BEFORE YOUR VISIT

If you are planning to bring a group of eight or more to look around on your own, or if you would like to arrange a private guided tour, please complete our group visit enquiry form: www.wellcomecollection.org/visit-us/your-visit/group-visits/group-visit-booking-form.aspx. A member of our Groups team will personally respond to you as soon as possible. Please make sure you contact us about your group’s visit, even if you are not having a guided tour. Please keep your booking confirmation form for your own records, and let us know if any of the details change before visiting – for example, if your group size changes.

If you are bringing a group of Year 10 students or older, please let us know about any specific learning outcomes you want to get from your visit. With enough notice, we may be able to tailor our tour to your subject area. You should also be aware that the permanent exhibitions and many of our special exhibitions contain human remains, objects of a sexual nature and images of graphic surgical procedures. Please contact us if you would like to discuss this in more depth.

Please let us know if you are running late or unable to make it for your allocated slot by calling us on 020 7611 2222.

GETTING HERE

Public transport: The nearest mainline stations are Euston, St Pancras and King’s Cross. We are a short walk away from four tube stations: Euston, Euston Square, Warren Street and King’s Cross. Several bus routes pass near Wellcome Collection. Please check live travel information from Transport for London: www.tfl.gov.uk.

By coach: Wellcome Collection cannot accommodate coaches, so you will need to make your own parking arrangements if you are planning on bringing a group. The nearest coach drop-off point is outside the Bloomsbury Theatre at 15 Gordon Street, a few minutes’ walk away. Please see our group visits page – www.wellcomecollection.org/visit-us/your-visit/group-visits.aspx – if you are planning to bring a group of eight or more people to visit Wellcome Collection.

By car: We have a limited number of parking bays available to book for visitors who are Blue Badge holders – see www.wellcomecollection.org/visit-us/your-visit/accessibility.aspx. There are also several parking meters nearby, with a maximum stay of two hours. At Euston station, there is a 230-space APCOA underground car park. Wellcome Collection is situated on the A501, Euston Road. For satnav users, our postcode is NW1 2BE.

ARRIVAL

On arrival, please go to the Information Point in the ground floor reception area. If you are having a tour, your guide will meet you there. Free cloakroom and toilet facilities are on the ground floor, with additional toilets on the first floor. However, please travel light because the cloakroom might not be able to fit lots of items from large groups. Please also note that we are currently checking bags on entry to Wellcome Collection, due to heightened security levels in London.
MANAGING YOUR GROUP

Due to the size and nature of the exhibition spaces, please ensure that large groups are divided into agreed group sizes before arrival (maximum 20 people per group). School groups must be accompanied by a teacher or responsible adult at all times. We require a minimum ratio of one accompanying adult to 20 students. Please note that all children under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult. If you need to make your own risk assessment, please email info@wellcomecollection.org to get a copy of our guidance notes.

INSIDE THE EXHIBITIONS

Photography for personal use is allowed in our two permanent exhibitions, Medicine Man and Medicine Now; we just ask that you refrain from using a flash or a tripod. In our temporary exhibitions, all photography is prohibited due to copyright restrictions. Sketching in the galleries is encouraged, but only with dry materials. Please make sure that your group are aware of the gallery rules: no touching the objects, no leaning on glass cases and no running. Please also be aware that other tours may be taking place.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

We do not provide any educational resources to support guided tours. However, you can find a host of information relating to themes and objects on display – including videos and interactive displays – in the “Explore” section of the Wellcome Collection website: www.wellcomecollection.org

Teachers or educational group leaders may find the following additional materials useful:

- Big Picture, the Wellcome Trust’s science magazine for young adults (16+)
- The Wellcome Library’s resource pack for the GCSE course “Medicine Through Time”.

Audio guides: We offer an audio guide for our Medicine Man exhibition, taking in highlights of objects around the gallery. You will hear from our own team of Visitor Services Assistants, as well as curators, researchers and other experts. There are 25 guides, available in English, French and British Sign Language with subtitles. Please ask a member of staff if you wear a hearing aid and would like an induction loop.

