



INTERNATIONAL
SLAVERY
MUSEUM

SETTING THE
TRUTH FREE

MUSEUM GUIDE

FREE ENTRY

NATIONAL MUSEUMS **LIVERPOOL**

WELCOME

The International Slavery Museum looks at both the historical and contemporary legacies of transatlantic slavery.

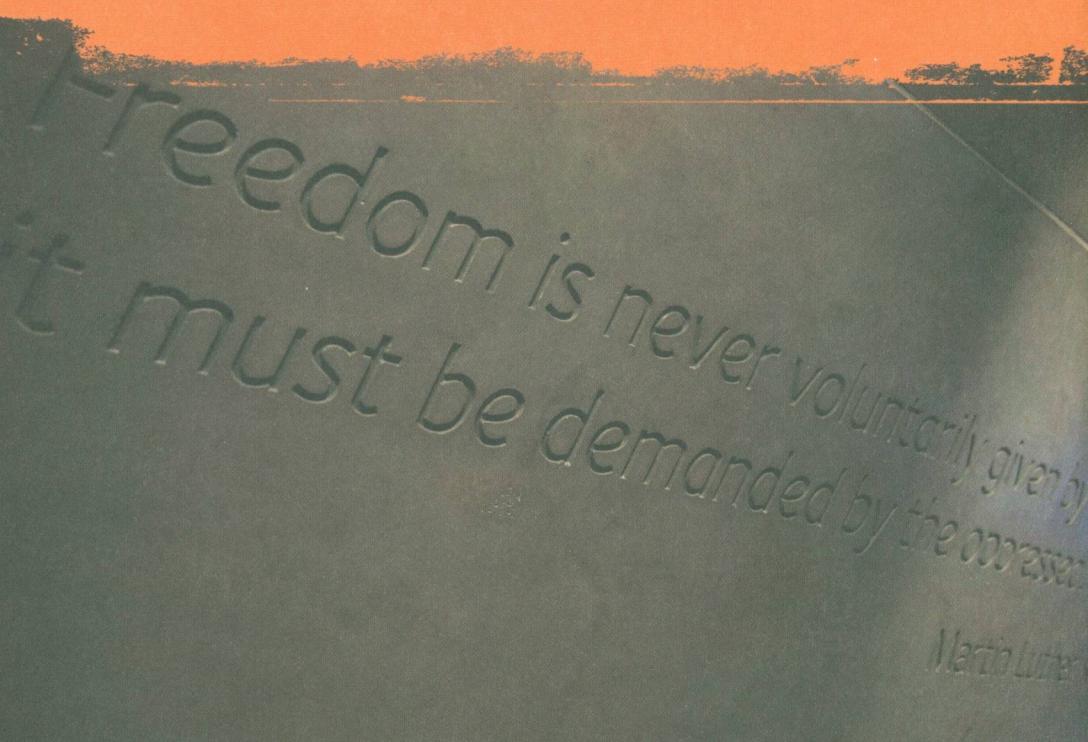


It explores the reasons why millions of Africans were forced into slavery and also the crucial role that the city of Liverpool played in that process.

The museum has three main galleries: Life in West Africa, Enslavement and the Middle Passage, and Legacy.

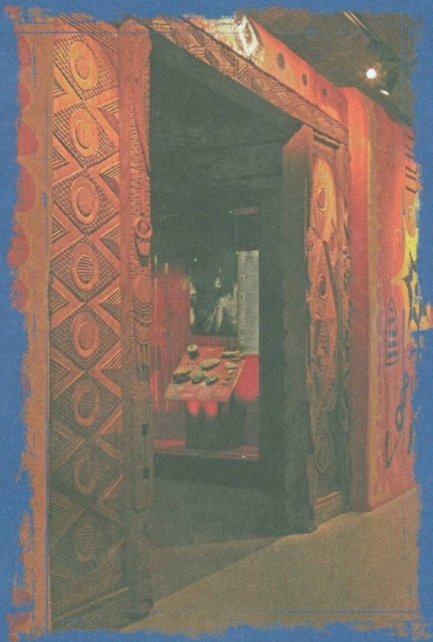
At the entrance to the International Slavery Museum is the Freedom and Enslavement Wall, where you can watch interviews with a range of people, from community historians to people who have been enslaved, as they discuss their ideas of freedom and enslavement.

Please note that some areas of the International Slavery Museum contain graphic images and exhibits which you may find distressing.



LIFE IN WEST AFRICA

Explore the story of Africa and its people and glimpse the richness and importance of Africa's long and complex cultural history, before the start of the transatlantic slave trade.



