



African & Caribbean Heritage Tour: Past Meets Present

Discover powerful stories of liberation, resilience, freedom, migration, and creolisation on this unique tour. Join us **on the first and second Saturday of each month at 15:30**, led by our amazing Volunteer Guides.

Each guide brings their own theme and perspective, so every visit offers something new.

Check our 2026 Guides' Roster to see who's leading each tour and scroll down to learn more about their individual stories.

2026 Guides' Roster

Want to experience every perspective? Our guides rotate throughout the year, each bringing their own stories and themes to the tour. Use the roster below to plan your visits and catch different guides in action. Every tour is a chance to discover something new!

Date	Guide
January 3, 2026	Pennie Mendes
January 10, 2026	Joy Johnson
February 7, 2026	Stella Kemi Akintan
February 14, 2026	Nadia Denton
March 7, 2026	Avril Horsford
March 14, 2026	Joy Johnson
April 4, 2026	Nadia Denton
April 11, 2026	Joy Johnson
May 2, 2026	Kim Sheldon
May 9, 2026	Nadia Denton

June 6, 2026	Avril Horsford
June 13, 2026	Stella Kemi Akintan
July 4, 2026	Pennie Mendes
July 11, 2026	Kim Sheldon
August 1, 2026	Avril Horsford
August 8, 2026	Kim Sheldon
September 5, 2026	Nadia Denton
September 12, 2026	Pennie Mendes
October 3, 2026	Stella Kemi Akintan
October 10, 2026	Joy Johnson
November 7, 2026	Avril Horsford
November 14, 2026	Pennie Mendes
December 5, 2026	Kim Sheldon
December 12, 2026	Stella Kemi Akintan

Meet the Guides

Our Volunteer Guides are the heart of these tours. Each one brings their own passion and perspective, exploring themes that connect the past with the present. Scroll down to discover their stories and find out what makes each tour unique.

In alphabetical order

- **V&A Volunteer Guide:** Avril Horsford

Tour title: The Historical Caribbean ‘Walk ‘bout’ Tour

From Africa to the Caribbean, enslaved people created a unique form of social recreation that cost nothing but taught them so much. 'Walk-'Bout' was a way for them to share stories, learn about their history, and connect with their community. This tradition is still celebrated today and is a popular feature of this tour. Join our journey through time on a historical ‘Caribbean walk-bout’

at the V&A; exploring the galleries to discover the charismatic characters who applied their creative skills to producing the artefacts that shaped the Caribbean's volatile past, and dynamic present. "Walk Good"!



Images:

[Francis Williams, the Scholar of Jamaica | Unknown | V&A Explore The Collections](#)

[Untitled \[Young Jamaican lady standing in her mother's front room in Brixton Hill\] | Neil Kenlock | V&A Explore The Collections](#)

- **V&A Volunteer Guide: Joy Johnson**

Tour title: The African Representation in European Art

This tour is an exploration of images of Africans in the V&A European Gallery from 1600 – 1815. The presence of “black people” in Europe are illustrated in diverse artefacts and paintings. We will examine the perception of the African images on display and their significance within the European culture of the period.



Image: [Souvenir 4 \(Princess Alexandra\) | Locke, Hew | V&A Explore The Collections](#)

- **V&A Volunteer Guide: Kim Sheldon**

Tour title: Shining a Light on African and Caribbean Diaspora Voices in Art and Design

Join me in the V&A galleries for a warm journey through African and Caribbean diaspora representation. We'll explore history, culture, and creativity, shining a light on the famous, influential, and often forgotten. Together we celebrate the achievements of people of African and Caribbean descent through art and design, while connecting past and present, uncovering the human stories behind the artifacts.



Image: [Wrestling Oil Shell BP | Sokari Douglas Camp | V&A Explore The Collections](#)

- **V&A Volunteer Guide: Nadia Denton**

Tour title: The African Gaze

Nadia's tour gives an overview of the African presence in 17th and 18th Century Europe. Nadia leads the tour speculating on the viewpoint of the African individuals portrayed in Baroque, Rococo and Neo-Classical art. As part of the tour attendees will look at a number of known and unknown figures as well as the achievements of individuals of African descent in European history.



Image: [Bust of a child | de Cock, Joannes Claudius | V&A Explore The Collections](#)

- **V&A Volunteer Guide: Pennie Mendes**

Tour title: Black Representation in Art: Then and Now

This tour traces the evolving story of Black representation in art. Historically, it was predominantly European artists who depicted Black figures, often interpreting them through their own perspectives and cultural narratives. Today, that story has transformed. Contemporary Black artists are leading the conversation, creating powerful works rooted in their own experiences and communities. Their contributions are reshaping the Museum's collection and expanding how Black identity is represented and understood.



Images: detail from <https://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O115362/the-adoration-of-the-magi-window-master-of-the/>
and <https://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O1788649/unity-unity-amponsah-dwumfour-nana/>

- **V&A Volunteer Guide: Stella Kemi Akintan**

Tour title: African and Caribbean Art at the V&A

Join Stella on a captivating journey through the V&A's collections, exploring artworks inspired by Africa and the Caribbean. Discover the stories behind works like the Bust of a Young Man, Toussaint L'Ouverture, the Wedgewood Medallion, and Ethiopian Crown. Uncover the rich cultural history and context of these eclectic artworks in an engaging session of learning and sharing.



Image: [Crown | Unknown | V&A Explore The Collections](#)