

From beautifully furnished homes to raucous gambling dens, discover the reality of life in Georgian Britain in the British Library's dazzling exhibition *Georgians Revealed: Life, Style and the Making of Modern Britain*.

Book Now at www.bl.uk/georgians-revealed

Free Walking Tour Map of Georgian London

To make even more of your visit, we've created this Walking Tour of Georgian London. A theme running through *Georgians Revealed* is the idea of spectacle in the 18th century: what for the Georgians was "entertainment"? The answers can be surprising. Discover all on a walk that takes in some of London's finest Georgian museums. Please check the websites of venues for details on admission and opening times.



1. British Library

96 Euston Road
London NW1 2DB
www.bl.uk

Given to the nation by George IV in 1823, the King's Library (above) is now the centrepiece of the British Library. Leaving the Library through the Portico gates, cross Euston Road and head south down Judd Street.

2. To Coram's Fields

Continue along Hunter Street, named after John Hunter, the celebrated surgeon who was vice-president of the nearby Foundling Hospital. You will pass fine Georgian terraces and 18th-century street architecture and ironwork. At the Foundling Museum, look south to Coram's Fields, the former site of the Foundling Hospital. Here, the gateway and two colonnades from the hospital still survive.

Building image credits: The British Library. The Foundling Museum © Coram in the care of the Foundling Museum. Sir John Soane's Museum, Courtesy of the Trustees of Sir John Soane's Museum. The Hunterian Museum © Trustees of the Hunterian Collection. Map: Tegg's *New plan of London* (detail), 1830.

