

My Visit to Gadsby's Tavern Museum

A pre-visit guide to help
me prepare for my
self-guided visit.



Welcome

I am going to Gadsby's Tavern Museum.

The museum is based in two former tavern buildings. A tavern was a place visitors would go to eat, drink, talk, and sleep.

My Self-Guided Visit

My visit will be self-guided. This means I will not have a tour guide.

I can use the **Notes** pages at the end of this guide to plan what I will see and do.



Before I Leave For The Museum I Can:

Pack My Bag

I can bring water, sunglasses, snacks, money, jackets, fidgets, headphones, and anything else I may need.

Plan My Travel

I can decide how to get to and from the museum.

Plan My Visit

I can plan for speaking with museum staff and visitors who may talk to me.

Use the Restroom

The museum does not have public restrooms. I can find public restrooms at the Alexandria Visitor Center (221 King St, Alexandria, VA 22314).

Eat

I can eat before my visit. I cannot eat food inside the museum. I can eat before I leave for the museum or I can visit a restaurant near the museum.

General Sensory Information

Hear

There is always some noise in the museum. I may hear the AC humming, street noise, and conversations. I may hear door chimes, 18th century music, and people walking on the stairs.

I can cover my ears, wear headphones, or find a quieter space.

Feel

The museum can get warm in the summer and cold in the winter. The front and back doors can be heavy. Some Hands-on objects may have unpleasant textures. The floors and stairs are uneven.

I can put on or take off my jacket, choose which hands-on objects I touch, explore other rooms, or ask for help.

See

The rooms in the museum are lit by lamps and natural light from windows. The rooms can be dim when it is cloudy. There are bright lights near exhibit panels.

I can cover my eyes, ask staff to adjust the lights, or wear sunglasses.

Smell

I may smell visitors' perfume or cologne, old wood, and food from Gadsby's Tavern Restaurant next door.

I can cover my nose or leave the room and come back later.

Finding the Museum

Gadsby's Tavern Museum is located at 134 N. Royal Street in Alexandria, VA 22314.

The streets near the museum can be busy and loud. The brick sidewalks can be uneven. I will be careful.

Entering the Museum

I can enter the museum through the front or back door. I will hear a chime when the door opens.

The front door has three steps and no railings.

The back door has no steps. I can find the back door by going through the gate on the left side of the building.



Front Door



Gate & Back Door

Getting A Ticket

Next, I will go to the Museum Shop to get my ticket. The Museum Shop is inside, near the front door.

A staff member at the Museum Shop desk will welcome me and help me get a ticket.

I may need to wait in line. If someone is getting my ticket for me, I can explore the Museum Shop while I wait.



Museum Admission



\$5 per Adult
\$3 per Child (ages 5 to 12)

AAA Members receive \$1 off
Key to City: redeem coupon for free admission

Free Admission for

City of Alexandria residents
Active Duty Military Personnel & family
Veterans



Staff

The people who work in the museum are here to help me!

Staff members wear nametags.

I can ask them questions. They might ask me questions too.

I can always find a staff member in the Museum Shop. I may also see staff setting up events, giving tours, and running stations in the museum.



Exploring the Museum

After I get my ticket I can explore the museum!

I can visit all the rooms or just the ones I want to. I can visit the rooms in any order. If I made a schedule, I can choose to follow it.

Bags, Jackets, & Umbrellas

If I brought a jacket or bag, I can hang it on a hook in the Hallway while I explore. If I brought an umbrella, I can store it in the bucket on the floor of the Hallway.



Stairs

The museum is old and does not have an elevator. I can use the stairs to explore the second and third floors. If I use the stairs, I will hold the metal handrail to keep myself safe.

If I do not go upstairs, I can ask staff to show me pictures and videos of the upstairs rooms. I can also find exhibit text on the museum's website.



Recorded Sounds

First Floor

The Private Dining Room has recording of people talking and eating. It plays on a loop. I may hear it if I am in the Private Dining Room.

