

## **Access Statement Soho House Museum**

This access statement does not contain personal opinions as to our suitability for those with access needs, but aims to accurately describe the facilities and services that we offer all our guests/visitors.

### **Introduction**

Soho House was the home of Birmingham industrialist and entrepreneur Matthew Boulton (1728. 1809). The original early Georgian house was redesigned by the architects James and Samuel Wyatt in the 1790s and turned into the fashionable neo-classical villa that can be seen today.

The house was a favourite meeting place of the famous Lunar Society of Birmingham, whose members included James Watt, Joseph Priestley, Erasmus Darwin, Josiah Wedgwood and Boulton himself.

Soho is Birmingham's most recent museum, opened in 1995 located in Handsworth. Handsworth neighbourhood (encapsulating the Lozells and East Handsworth ward) is located just over 2 kilometres north of Birmingham City Centre. It is one of the most densely populated areas of Birmingham.

It contains outstanding examples of late 18<sup>th</sup> century furniture and furnishings including ormolu and silverware made at Boulton's famous Soho Manufactory and Mint. The house is Grade II\* listed and the collections are Designated.

In addition to Soho House itself, the site includes a modern (c1960s) building which was converted to function as a visitor centre when the museum was opened in 1995.



The museum has two buildings, the Visitor Centre and Historic House. The cafe and gift shop is located on the ground floor in the Visitor Centre; this is also where visitors pay to enter the Historic House. The House has 3 levels and has lift access. We also have Soho Garden to walk around which is free to visit. You should allow at least 1.5 hours for visiting the whole site.

You are welcome to visit the cafe, gift shop, community gallery and Soho Garden without an entrance fee, even if you do not wish to pay to visit the Historic House.

Our Museum Enablers and Volunteers are on hand throughout the site should you require any assistance.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require any assistance please phone 0121 348 8150 or email [samina.kosar@birminghammuseums.org.uk](mailto:samina.kosar@birminghammuseums.org.uk)

### Pre-Arrival

For full details and maps of how to reach us please see our website. Alternatively if you plan your journey by car the Sat Nav postcode is B18 5LB.

- “ By Road . Soho House is located 1 mile north west from Birmingham City Centre. For google maps and Sat Nav use postcode B18 5LB. Soho Avenue is off the Soho Road (A41). There is a free car park at Soho House. Entrance to Soho House Museum is accessible off Soho Avenue.
- “ By Bus . From Birmingham City Centre use bus number **74** (alight at Rose Hill Road bus stop). Bus service is operated by [National Express West Midlands](#).
- “ By Metro . The closest metro stop is Benson Road (10 minute walk away). Walk along Benson Road, carry on straight over the roundabout. Soho House is located off St Michaels Road. Metro service is operated by [National Express](#)
- “ By Bicycle . Soho House Museum is located 1 miles north of west of Birmingham City Centre. For Google maps and Sat Nav use postcode B18 5LB. Entrance to Soho House Museum is accessible off Soho Avenue. Although dedicated bike racks are not available, bikes can be locked up within our walled garden area.

### Car Parking and Arrival

There is parking on site for 20 cars and 2 clearly marked Blue Badge parking spaces, which are **90m/100yds** from the main entrance.

The onsite car park surface is tarmac. There is no lighting in this area.

You can be dropped off at the main entrance, if arriving by taxi; coaches are to drop off at the chains but then park up away from this.

There are 3 steps leading to the Hall's main entrance.

The main entrance door is **880mm/34.5ins** wide.

There is another side entrance to the Hall for pushchairs/wheelchairs and any other accessibility concerns.



## Main Entrance, Reception and Ticketing Area

The main entrance and ticket area is situated on the ground floor of the Visitor Centre with A ramp leading up to the main door, level access, throughout. The area is evenly and well lit with spot lights.



## Attraction (displays, exhibits, etc)

- ~ Interpretation boards are all in large text, and have pictorial representation where applicable. All are at a maximum top **height of 173cm**.
- ~ There are articles held in glass cabinets (most are upright). Some of these are vertical and may not be visible if the eye line is below 115cm.
- ~ There is a returnable laminated leaflet available which gives detail of the information and displays in the museum.
- ~ Individual chairs are located at various points around the period rooms.
- ~ The floor surface is wood and uneven in most places. The Great Hall is a stone floor.
- ~ Lighting in the galleries is generally good, but the Hall lighting is low due to the nature of the collections and the fabric of the house; these areas are more dimly lit to aid preservation of the exhibits.

