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Programme

Family Festival of Archaeology

Sat 19 July 11am - 4pm

This summer's **Family Festival of Archaeology** celebrates the opening of our redisplayed Rome Galleries. It's a free event for all the family, with exciting activities and tours across the Museum.

Drop in for a wide range of arts and crafts, demonstrations and storytelling inspired by the Roman world.

There are also two bookable talks designed for ages 12+.



Free activities for all the family

11am - 4pm

Create a Roman Mosaic • Learning Studio

Create your own mosaic using colourful tiles and take home your unique masterpiece. You can also have a photograph of your mosaic which can be included to make a giant collaborative digital mosaic.

Visit Roman Traders • Gallery 35

Displays of clothing, jewellery, beauty, makeup and dressed mannequins. See a demonstration of the art of Roman metalwork and jewellery making. Have a go at writing with wax tablets, creating an early La-Tene style brooch and embossing.

Storytelling • 12, 1.30, 3.30, Atrium

Step into the world of ancient Rome and enjoy captivating stories filled with mystery, magic, and legendary characters for the whole family.

What the Roman's Wore • 2.30pm, Atrium

In ancient Rome, clothing reflected a person's identity and social status. Step into the past by trying on Roman clothes in this interactive fashion show.

Roman Games • Gallery 31

Play traditional games such as Three and Nine Men's Morris, knucklebones and Tabula.

Roman Ring Making • Outside Learning Studio

Make your own wire jewellery to take away, inspired by wire-wound rings popular from Roman to medieval times.

Lunch 12.30 - 2.30pm

Lecture Theatre

Make use of our indoor family picnic area if you need a snack or lunch break.

PLUS, activities designed for ages 12+

Talk: Introducing the New Rome Galleries 11am, Headley Lecture Theatre (also available online) 58

Join curator Dr Paul Roberts for a tour of the newly redisplayed 'Early Italy' and 'Rome and the Roman Empire' galleries. Discover the research and curatorial process behind the reimagined display.

Gallery Talk: The Roman 'Statue Habit' 2pm, meet in the Randolph Sculpture Gallery 21 £8

This interactive talk with Dr Alison Pollard explores why people in the Roman world commissioned, bought and displayed marble sculpture. Taking a close look at Britain's first major collection of ancient sculpture, discover how art and identity intersected in Roman domestic and public spaces. Take part in lively activities throughout the day. This year's festival explores the Roman world, celebrating the Ashmolean's newly reopened Rome Galleries.

sit: Rome Galleries, Gallery 13 & 15 Highlights include an animated Etruscan tomb, a gladiatorinspired game, and the chance to design vour own mosaic.

The newly redesigned galleries on the ground floor explores the Roman Empire at the height of its power. Discover stories of emperors and the enslaved, and travel through the empire from Oxfordshire to Syria.



This event is part of the UK's annual Festival of Archaeology, with events running from 19 July – 3 August 2025