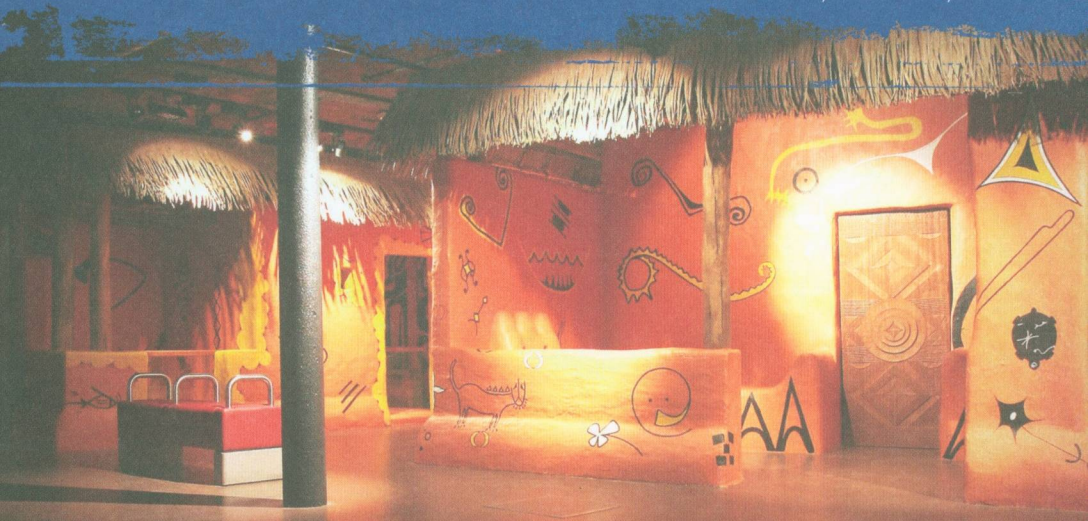
The gallery includes the recreation of an Igbo family compound. The most important building is the Obi or meeting house.

All the carved wooden items and furnishings for the compound were made by craftspeople in southeastern Nigeria in 2007. Much of the wall area of the compound is painted with bold and colourful designs traditionally painted by Igbo women for special occasions.

Other objects on display in this gallery include African art forms that have had a global cultural influence such as musical instruments, masks and sculpted figures.



Reliquary guardian figure *Mbulu ngulu*
Late 19th or early 20th century. Kota, Gabon.



ENSLAVEMENT AND THE MIDDLE PASSAGE

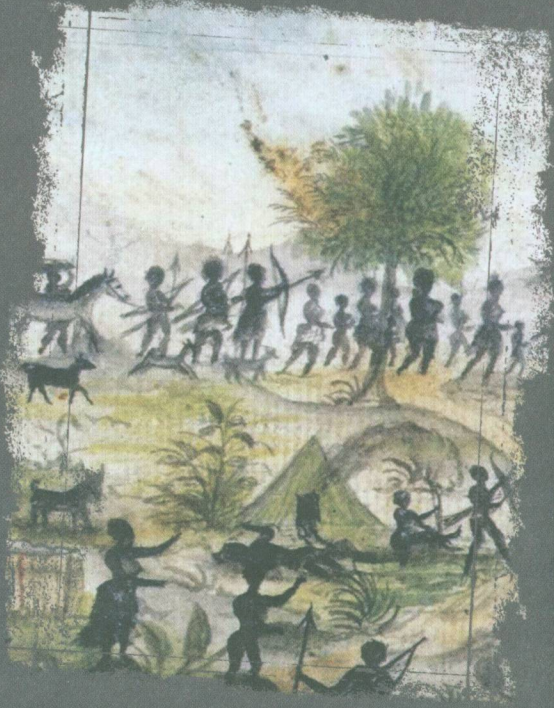
This gallery reveals the brutality and trauma suffered by enslaved Africans as they were taken to work on plantations in the Americas.

At least 12 million Africans were enslaved over a period of 400 years before transatlantic slavery was finally abolished.

Sometimes enslaved Africans were forced to march for hundreds of miles from their homes to the coast. Sold several times over on this journey, they passed from one owner to another; their sense of disorientation and dread heightening with each sale.

Once they reached the coast, they were taken on board ships and had to endure a horrific four to six week journey across the Atlantic in cramped and disgusting conditions. This part of their journey is described as the Middle Passage.

On the ships many of the enslaved Africans died of disease and many took their own lives. Africans were held in atrocious dehumanising conditions. Violence, terror and degradation were everyday occurrences on board ship and they were treated equally inhumanely on arrival in the Americas.

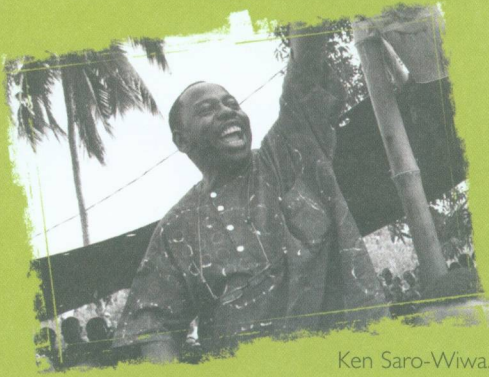


Slave Coffle, Sierra Leone, 1793
© National Maritime Museum, London



Headdress of cowrie shells with roan antelope horns, Kon Jombo, West Africa

LEGACY



Ken Saro-Wiwa.
Lambon/Greenpeace

This gallery includes displays and exhibits which offer reminders of the racism and discrimination faced by Black people even after the abolition of the slave trade.

