

Science Laboratory 'Tours'

The British Museum's Research Laboratory and conservation facilities are amongst the longest established and largest in the world, with the research laboratory founded in 1920. This tour will offer the opportunity to visit the current laboratories where research is carried out to develop and assess new conservation approaches, including laser cleaning, and to undertake analytical study of materials and technology. The facilities are designed to allow work to be conducted on the diverse range of materials represented within the collection. The visit will provide an opportunity to meet some of the Museum's scientists and hear about recent work.

The tour will include an opportunity to see the Museum's Raman microscope equipped with near infrared (785 nm) and green laser (532 nm) sources which is unusual in having an external objective specifically designed to allow direct in-situ examination of larger objects. There will also be an opportunity to see the Museum's two scanning electron microscopes and some of the X-ray facilities including the X-radiography lab (with a 320kV X-ray source) and X-ray fluorescence equipment. The chromatographic facilities for the analysis of natural and synthetic organic materials will also be visited.

