

**The first space starts with the splendour of Exeter in its ‘Golden Age’ of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and takes you through the fragmentary remains of prehistoric Devon.**

**The second space starts a reflection on contemporary Devon and Exeter and concludes with 19<sup>th</sup> century craft and industry.**



**Located right at the heart of the museum, no visit is complete without a pit-stop in the café!**

**RAMM's Café has three entrances, including one from RAMM's Courtyard.**

### **Opening times**

**Tues - Sat: 10.00am to 4.30pm**

**Sunday: 10:30am to 4:30pm**

**Last orders: 4:15pm**

### **5 – Shop**



**From the Queen Street Entrance, turn left for the RAMM Shop located on the ground floor.**

**The ranges of items are directly inspired by RAMM's collections and exhibitions. Many items cannot be found elsewhere in Exeter.**

**The Artist Makers' cabinet showcases an eclectic range of work by top local makers as well as bringing in some of the best craft from around the country.**

**When you make a purchase at the Shop all profits go back into supporting RAMM.**

## **6 – Behind the Scenes**



**Located opposite an entrance to the Café and behind the counter of the Shop this gallery has the feel of a laboratory to tie in with the scientific / analytical subject matter, and encourages visitors to discover the work of conservators and curators.**

**Find out how the agents of decay if left unchecked, can damage Exeter's precious collections; investigate the power of X-rays and interrogate a collections database.**

## **7 – More in Store**

**More in Store is a working museum store which is open for visitors to view by appointment. Designed with this in mind, collection storage is organised to allow visitors to get up close to some of RAMM's best objects and specimens. These include pottery, glassware, skeletons and over 40 thousand exotic butterflies largely organised by Arthur Bertie Gay.**

## **8 – Viewpoint**

**Directly across from the Down to Earth gallery you will find cases in the wall displaying selected objects, including visitors' favourites and More in Store, RAMM'S on-site store, can be viewed from here through windows.**

**This area also features a wall for displaying visitor's comment cards and drawings to give RAMM feedback.**

 **Ground Floor Toilets**

**RAMM's ground floor unisex facilities can be accessed near the Queen Street entrance.**

**Each cubicle includes a self-contained toilet and hand washing facilities.**

# First Floor

On this floor you can explore and investigate:

- Case Histories of some of RAMM's iconic objects
- RAMM's collections in Finders Keepers
- World Cultures
- the Family Activity Area
- Sladen's Study
- Ancient Worlds

Once you have met the mummy, Shep-en-Mut, in the Egyptian Tomb you can:

- join the birds In Fine Feather
- be a Fly on the Wall in our bug room
- visit RAMM's Temporary Exhibition galleries
- and enjoy RAMM's art collection in the Art Gallery.

Last of all, climb the stairs to our viewing gallery to look down on Gerald the giraffe and access Exeter's Roman Wall.



You can take any route that you like around RAMM, but for this floor, this guide begins at the Garden Reception.

The numbers relate to the numbers on the A3 map.

**Start at the Garden Entrance to RAMM.**

## **10 – Case Histories**



**To get to the first gallery, turn left from the Garden Entrance.**

**This gallery includes a world map to illustrate the global nature of RAMM’s collections. The gallery showcases the diversity of the collections including the largest painting, the smallest carving and the oldest rock, and recounts the stories behind some of the most-loved specimens: the African bull elephant, a suspended whale and, of course, Gerald the giraffe.**

## **11 – Finders Keepers?**



**The next gallery, Finders Keepers, is over a short bridge and here you will meet some of the people behind Exeter’s world-class museum collections: Peel, Montague, Ross, Treadwin and Captain Cook to name a few.**

**The displays also consider the effects of opening-up the world to travellers. They question whether it’s for good, like opening-up our cultural horizons, or for bad, like habitat loss and extinction. How can museums collect responsibly in the modern world?**

## **12 – World Cultures part 1**



**Take the entrance on the left as you enter Finders Keepers?  
to go into the World Cultures galleries.**

**The green cases in the gallery celebrate the royal arts of West Africa. Kingship in this part of the world was often expressed through art and architecture. These royal arts often emphasised themes of power through the incorporation of rare and prestigious materials such as metals and ivory, even cloth. Kingship is defined in a variety of ways but includes military authority, legitimacy, social hierarchy and wealth. These four qualities are reflected in some of the items on display.**

**The purple cases are dedicated to the arts of the Asian continent. One long case contains:**

- 19th century export-ware ceramics from China and Japan**
- a contemporary example of Japanese lacquerware made by Suzuki Mutsumi**
- silver items from a Malay betel nut set**
- early textiles from Myanmar (formerly Burma)**
- a protective bone amulet from Sumatra written in Batak script.**

**The blue cases explore the Pacific with historic material from:**

- Samoa**
- Fiji**
- Tonga**

- Hawaii
- Easter Island
- and Tahiti (Society Islands)

They include items that were acquired from the voyages of the SS Mildura, Southern Cross and Curacoa. Also items directly linked to Captain Cook and Francis Godolphin Bond of the HMS Providence. Bond obtained some rare items on his naval journeys such as a Tahitian mourner's costume or heiva tupapa'u.

## 14 – World Cultures part 2



The second part of the World Cultures galleries leads to a crossroads, where visitors can choose their next direction.

The white backed cases explore the Americas including Aztec clay stamps, traditional clothing from Mexico and Guatemala, and a wonderful arch lute, or banjon, carved in the Mende tradition of Sierra Leone. This instrument was acquired from Cartagena, Colombia and donated to the museum in 1870! The display also includes ceramics from the north coast of Peru.

## 14 – Egyptian Tomb



RAMM's Egyptian Tomb is a small gallery leading from the Ancient Culture's gallery.

Here you can explore the importance of the afterlife to the people of ancient Egypt; it was a second life for living. This is the resting place of the mummy of Shep-en-Mut, where you can find her beautiful coffin and cartonnage. You can also discover why ancient Egyptians mummified the dead, through objects used in the mummification process and left with burials for the next life.

## 15 – Ancient Worlds



The Ancient Worlds Gallery is a mezzanine above the Café. This gallery also leads to RAMM's Egyptian Tomb.

The Ancient Worlds gallery displays objects from:

- Mesopotamia
- ancient Greece
- Cyprus
- Egypt
- the Roman Empire

This gallery is in two parts. On one side, explore the development of Western civilisation. Beginning with ancient Mesopotamian, travel through ancient Cyprus to Greece and Rome, finding some of the objects made and used by these people. End your journey in Devon and see how ideas from the classical world can be seen around us today.

**On the other side of the gallery you can explore daily life in ancient Egypt. Explore objects made by the earliest nomadic people, discover the beliefs and daily lives of people in Dynastic Egypt, and learn about the passion for exploring Egypt in the 18th and 19th centuries.**

**This gallery also has an interactive area where you can try on replica Greek and Roman soldiers' helmets, peep through spy holes into other worlds, or create your own stories using puppets and masks.**

## **16 – Sladen's Study**

**Sladen's Study remains unchanged since its installation in 1910. It displays Walter Percy Sladen's collection of echinoderms (starfish, sea urchins and their relatives).**

**Sladen's collection has attracted researchers from around the world because of its scientific importance. It is believed to be the largest and most comprehensive echinoderm collection outside of the Natural History Museum, London.**

## **17 – In Fine Feather**



**In Fine Feather has two entrances, each at the top of RAMM's main stairway.**

**There is a dazzling array of birds in this gallery – about 140 in the gallery’s single case, drawn from all over the world. Visitors are greeted by a dawn chorus. A birds’ database allows you to find out more information and you’ll have a chance to design your own bird and see if it lives or dies!**

## **18 – Fly on the Wall**



**This is a small gallery with only one entrance situated next to the In Fine Feather gallery.**

**Fly on the Wall has super-size insect graphics where dazzling specimens float in wall cases, while an interactive bench allows you to get even closer to the bugs.**

## **19 - Courtyard Bridge**



**Before heading into the temporary galleries, this guide takes a detour to look down at the Courtyard from the bridge.**

**The Courtyard features a spectacular two-storey high display case about eight metres square. It features an unusual selection of diverse objects and specimens, reminiscent of the ‘wonder-cabinets’ of the Renaissance.**

## **20, 21, 22 - Temporary Exhibitions and Art Gallery**

**RAMM has a suite of three modern galleries providing a busy programme of temporary exhibitions. This allows RAMM to bring prestigious loans and exhibitions from national partners to the South West - offering visitors something new on every visit.**

**Access to this Gallery may be restricted, depending on the temporary exhibition programme.**

## **22 – Art Gallery**



**There are three entrances into the Art Gallery. The narrowest exit leads you back to the Garden Reception.**

**RAMM's art collection is rich and varied. It consists of over 7 thousand items dating from the 1400s to the present day and includes:**

- **Paintings**
- **Prints**
- **Drawings**
- **Watercolours**
- **Miniatures**
- **sculptures**

**The collection includes donations from individuals, bequests and purchases. This display will be changed regularly to show a range of RAMM's artworks.**

## **24 - Viewing Gallery**

**The Viewing Gallery gives visitors access to the upper level of the Case Histories gallery.**

## **Roman Wall**

**A bridge leads to a section of Exeter's Roman wall.**

**The Roman City Wall forms the northwest boundary of RAMM's site and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, while the surrounding Northernhay and Rougemont Gardens are registered Grade II landscapes.**



### **First Floor Toilets**

**These are unisex facilities, located next to the Temporary Exhibition Galleries and accessed from the Courtyard Bridge corridor. Each cubicle includes a self-contained toilet and hand washing facilities.**

**An accessible toilet which includes baby changing facilities is situated opposite the non-accessible toilets.**