

V&A Academy

# EGYPT IN LONDON

V&A

# Introduction



If you look anywhere around London, you will spot echoes of ancient Egypt. Some are obvious – obelisks in graveyards, imposing Victorian monuments – and some are less so, like hidden sphinxes on doorways or stylised details nestled amongst art deco facades. But in every case, there is a story behind Egypt's presence.

For over three hundred years, ancient Egypt has inspired London's cityscape, for varied and fascinating reasons. From Cleopatra's needle—an ancient obelisk erected on the Thames embankment as a symbol of Victorian imperial might—to the staircase of Harrods department store, and from the Albert Monument to the Serpentine, each moment reveals the fascinating ways Britain has and continues to engage with ancient Egypt.

This walking tour of London, beginning at Embankment and ending in South Kensington, will chart these many stories and explore the ways ancient Egypt remains alive in London today. It will cover everything from Cleopatra's needle to the Royal Albert Hall – and even end with some hidden ancient Egyptian moments within V&A South Kensington itself.

# Information

Friday 6 February 2026

11.15-14.45

Offsite meeting point- to be announced

V&A Academy events invite you behind the scenes to bring you closer to the places linked to the V&A extraordinary collections.

## Handouts

A day before our walking tour you will receive a handout that accompanies this event: an itinerary of the walking tour with landmarks to invite you to re-visit the route of the tour in your own time and further reading recommendations and ways to learn more about the topic by exploring the V&A's Collections both online and onsite.

If you have any queries regarding the walking tour or if you have any specific access

requirements, please do let us know by emailing [courses@vam.ac.uk](mailto:courses@vam.ac.uk) so that we can ensure the best experience on the day.

Programme and timings are subject to change

Suitable for ages 18 and over.

# Friday 6 February 2026

## Egypt in London

*Offsite meeting point- to be announced*

### **11.15-11.30 Arrival at the meeting point**

- 11.30 Welcome by Dr Benjamin Hinson and start of your walking tour
- 12.45 45 minutes convenience break
- 13.30 Walking tour continues
- 14.45 The walk ends

*Note: V&A Academy programmes are subject to change without notice.*