Transatlantic slavery has left a damaging and dangerous legacy of racism and discrimination which has affected the development of all the countries involved.

In particular many African, Caribbean and South American countries have faced long-term underdevelopment because of slavery and colonialism.

In this gallery you can also discover examples of how the unquenchable spirit of people of African descent has helped to shape the society and cultures of the Americas and Europe.

Four centuries of revolts and revolution are examined on the Fight for Freedom and Equality wall. Films show examples of prominent 20th century Black leaders and movements, such as Martin Luther King Jr and the Civil Rights Movement, and the Black Panther Party.

At the Music Desk you can listen to more than 300 songs from many different genres which are influenced by African music such as jazz, blues and Mersey Beat music from Liverpool.

Inspirational members of the African Diaspora are celebrated on the Black Achievers Wall in the gallery. Among the famous faces on the wall are Olympic gold medallist Kelly Holmes, Muhammad Ali, Oprah Winfrey and the forgotten heroine of the Crimean War, Mary Seacole.

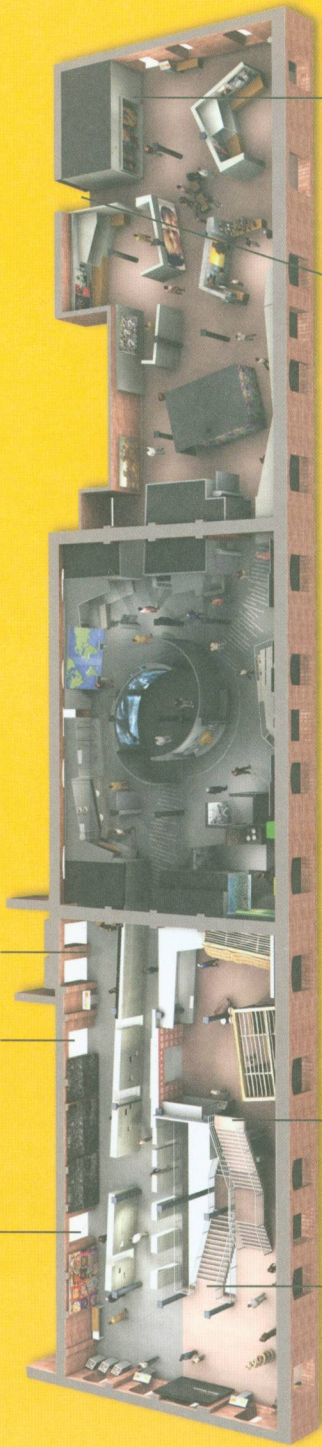
Over a period of time we will be adding new pictures to the wall. If you would like to nominate a Black achiever for inclusion you can email the International Slavery Museum: ism@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk



INTERNATIONAL SLAVERY MUSEUM FLOOR PLAN

Anthony Walker Education Centre
and emergency stairs

Toilets Lifts



Stairs to floor 2 Stairs to floor 4

Accessible toilets Emergency stairs

GALLERY 1

Life in West Africa

GALLERY 2

Enslavement and the
Middle Passage

GALLERY 3

Legacy

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

In 2011 the International Slavery Museum **Research Institute and Education Centre** will open in the 19th Century Dock Traffic Office next to Merseyside Maritime Museum.

It will be connected to the galleries by an enclosed glass bridge and will provide an expansion of the current museum. Working in partnership with communities the centre will be a venue for a programme of public activities including temporary exhibitions, lectures, debates, performing arts, theatrical or musical events, demonstrations, book readings, and community events.

If you would like to find out more about the project, or would like to support it visit

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk



GENERAL INFORMATION

The International Slavery Museum is located on the third floor of Merseyside Maritime Museum.

OPENING HOURS

Open daily 10am - 5pm.
All exhibitions, events and activities are free.

ENQUIRIES

Please go to the information desk on the ground floor.

ACCESS

Level entry, accessible toilets and wheelchair access throughout the building.

Induction loops are fitted at various points throughout the museum.
Guide and hearing dogs welcome.

BABY CHANGING

Available on the ground and third floors.

LOCKERS

Available on the ground floor.
Elsewhere please do not leave bags and belongings unattended.

WHERE TO EAT

Choose from a selection of food and drinks at our café on the ground floor. Additional café on the fourth floor open weekends and school holidays. Please note eating and drinking are not allowed on the galleries or in the foyer.

MUSEUM SHOP

Located on the ground floor, stocking a wide range of souvenirs and gifts including books, postcards and posters.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography is allowed for personal use but no flash or tripods please. Photography may not be allowed in certain areas - there will be notices advising you of this.

FACILITIES



International Slavery Museum
Albert Dock, Liverpool L3 4AX
Telephone 0151 478 4499
www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk