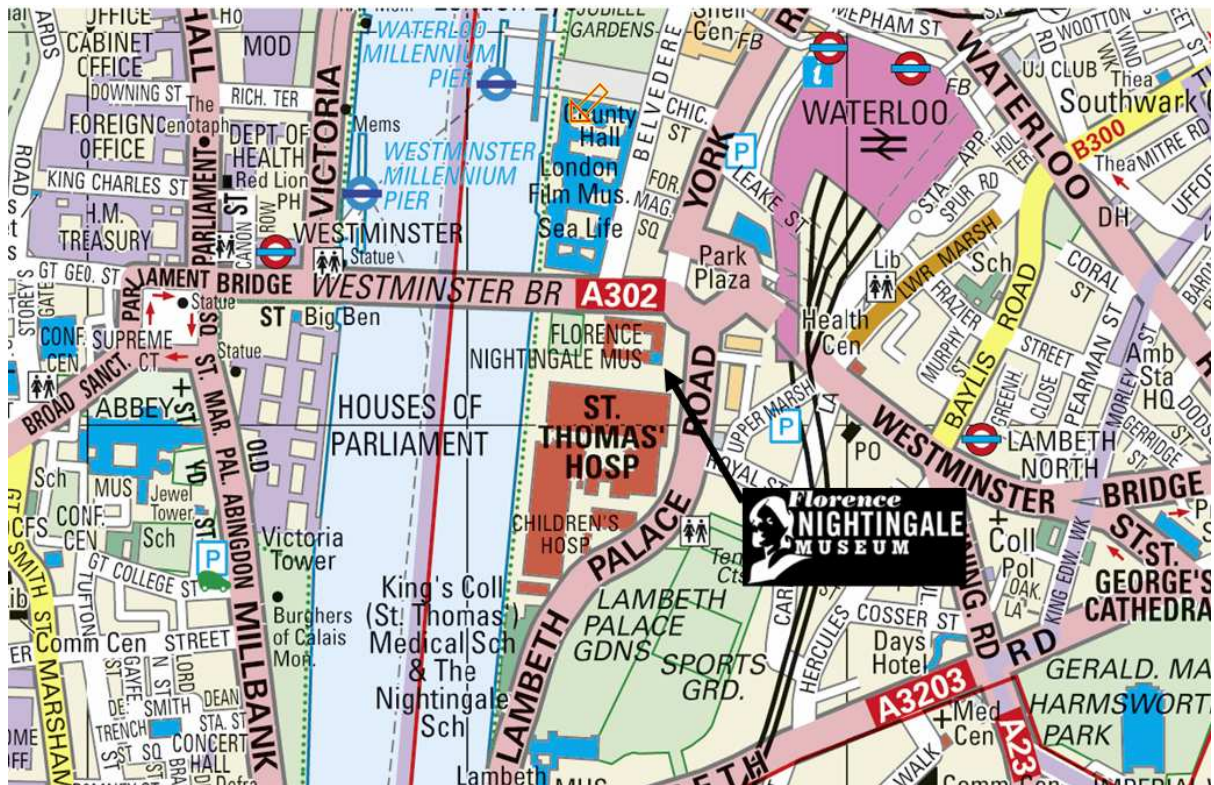




# Borough of Lambeth

## Florence Nightingale Museum





**Florence Nightingale** became a living legend as the 'Lady with the Lamp'. She led the nurses caring for thousands of soldiers during the Crimean War and helped save the British army from medical disaster.

This was just one of Florence's many achievements. She was also a visionary health reformer, a brilliant campaigner, the most influential woman in Victorian Britain and its Empire, second only to Queen Victoria herself.

At the start of Pope Benedict XVI visit to Britain in September 2010, he praised Florence's achievements in his Holyroodhouse speech. "We find many examples of this force for good throughout Britain's long history." "Inspired by faith, women like Florence Nightingale served the poor

and the sick and set new standards in healthcare that were subsequently copied everywhere." When she died in 1910, aged 90, she was famous around the world. But who was the real Florence Nightingale?

Florence Nightingale was born in Italy on 12th May 1820. Despite opposition from her family she decided to devote her life to nursing and campaigning for better health care and sanitation for all. It was her work during the Crimean War that created the legend of the Lady with the Lamp and it was her experience here that drove her to continue, researching, writing and tirelessly campaigning.

After the Crimean War she demanded a Royal Commission into the Military Hospitals and the health of the Army, she began investigating the health and sanitation in the British Army in India, and the local population. Money which had been sent by the general public to thank her for her work in the Crimea was used to establish the first organised, training school for nurses, the Nightingale Training School at St Thomas' Hospital.

Her greatest achievement was to make nursing a respectable profession for women. Florence's writings on hospital planning and organization had a profound effect in England and across the world, publishing over 200 books, reports and pamphlets.

Florence died at the age of 90, on 13th August 1910, she had become one of the most famous and influential women of the 19th century. Her writings continue to be a resource for nurses, health managers and planners to this day.

Museum situated inside St Thomas' Hospital devoted to the world's most famous nurse. Such was gratitude for Florence Nightingale's Crimea War work that a public subscription raised the equivalent of £2 million before anyone knew how the money would be spent.

Comparisons with the Princess of Wales' fund can be made but in the 1850s the heroine was still alive and she suggested a nursing school.

The chosen hospital was St Thomas' and by 1871 the hospital had opened the world's first non-religious nursing training school.

The museum opened in 1989 in its hidden position. At first visitors found the museum difficult to find but over the years many people from foreign visitors to former nurses have enjoyed the permanent exhibits.

## **Opening times**

Daily 10.00 – 17.00

Every Thursday throughout August we are open until 6pm  
(closed Good Friday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day)

## **Admission prices**

Adult £5.80

Child £4.80

Concession £4.80

Family £16.00 (two adults and up to five children)

**Please note audio guides will not be available during half term - 27th October - 3rd November.**