ACCESSIBILITY

Wellcome Collection is wheelchair-accessible and offers a range of services for users with disabilities, including Blue Badge parking spaces and induction loops. Please see the Wellcome Collection website for further information about accessibility – www.wellcomecollection.org/visit-us/your-visit/accessibility.aspx – and feel free to contact us if you would like to talk about any particular needs you have: access@wellcomecollection.org

EATING

Wellcome Collection does not have a dedicated area for eating packed lunches, and only food purchased on the premises can be eaten within the designated café area. Food and drink may not be consumed in any other areas of the building. In warmer months, you might like to consider visiting the nearby parks, including Gordon Square and Tavistock Square, which are a few minutes’ walk away. Wellcome Collection includes a Peyton & Byrne café, which serves a range of drinks, snacks and light meals. Please be aware that it is not possible to book tables in the café and there is limited seating during busy periods.

SHOP

Wellcome Collection houses a Blackwell’s bookshop that stocks a wide variety of books and an exciting range of merchandise relating to medicine, science, history and art. Please make sure that students visit the bookshop in small, supervised groups.

CONTACT US

If you require any further advice before visiting, please contact the Visitor Services team by emailing info@wellcomecollection.org or by telephoning 020 7611 2222. Further information about all our exhibitions and events is available on the Wellcome Collection website: www.wellcomecollection.org
Wellcome Collection is a free visitor destination for the incurably curious. Through a diverse programme of contemporary exhibitions, historical collections and lively public events, it explores the connections between medicine, life and art in the past, present and future – helping us to root science and biomedicine in the broad context of health and wellbeing.

In addition to our two permanent exhibitions, Medicine Man and Medicine Now, on the ground floor there is a large gallery space for temporary exhibitions, accommodating two or three per year. More information about past, current and forthcoming exhibitions can be found on the Wellcome Collection website.

**MEDICINE MAN**

Medicine Man displays approximately 500 items from the million-strong collection amassed by Henry Wellcome during his lifetime (1853–1936). For the first time, the exhibition reunites a cross-section of extraordinary medical-themed objects from Wellcome’s forgotten museum. The main themes in the exhibition are ‘Beginning of Life’, ‘Understanding the Body’, ‘Seeking Help’, ‘Treating Yourself’ and ‘End of Life’, allowing us to explore both the striking similarities and the vast differences between people’s reactions to these themes across time and culture. In addition, several cases focus on a single type of object he collected – ranging from paintings to amputation saws to artificial limbs.

**Beginning of Life:** Sex, fertility, conception and birth have given us some of our most profound images and metaphors, and contradictory attitudes to sex are reflected in several of the objects in this case.

**Understanding the Body:** Our bodies are simultaneously familiar and mysterious, and they are something that humans have always attempted to understand. These exhibits from around the world explore the ways in which the human body has been observed, described and understood in both health and illness.

**Seeking Help:** Societies have always had healers, and these exhibits demonstrate that people have appealed to a variety of sources when things go wrong.

**Treating Yourself:** We all ‘treat ourselves’ in various ways on a daily basis. These items explore the ways in which people have treated themselves – not always in the best interests of their health, but often in line with larger social norms.

**End of Life:** Seen as either the end of a journey or the beginning of a new one, death has always been of vital concern to the living. The variety of objects in this case explore how humans have responded to their own mortality in both a spiritual and a material sense.

**MEDICINE NOW**

This exhibition presents a range of ideas about science and medicine since Henry Wellcome’s death in 1936. It reflects the experiences and interests of scientists, doctors and patients – including a mixture of scientific technology, items from everyday life, contemporary artwork and interactive displays. Within the huge field of medicine, the exhibition chooses to focus on a few key topics: ‘The Body’, ‘Genomes’, ‘Malaria’, ‘Obesity’ and ‘Living with Medical Science’.

In **The Body**, we examine new techniques and ways of looking at our internal biological structures and functions, with a focus on developments in medical technologies that have dramatically increased our ability to see inside our bodies in ways unparalleled before 1936.

In **Genomes**, we look at the scientific study of DNA (the ‘chemical code of life’), as well as its social and cultural significance.

In **Malaria** and **Obesity**, we look at two very different ways in which we can become ill. We explore obesity, a condition predominantly affecting high-income nations, and compare it with malaria, a disease mostly associated with low-income countries.

In **Living with Medical Science**, we explore the impact of medical science on the lives of those who experience it.

**Medical Now** also contains a browsing area, full of the experiences of patients, doctors and scientists. We encourage you to take a seat, browse through books, pull open the drawers and contribute to the ‘art wall’.