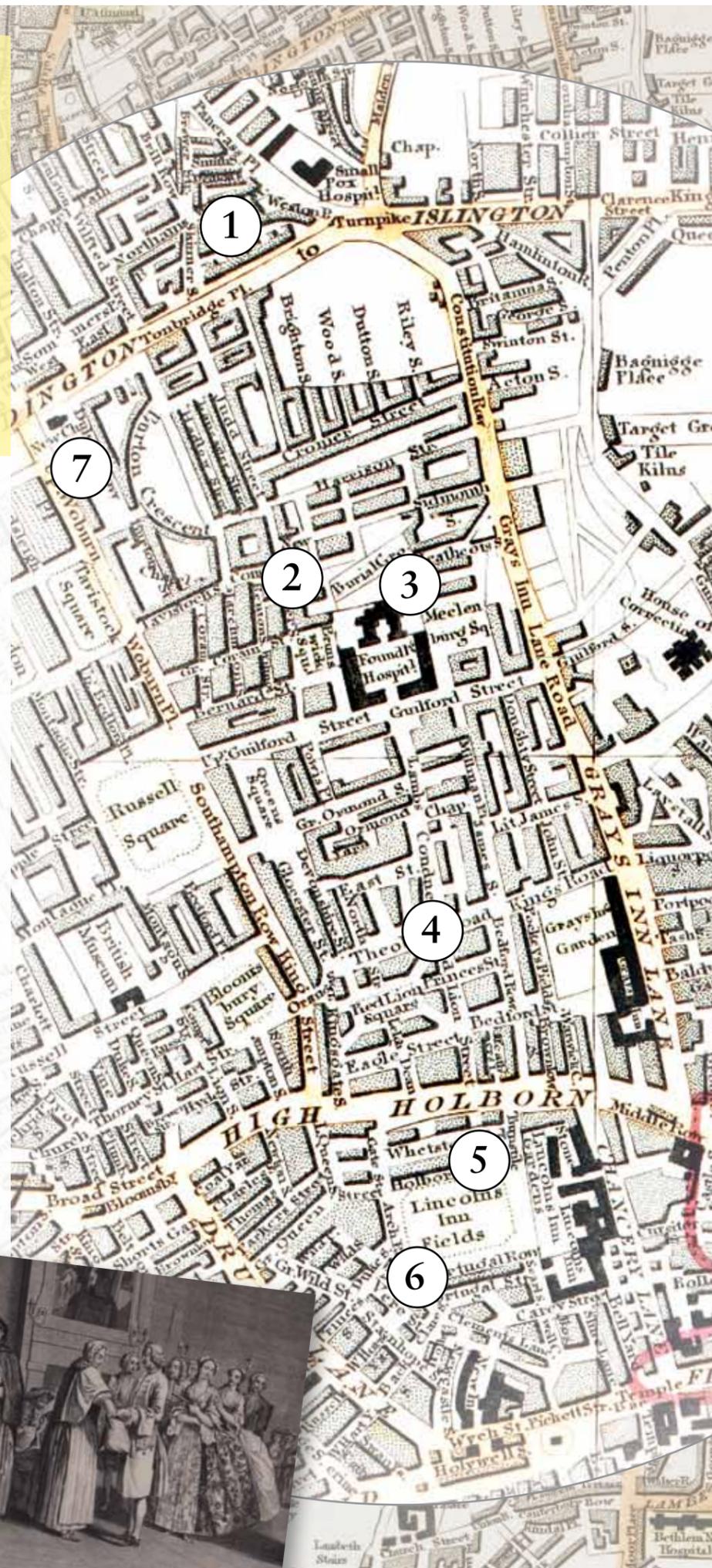


3. Foundling Museum

40 Brunswick Square
London WC1N 1AZ
www.foundlingmuseum.org.uk

Thomas Coram's Foundling Hospital admitted its first children in 1741. So numerous were the applications that a system was devised in which coloured balls were placed in a bag and parents asked to make a 'lucky dip': 'the Expressions of Grief of the Women whose Children could not be admitted were Scarcely more observable than those of some of the Women who parted with their Children, so that a more moving Scene can't well be imagined'. But this 'moving Scene' was also a public spectacle for the more fortunate social classes (see image below).

Right: 'Admission to the Foundling Hospital by Ballot', by Nathaniel Parr after painting by Samuel Wale © Coram in the care of the Foundling Museum. Top right: 'Indian Rhinoceros' by George Stubbs, oil on canvas, c.1792. Courtesy of the Hunterian Museum.



BRITISH LIBRARY



4. To Lincoln's Inn Fields

Follow Lamb's Conduit Street and Red Lion Street and cross High Holborn towards Lincoln's Inn Fields. As you approach, look for the sign for Whetstone Park, a narrow street where apprentices congregated during their time off, much to the annoyance of residents. Nearby was the infamous Vine Tavern. Lincoln's Inn Fields was one of Georgian London's finest squares, but also the popular haunt of beggars, such as the celebrated Scarecrow, who found his way into the art and literature of the period.

5. Sir John Soane's Museum

13 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London WC2A 3BP
www.soane.org

The home of Sir John Soane, with its distinctive white Portland stone façade, still dominates the north side of Lincoln's Inn Fields. Born the son of a bricklayer in 1753, Soane became one of the most prominent architects in Georgian London. In his London home, he sought to create 'those fanciful effects which constitute the poetry of architecture'. His manipulation of space and light, combined with his collections of objects and art, is truly spectacular.



6. The Hunterian Museum

The Royal College of Surgeons of England
35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London WC2A 3PE
www.rcseng.ac.uk/museums

John and William Hunter were celebrated anatomists of the latter half of the 18th century. Their pioneering work on both animals and humans changed the face of medicine. In 1799, John Hunter's vast collection was purchased by the government. It included the painting above by George Stubbs. In the Georgian period, exotic creatures were brought to London as showpieces. This Indian rhinoceros arrived in June 1790 and was sold to the menagerie-keeper Thomas Clark whose Lyceum was a popular attraction on the Strand.

7. Woburn Walk

Walk down Southampton Row until you arrive at Woburn Walk, London's first pedestrianised shopping street. Here, London shoppers came to peruse the fine displays of fabrics and books. Jane Austen, who loved to visit London and its shops, wrote to her sister Cassandra in 1811 from the city: 'I am getting very extravagant and spending all my Money'. Return to the British Library along Euston Road.