



SIR JOHN
SOANE'S
MUSEUM
LONDON

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Volunteer Tour Guides

Sir John Soane's Museum needs volunteers to help show the public around the newly restored second floor of the Museum.

The Museum is part-way through *Opening up the Soane*, a major restoration project in the course of which 8 'lost' Soane interiors – not seen by the public since they were dismantled in the 19th-century – have been reinstated on the basis of the painstaking research carried out by the Museum's curators over the last ten years.

In May 2015, the second phase of the project was completed and the newly restored second floor private apartments of John Soane and his wife, Eliza, were opened to the public. After Soane's death in 1837 these rooms were dismantled to make way for curators' accommodation and offices and their contents dispersed to other parts of the Museum. Their stained glass doors and windows and many of the internal partitions were removed, Soane's bath taken out and disposed of, his bed sold and a great picture hung light-shaft dismantled and blocked up.

The restored apartments are labyrinthine and filled with furniture, paintings, fragile models under glass domes, ceramics and other works of art. The visitor route is narrow and both the fabric of the rooms and their contents are vulnerable to damage. It has therefore been decided to make them available to visit in small groups on high quality guided tours.

Your role will be to lead tours and help to bring alive for our visitors something of John and Eliza Soane's domestic life as revealed by their private apartments. You will also help visitors to understand and appreciate the unique installation of architectural models on Soane's 'Pompeian Model stand' in his Model Room, which is also part of the Private Apartments.

To be considered for this important role, we ask that you:

- Are reliable, responsible and trustworthy
- Are keen to learn
- Have good communication skills
- Have a friendly and confident manner
- Have some experience of public speaking
- Are able to adapt to change
- Are able to stay alert and vigilant to ensure the safety of our collections
- Are able to welcome visitors from across the world
- Are smart in appearance

Have a good standard of spoken English; additional languages desirable
Are willing to attend Induction and Training events

Benefits of volunteering with us

Join us at this exciting time and become an integral part of our team. You will meet a variety of people, make friends, learn new skills and experience the complexities of working in a visitor facing role in this unique house museum. Reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses will be paid, up to a maximum of £8 per day. You will also be given a discount in the Museum shop, and be invited to join specially organised volunteer talks and events at the Museum.

Time commitment

We ask for a minimum commitment of at least two months, consisting of a regular duty once a week. You will lead one half hour guided tour and then provide support for two more guided tours between the hours of 12.00 and 2.30pm.

How to apply

If you are interested, please complete a Volunteer Registration form and send it to: Tara Sutin, Volunteer Co-ordinator, 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3BP or email tsutin@soane.org.uk

If a volunteer opportunity is available to match your skills and interests you will be asked to attend an informal interview. You should note that as we are a National Museum security clearance will be necessary, this is a prerequisite of all who wish to volunteer with us and is not meant to offend in any way.

No formal qualifications are required but a good general level of education is desirable. A passion for Sir John Soane's Museum and an enthusiasm for history, art and architecture would be a great asset.