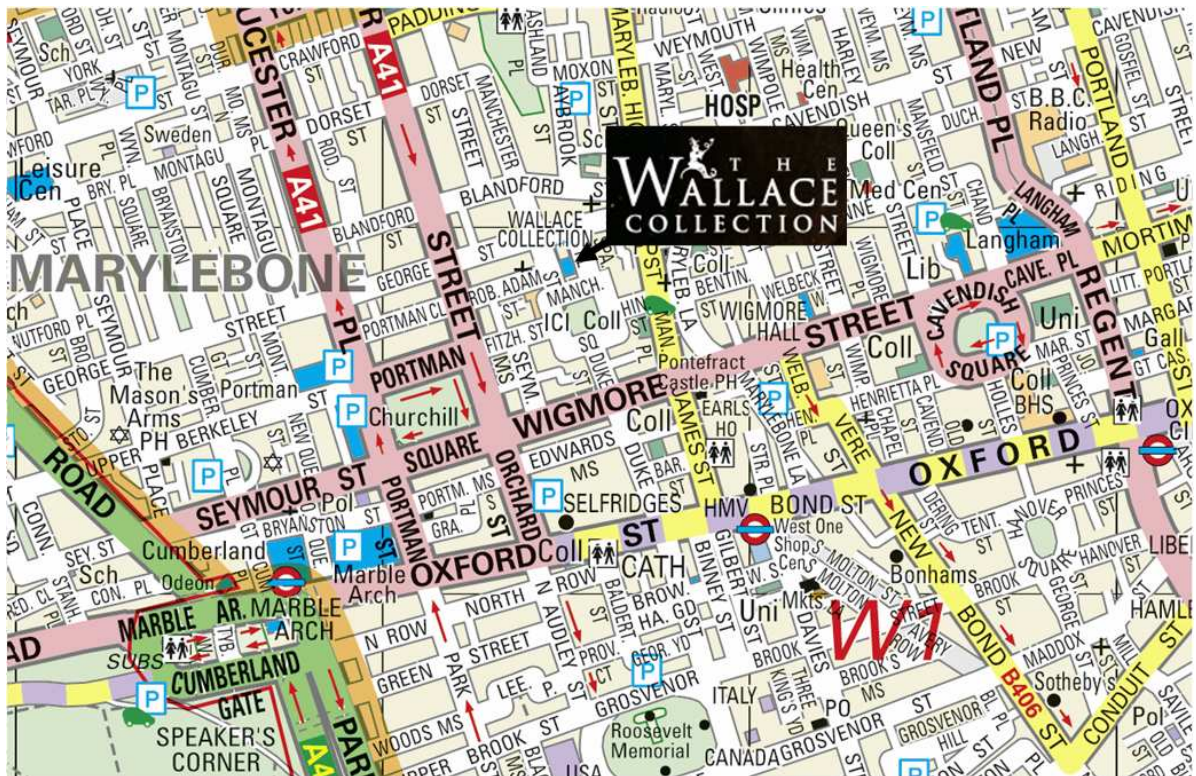




City of Westminster

The Wallace Collection



The **Wallace Collection** is a museum in London, with a world-famous range of fine and decorative arts from the 15th to the 19th centuries with large holdings of French 18th-century paintings, furniture, arms & armour, porcelain and Old Master paintings arranged into 25 galleries.

It was established in 1897 from the private collection mainly created by Richard Seymour-Conway, 4th Marquess of Hertford (1800–1870), who left it and the house to his illegitimate son Sir Richard Wallace (1818–1890), whose widow bequeathed the entire collection to the nation. The museum opened to the public in 1900 in Hertford House, Manchester Square, and remains there, housed in its entirety, to this day. A condition of the bequest was that no object ever leave the collection, even for loan exhibitions. Admission is free.

Top ten things to see and do

The Collection The Website

Don't know where to start when you get here? Have a look at our suggestions.



Explore the Collection highlights

One of the world's greatest collections of art, we are best known for our superb collections of paintings, porcelain, furniture, gold boxes and princely arms and armour.



Experience the refurbished State Rooms

Recently refurbished in hand-woven silks, with amazing curtains, gilding and chiming clocks, these themed spaces evoke the intimate, yet opulent atmosphere of the family home the Collection once was.



Learn more through our events

Everyday choose from free talks. From general introductions to specialised lectures and family activities, there should be something to please both newcomers and old friends alike.