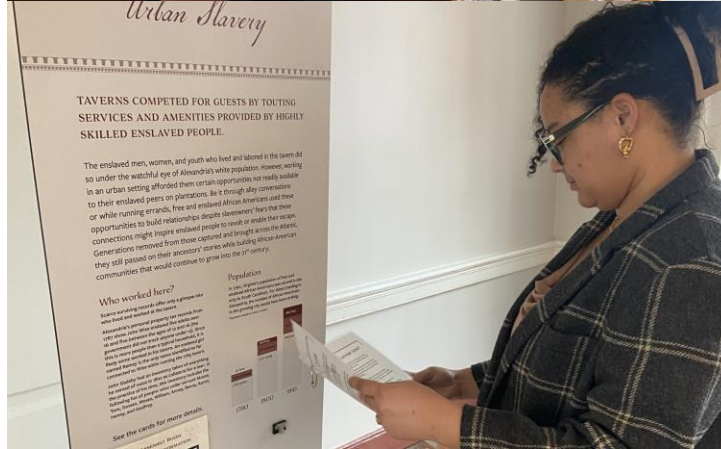
Second Floor

The Assembly Room has recording of piano music. I can press the button on the piano to hear it. Other visitors may press the button too.

The Ballroom has an recording of 18th century music. It plays on a loop. I may hear it if I am in the Ballroom.

Hands-On Objects

I can touch objects that are not behind a barrier. If I move an object, I will put it back where I found it before I leave the room.



Breaks

I can take breaks as I explore.

I can sit on the red chairs and benches throughout the museum. I can stretch, dance, perform, or sit on the floor in the Ballroom.

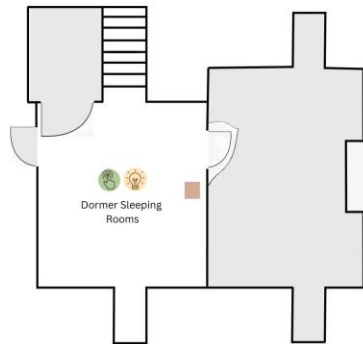
Quiet Spots

Since the museum always has some noise, I may not be able to find a completely quiet spot. I can ask staff to help me or use the **Sensory Map** to find a less noisy spot.



Gadsby's Tavern Museum Sensory Map

Key	
	Tactile Objects
	Adjustable Lights
	Recorded Sounds
	Dance/Stretch Space
	Seats
	Barriers
	Staff Only
	No Stairs Needed



Third floor

Things to Know as I Explore

Pictures

I can take photos and videos as long as I turn off the camera flash.

Food & Drinks

I can bring bottled water into the museum. I am not allowed to eat inside the museum. I can eat food outside or after my visit.

Scavenger Hunt

I can ask staff for a museum scavenger hunt. If I finish it and return it I will win a small prize!

Barriers

I will keep myself and the museum safe by staying behind rope barriers. If I cross a barrier I may hear an alarm. Staff are allowed behind the barriers.

Signs

I will keep myself and the museum safe by following the instructions on museum signs.

Some signs are tricky.



The museum gate says, “No Trespassing.” I am not trespassing so I can use this gate. The sign on the back door says, “Emergencies and Special Events Only.” However, I can use this door to enter and exit the museum.

Changes & Emergencies

Exhibits & Events

Sometimes exhibits change and events close off parts of the museum. I can check the museum website or call ahead to prepare for changes.

Large Groups

Groups can book tours of the museum. I can call ahead or ask staff at the museum if large groups are expected during my visit.

Weather

If the weather is bad the museum may close. I can check the museum website to find out if the museum's open hours have changed.

Emergencies

It is very unlikely that I will experience an emergency during my visit. If there is an emergency, I will listen to museum staff and follow their instructions to keep myself safe.

First Floor

I can learn about the enslaved people who labored here. I can learn about what customers ate, drank, and talked about at the tavern.

I can explore the **Museum Shop**. When I leave the Museum Shop I will be in the **Hallway**.

I can explore the **Public Dining Room**. I can play Shut the Box and I may hear other guests rolling dice.

I can explore the **Private Dining Room**. I may hear a recording of people eating, drinking, and talking. This room is small. I may need to wait my turn to enter.



Museum Shop



Hallway



Public Dining Room



Private Dining Room

Second Floor

I can learn about the owner of the taverns, famous guests, and how the tavern became a museum.

I can explore the **Assembly Room**. I can hear music. I can write a postcard. I can put on a performance.

I can explore the **Passage**. I have to go through the Passage to reach the Ballroom and East Bedchamber.

I can explore the **East Bedchamber**. This room is small. I may need to wait my turn to enter.

I can explore the **Ballroom**. I may hear music. I can practice my dancing. I can touch an ice cream mold. I can take a survey.



Assembly Room



Passage



East Bedchamber



Ballroom

Third Floor

I can learn about what it was like for visitors to sleep at the tavern.

These are the **Dormer Sleeping Rooms**.

