

Family day

Celebrating the Islamic world

Saturday 20 October, 11.00–16.00
Free, just drop in

Welcome to the British Museum's special Family day, celebrating the cultural diversity of the Islamic world to mark the opening of the Museum's newest gallery – the Albukhary Foundation Gallery of the Islamic world.

All activities are free, just drop in.
Activities are suitable for all ages unless stated.
Please note that some events have limited capacity.

A designated contemplation space will be available in the Clore Education Centre, beneath the Great Court.

Supported by Albukhary Foundation

Curator talks

11.00, 12.00, 14.00 & 15.00
Room 42–43

Meet the curators of the Albukhary Foundation Gallery of the Islamic world, as they discuss their favourite objects from the Museum's unparalleled Islamic collection. Sessions last 20 minutes, and spaces may be limited.

Objects up close

Room 42–43, 11.00–16.00

Get closer to the Museum's collection and enjoy an object handling session of traditional Islamic objects.

Family explorer packs

Families Desk Great Court, 10.30–16.30,
Pick up a backpack filled with family resources and craft activities, and explore the Museum. Backpacks will be available until 15.00.

Family friendly gallery

Look out for our family-friendly labels in The Albukhary Gallery of the Islamic world, that will help you discover even more about the objects on display.



Performances

Whirling Dervishes (Mevlevi Turning)

Great Court 11.00–11.20, 14.00–14.20, & 15.00–15.20,
Witness a Mevlevi Dervish Turning as part of the ceremony known as *Mukabele* or *Sema* – originally developed by followers of Rumi, the Islamic scholar, theologian and Sufi mystic. The whirling will be undertaken by Semazens of The Study Society in collaboration with Faiths In Tune.

Moussa Dembele

Room 25, 11.00–11.30, 12.00–12.30 & 14.15–14.45
Listen to the thrilling music of multi-instrumentalist and craftsman Moussa Dembele.. Performing on balafon, kora and voice, Moussa will be joined by Bacary Mane – master drummer, dancer and singer from Senegal.

Storytelling

Xanthe Gresham Knight

Stevenson Lecture Theatre, 11.00–11.30, 12.00–12.30 & 14.15–14.45

Dive into the majestic mythology of Persia with dazzling storyteller Xanthe Gresham as she performs episodes from *The Shahnameh*, accompanied by Kurdish Iranian artist Arash Moradi. Suitable for ages 5+.

Khayaal Theatre

BP Lecture Theatre, 11.30–12.00, 13.00–13.30
& 15.00–15.30

Ignite your imagination with heritage tales of wonder, wisdom and humour performed by Khayaal Theatre – exploring a rich and colourful mosaic of Muslim subcultures. Suitable for ages 5+.

Workshops

Discover Islamic geometry

Great Court, 11.00–16.00

Learn the techniques of Islamic geometry at this drop-in participatory installation in the Great Court, presented in collaboration with The Prince's School of Traditional Arts. Suitable for ages 6+.

Muslim meets Manga

Clore Centre for Education, Studio, 11:00–16:00

Draw your own Manga inspired character with artist Asia Alfasi.

Please note that space may be limited.

Islamic crafts: make your mark

Great Court, 11.00–16.00

Discover the work of female Muslim creative publishing collective One of My Kind (OOMK), and design your own collage sticker inspired by influential Muslim women throughout history. Suitable for ages 8+.



Film Zone

Clore Centre for Education, 11.00–16.00

Relax in our film zone and enjoy screenings of short films from across the Islamic world. Presented in collaboration with Qisetna.

Food and drink

Great Court and Great Court terrace, 11.00–16.00

Enjoy Halal culinary delights from the Islamic world, such as Baba Ghanoush, Malaysian beef curry, Pilar and Umm Ali.