Visit our latest exhibition

We host a number of exhibitions throughout the year. From contemporary artists to Old Masters, drawings to the decorative arts, all are free and have a connection with our works of art.



Entertain the Family

In addition to our events, we have audio guides and interactive tours available for both adults and children, as well as fun and inspiring free family trails to collect and armour to try on.



Be Fascinated by the Founders

The Collection is the result of the refined but varied tastes of the first four Marquesses of Hertford and Sir Richard Wallace. Understand their interests and their compelling and often salacious lives.



Discover how we conserve the works

Much work goes into preserving the works of art you see for future generations. Find out about intricate techniques and intriguing projects detailing how our conservators care for the delicate works of art.



Make a purchase to remind you of your visit

Take home your own treasures - from beautiful jewellery to Sèvres picnic plates. The shop features a wide selection of gifts, many especially commissioned, as well as some of the best art publications.



Dine in our Courtyard Restaurant

The Wallace Collection's stunning courtyard with its soaring glass roof is the glamorous location for Oliver Peyton's cafe and brasserie de luxe.



Donate or become a member

There are many ways to help and be involved, make a donation or join our patron scheme or hold your own event here and enjoy the magical atmosphere of the Collection at night.



Large Drawing Room -
Contains some of the most
spectacular works by the
French furniture-maker,
[Andre-Charles Boulle](#)



Part of the Wallace
Collection's great
ensemble of [Sèvres](#)
[porcelain](#)



Front State Room -
Redecorated in the mid-
1990s to appear as though
it would have in the late-
19th century



The Great Gallery in 2012,
featuring Rubens'
"Landscape With A
Rainbow", portraits by Van
Dyck, and other important
works

The Wallace Collection is split into six curatorial departments, Pictures and Miniatures, Ceramics and Glass, Sculpture and Works of Art, Arms and Armour, Sèvres porcelain and Gold Boxes and Furniture.

Pictures and miniatures

The Wallace Collection's Old Master paintings represent some of the finest works of art in the world, executed by most of the leading artists of their period. The paintings include important works from all periods between the fourteenth to the mid-nineteenth century.

The Wallace Collection is particularly strong in Dutch and Flemish paintings of the seventeenth century and in eighteenth and nineteenth-century French paintings, though there are also outstanding works by English, Italian and Spanish artists. Strengths of the collection include examples by Rembrandt, Rubens, Van Dyck, Canaletto, Gainsborough, François Boucher, Fragonard, Murillo, Titian, Poussin and Velázquez.

Ceramics

There are fine examples of porcelain by the greatest of makers, including Meissen and one of the world's greatest collections of Sèvres.

The Wallace Collection contains the richest and most distinguished museum collections of eighteenth-century Sèvres porcelain in the world. It includes 137 vases, 80 tea wares, 67 useful wares, 3 biscuit figures and 130 plaques (mostly on furniture), and was acquired by the Marchesses of Hertford and Sir Richard Wallace between c. 1802-75.

Furniture

The Wallace Collection holds one of the most important collections of French furniture in the UK, and ranks alongside the Musée du Louvre, the Royal Collection, Waddesdon Manor, the collections of the Duke of Buccleuch, the Getty Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Art as one of the greatest and most celebrated in the world. Totalling more than five hundred pieces, the collection consists largely of eighteenth-century French furniture but also includes some significant pieces of nineteenth-century French furniture, as well as interesting Italian furniture and a few English and German pieces. The collection ranges from cabinet furniture, much of which is veneered with brass and turtleshell marquetry (commonly known as "Bouille" marquetry) or with wood marquetry, to seat furniture, clocks and barometers, gilt-bronze items including mounted porcelain and hardstones, mantelpieces, mirrors, boxes and pedestals. One highlight of the collection is the major collection of furniture attributed to André-Charles Bouille (1642–1732), perhaps the best-known cabinet-maker ever to have lived.

In 2000 the inner courtyard was given a glass roof and now contains a high quality restaurant, "Cafe Bagatelle". The architect was Rick Mather



THE WALLACE RESTAURANT

THE WALLACE IS ONE OF LONDON'S BEST KEPT SECRETS: A BEAUTIFULLY SECLUDED RESTAURANT IN THE COURTYARD OF A MARYLEBONE ART GALLERY THAT COMBINES CLASSIC FRENCH BRASSERIE DINING WITH A PEACEFUL, OUT-OF-TOWN AMBIENCE