

For immediate release

Tuesday 31 July 2018



Video guides make Horniman more accessible to visitors

The Horniman Museum and Gardens in Forest Hill, south London has launched a series of video clips designed to improve access to its galleries and Gardens.

Seventeen videos, hosted throughout the Horniman's website, give a visual introduction to each space as well as allowing visitors to see a virtual journey from Forest Hill train station and bus stops nearby, and along routes within the Horniman including to the lifts, the Café and toilets. A further nine videos will be made live soon.

The videos aim to 'demystify' the Horniman for first-time visitors, especially for disabled visitors whose visit can be greatly enhanced by the opportunity to know exactly what to expect, before making their trip.

Connie Churcher, Digital Manager at the Horniman says: 'The Horniman has lots to offer for everyone and is very accessible once you're on site, but we know that visiting new places can be very daunting whether you have particular access requirements or not. We wanted to break down that barrier and show people exactly what they can expect during their journey, on arrival and throughout their visit. These videos are one more way for the Horniman to say "welcome, come on in".'

The videos were created by Breakfast for Dinner in consultation with the Horniman's respected Community Learning team and Access Advisory Group.

Julia Cort, the Horniman's Community Learning Manager says: 'These films are a major achievement for the Horniman's external Access Advisory Group who helped the Horniman understand the importance of orientation films. We hope the films will make the Horniman more accessible and enjoyable for a diverse range of visitors, as well as potential staff members and artistic partners. We are very pleased to have them online but

are always keen to improve. If you have any feedback on the films, please contact us through enquiry@horniman.ac.uk.’

Find out more about accessibility at the Horniman at <https://www.horniman.ac.uk/visit/disability-and-access/>. All the videos can be viewed on YouTube or throughout the Horniman website.

Ends

Horniman Press Office - Tel: 020 8291 8166 - press@horniman.ac.uk

Image shows Horniman Museum and Gardens visitor entrance. Credit Horniman Museum and Gardens.

Notes to Editors:

- **The Horniman Museum and Gardens** opened in 1901 as a gift to the people in perpetuity from tea trader and philanthropist Frederick John Horniman, to ‘bring the world to Forest Hill’. Today the Horniman has a collection of 350,000 objects, specimens and artefacts from around the world. Its galleries include natural history, music and an acclaimed aquarium. A new World Gallery of anthropology opened on 29 June 2018. Indoor exhibits link to the award-winning display gardens – from medicinal and dye gardens to an interactive sound garden, Butterfly House and an animal walk – set among 16 acres of beautiful, green space offering spectacular views across London. horniman.ac.uk
- The Horniman Museum and Gardens is core-funded by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and since 1990 has been governed by an independent charitable trust, registered charity no. 802725. The Horniman Museum and Gardens also receives funding from Arts Council England as one of its National Portfolio Organisations.
- **Opening times and admission.** The Horniman Museum is open daily 10.00am-5.30pm, except 24 - 26 December, when it is closed. The Gardens open at 7.15am Monday to Saturday and 8.00am on Sunday and Bank Holidays, and close at sunset. Entry to the Museum and Gardens is free but charges apply for the Aquarium, Butterfly House and some special exhibitions and events. Horniman Members and Benefactors go free – horniman.ac.uk/members.
- **Access.** The Museum and the Gardens are both wheelchair and pushchair friendly with accessible toilets. Limited on-site parking is available for Blue Badge holders.
- **Travel.** The Horniman is situated at 100 London Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 3PQ on the South Circular Road (A205). It can be reached easily by train to Forest Hill station (London Overground/Southern, travel time approx.15-20 minutes from east/central London or East Croydon) and by local buses (176, 185, 197, 356, P4).