## Public Toilets

Public toilets are located on the ground floor in the Visitor Centre with level access from the main entrance.

- ~ These toilets have a unisex accessible toilet, locked with a RADAR key available from the welcome desk and are described below:
- ~ A light, easy open door **910mm/36ins** wide.
- ~ The toilet height is **450mm/18ins**.
- ~ There is a vertical rail on one side of the toilet and either side of the basin.
- ~ There is a horizontal rail on the side wall adjacent to the toilet.
- ~ Toilet and wash basins are white.
- ~ There is a flashing light when the fire alarm sounds.
- ~ There is an emergency alarm pull cord.
- ~ The toilets are well lit with fluorescent tube overhead lighting with a low level light switch.
- ~ There are lever taps on the sinks.

## Catering

The cafe is situated on the ground floor in the Visitor Centre and has a step free level access from the entrance.

- ~ The entrance doors to the café are **1170mm/46ins wide**.
- ~ Tables in the café are well spaced apart, with a clear height from the floor of 609mm/24ins, with chairs.
- ~ Lighting in all areas is natural daylight with overhead lighting used.
- ~ The flooring in the restaurant and café is wooden laminate.
- ~ Where possible all our food produce is locally sourced. We do our best to cater for any dietary requirements; please contact us in advance to check any specific requests you may have.
- ~ All food items are pre-packed to sell; we do not make food on site. Food may be processed in factories where nuts are used.
- ~ All staff can assist by running through menus with you.
- ~ Crockery is colour contrasted with the table where possible.
- ~ The nearest public toilet with an accessible WC is located near the main entrance approximately **30 metres** from the café.



## Shop

There is a shop with quality souvenirs which can be accessed directly from the main entrance/ticketing area and when exiting the site in the Visitor Centre.

- ~ The shop is level throughout.
- ~ There is sufficient room within the shop for a large wheelchair/pushchair to manoeuvre and turn.
- ~ There are tall display racks and low tables accessible from a seated position.
- ~ Staff can offer assistance if required.



### **Grounds and Gardens**

- ~ There is a small garden with a gravel path.
- ~ There is a small picnic area on a level lawn that can be reached via the café.
- ~ There are outdoor wooden tables and chairs.
- ~ Main pathways are **1473mm/158ins wide**.
- ~ There are wooden benches at intervals around the garden.

### **Additional Information**

- ~ All of our staff receive regular training.
- ~ We have a set of evacuation procedures . should you require it someone will assist you with evacuation either out of the building or to a refuge. We have a safe lift in our private corporate hire area.
- ~ A bowl of water is available at the main entrance/exit for assistance dogs.
- ~ Clear signage is used throughout.
- ~ The Hall has no lift. The Stables Range does have a lift in the private corporate hire space.
- ~ There is a virtual tour available on the ground floor of the Hall for those not able to access stairs.

### **Contact Information**

Soho House  
Soho Avenue  
Handsworth  
Birmingham  
B18 5LB  
0121 348 8150

### **Opening Times and Prices**

Open from 25th March - 30th October 2016. Please check the website for winter opening hours (October-March).

Wednesday- Sunday (and Bank Holiday Mondays), 11am - 3pm.

### **Ticket Price**

Adult £7  
Concession\* £5  
Child (3-15) £3  
Family of 3 (max 2 adults) £15.00  
Family of 4 (max 2 adults) £17.60  
Family of 5 (max 2 adults) £20.20  
Café and gardens are FREE.

Weekdays during term time, access to the House is by guided tour only. Tours take place at 11.30am, 12.30pm and 2pm. Tours last approximately 45 minutes.

### **Bag Searches**

Please be advised that Birmingham Museums reserves the right to undertake searches of bags and personal property, and to refuse entry. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **Transport**

Taxis: TOA Taxis 0121 427 8888  
Local Public Transport: Bus 08712 002 233 [www.networkwestmidlands.co.uk](http://www.networkwestmidlands.co.uk)  
Train: 0121 200 2787 (centro)