I can sit or lie on the bed to see how it feels! These rooms have low ceilings.



Outside

I can learn how the taverns stored ice.

This is the **Ice Well**. The ice well is located outside the museum on the corner of N Royal Street and Cameron St. I must go down stairs to see the Ice Well.



Leaving the Museum

When I am ready to leave the museum, I will exit through the front or back door.

If I left a bag, jacket, or umbrella in the Hallway I will get it before I leave.



I learned a lot at
**Gadsby's Tavern
Museum** and I hope to
visit again soon!



<p>My Schedule (Write, Draw, or Attach Pictures)</p>	<p>Done! ☒</p>

My Visit to Gadsby's Tavern Museum

I can use these pages to plan my what I will see and do at the museum. I can also plan what I will do before and after my visit.

If I am visiting the museum with a group, I can plan my visit with them.



My Schedule (Write, Draw, or Attach Pictures)	Done! ☒

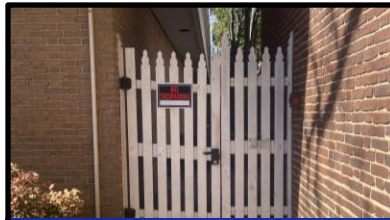
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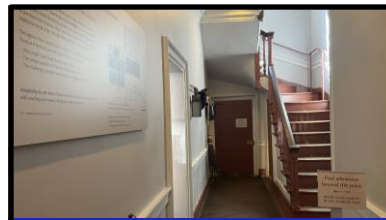
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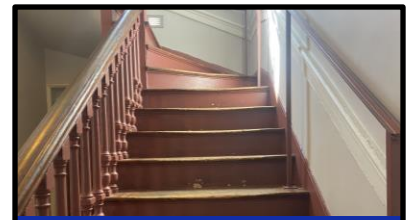
Front Door



Back Door



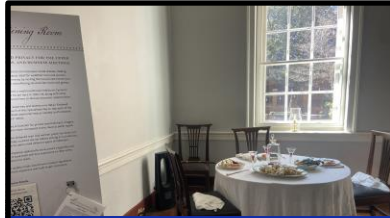
Hallway



Stairs



Public Dining Room



Private Dining Room



Assembly Room



Passage



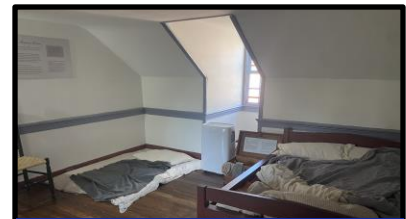
East Bedchamber



Ballroom



Museum Shop



Dormer Sleeping Rooms

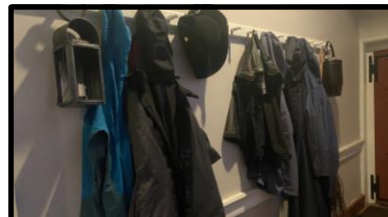
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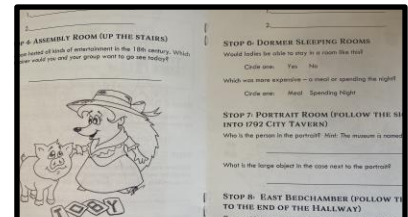
Ticket



Staff



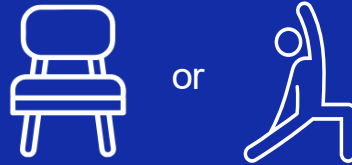
Bag, Jacket, Umbrella



Scavenger Hunt



Photo or Video Tour



Break



Water



Quieter Space



Restroom



Hands-On Object
or Comfort Tool



Help



Leave

Museum Information

If you would like help editing this story for your own needs, or you have suggestions on how to make this story better, please contact the museum.

Address:

134 N. Royal Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Phone: 703.746.4242

Website: alexandriava.gov/GadsbysTavern

Gadsby's Tavern Museum is one of 8 museums in Historic Alexandria. I can also visit other museums in Historic Alexandria.

<u>Hours of Operation</u>		
	Spring-Summer	Fall-Winter
	Mid-March to October 31	November 1 to mid-March
Monday	1—5 pm	Closed
Tuesday	1—5 pm	Closed
Wednesday	Closed	Closed
Thursday	11 am – 4 pm	11 am – 4 pm
Friday	11 am – 4 pm	11 am – 4 pm
Saturday	11 am – 5 pm	11 am – 5 pm
Sunday	1—5 pm	1—5 pm

Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day