

Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology - MAA

MAA is a museum of humanity's history over hundreds of thousands of years, of world cultures over recent centuries, and of Indigenous life and art in the present.

MAA is also a local museum. For nearly 140 years it has been the place where archaeological finds from Cambridge and from our region are preserved, researched and displayed.

Locally and globally, it is a revelation of people's stories, through extraordinary things they have made, past and present.

Dementia Compass

This guide has been created through the Portals to the World programme, a partnership between the University of Cambridge Museums and Dementia Compass.

Dementia Compass is a social venture with over a decade of experience supporting individuals with Alzheimer's or other dementias and their families.

Dementia Compass builds and provides resources that reduce the impacts of dementia and to help people stay connected with who and what matters.

For more information visit the Dementia Compass Website:
www.dementiacompass.com
Phone 07876 350 638
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Why a museum walk?

Visiting a museum is a great opportunity to meet friends and have some gentle exercise as you explore the exhibits.

How long will it take?

With time to stop and look the walk should take you approximately 30 minutes.

How far is it?

It's approximately 200 steps.

Are there places to sit?

There are benches around the museum.

What access support is there?

The museum is on three floors, starting on the ground floor. Access is from street level and lifts, directly inside the museum, take you to all the museum floors

A wheelchair is available to borrow at the main entrance, this can be pre-booked by phone or email (see below).

There are two sets of accessible, gender-neutral toilets. One set is on the first-floor landing, and the other is on the second-floor landing, both are immediately adjacent to a wheelchair-accessible lift.

Assistance dogs are welcome.

Museum Walk

Pots, Jugs and Jars



Drinking jug for beer
Peru, Trujillo
100-800 CE

Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology – MAA

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How ancient civilisations
crafted and used containers for
food & drink.

Storage pot for grain & alcohol
Chinese

1

This ancient Chinese pot is a good example of the construction and design of a storage container made about 4,400 years ago. It is built by coiling rolls of clay and smoothed by hand, making it water-tight. The base of it is undecorated and indicates that the pot was sunk into the ground to keep it upright and prevent contents from spilling.

As people settled and began to farm there was a need for vessels like the one shown here. These held water, grain, food stuffs and fermented grain alcohol.

This type of pot has been found in ancient Chinese tombs, where it would have been re-used in a burial context to contain ritual food and drink offerings.

Oil & vinegar flask for the table
Roman

2

Humans have made containers by blowing glass for over 2,100 years. This technique allowed glass workers to mass-produce vessels with thin walls, like this flask to the right. This meant the price of glass reduced, making it possible to make larger vessels and make them available to more people.

Larger vessels, called amphorae, were used to transport and store foodstuffs and liquids like oil and wine. Smaller glass vessels, like the one shown here, were used in the home.

This twin chambered flask, made about 1,800 years ago, may have held oil and vinegar or wine and water for mixing at the table.



4

Drinking jug for beer
Moche

Emerging around 1,900 years ago, the Moche culture flourished along the north coast of Peru for about 700 years.

The Moche built impressive temple monuments and irrigation systems. Central to Moche art was the realistic portrayal of the natural world, including crops, plants and animals.

The Moche left behind a vast amount of ceramics including drinking jars like the one shown here. This example is decorated with the central figure of a god with animal tusks at the mouth, flanked by two men emerging from a mass of maize grains.

It is likely the Moche people drank chicha, a type of beer made from fermented maize, from these jugs.

3

Dipping jug for water & wine
Jericho

During the Early Bronze Age (about 5,000-4,000 years ago) Jericho became a fortified city surrounded by wide walls. In the city, a vibrant market evolved for trading with other cities.

Large pottery vessels called amphorae were used to store water, olive oil and wine and would have been available to buy. These vessels were so heavy it was impractical to lift them to pour out the contents.

Small dipper jugs like the example shown here, were made to dip into the liquids and had a secondary use as a 'stopper' to prevent liquids from evaporating or spoiling.

This dipper jug is about 4,600 years old and was found wedged into the top of an amphora.

