

## Access guide: Jenkin van Zyl Takeover

**Date:** Friday 9 October 2026

**Time:** 6pm to 10pm. Doors open at 6pm.

**Place:** Somerset House, Lancaster Place, London WC2R 1LA

*This guide follows the order of your visit: getting here, arriving, then each space inside.*

### 1. Getting here

Somerset House has four main entrances: the Strand, Lancaster Place, River Terrace and Victoria Embankment.

**Head towards the Lancaster Place entrance on Waterloo Bridge.**

The entrance is called **Chairmans Entrance**. To find it use What3Words: [///tile.chimp.string](#)

#### Plan your journey

- Illustrated guide to finding the entrance and a map of the spaces: [see our visual story](#)
  - Transport for London: [journey planner](#)
  - Google Maps: [Somerset House](#)
  - Somerset House website: [Getting Here](#)
  - More on getting here: [somersethouse.org.uk/visit-us/accessibility](https://somersethouse.org.uk/visit-us/accessibility)
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### 2. Arriving

- **Main entrance:** double doors with a small step into the building.
- **Step-free access:** yes.

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- **On arrival:** Visitor Experience will scan your ticket and give you a wristband.
- **Queue:** there might be a queue outside while tickets are scanned. If it is wet, bring an umbrella.

**If you can't stand for long: go to the front of the queue and tell Visitor Experience. They will be wearing a blue T-shirt with 'Somerset House' on the front.**

*If you have access requirements, email or call us before the event. We will meet you when you arrive.*

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## 3. Spaces at a glance

| Room              | Access                  | Sound                          | Light                          | Capacity of room             |
|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| River Rooms       | Level, no steps         | Busy, music, loud talking      | General lighting on throughout | About 30 people per workshop |
| Lancaster Room    | Ramp needed. Ask staff. | Film with captions             | Low pink light                 | Up to 45 people              |
| The Exchange      | Step-free by lift       | Background music, conversation | General lighting on throughout | Busy but spacious            |
| Quiet Room        | Step-free by lift       | Quiet                          | General lighting on throughout | Around 10 people             |
| New Wing Corridor | Even ground, no steps   | Slight echo                    | General lighting on throughout | 20 to 25 people per workshop |

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## 4. River Rooms: drop-in crafts

- **Feel:** lively, busy and stimulating. Background music is on. Facilitators will sometimes talk loudly to be heard over the crowd.
  - **Space:** lots of materials and mess for crafting on the surfaces.
  - **Seating:** there is seating throughout.
  - **Lighting:** lights stay on throughout.
  - **Access:** level, with no steps at the entrance, the exit or inside.
  - **Toilet:** the accessible toilet is directly outside.
  - **How it works:** drop in whenever you like. Most people spend about 30 minutes. You can leave and come back at any time.
  - **Numbers:** around 30 people take part in each workshop at one time.
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## 5. Lancaster Room: Enclosure Exhibition

**Content note:** the exhibition contains references to and images of blood, death, and psychological distress.

- **Ramp:** this is the only part of the event that needs a ramp. The ramp is not out all evening. Ask a member of Visitor Experience or security and they will put it in place for you.
  - **Floor:** even ground, no steps inside.
  - **Seating:** there is seating inside.
  - **Film:** 30 minutes long. It starts on the hour and at each half hour. It is captioned throughout.
  - **Lighting:** low light levels, with a pink light in use.
  - **Numbers:** a maximum of 45 people at any time.
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## 6. The Exchange: food and lift access

**Getting there step-free:**

1. Find the lift directly next to the entrance of the Enclosure Exhibition.
2. There are 3 steps up to the lift. If you need a ramp, please ask a member of Visitor Experience or Security who will place a ramp for you to use.

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3. The lift opens into the corridor to the Exchange, on your left.

## What it is like:

- **Sound:** background music and lots of conversation.
- **Screens:** a live stream of other parts of the Takeover, with no sound.
- **Space:** a busy room, but with lots of space so it should not feel cramped.
- **Lighting:** stays on throughout.
- **Toilet:** there is an accessible toilet inside.

## Food:

All food is vegan and gluten free. A full ingredients and allergens list will be displayed.

**Allergens:** soya, sulphites, mustard.

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## 7. Quiet Room

In the quiet room, you will find:

- Tables, chairs and sofas.
  - Ear defenders, Jenga and fidget toys.
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## 8. New Wing Corridor: workshops

- **Floor:** even ground, no steps.
  - **Furniture:** chairs and tables.
  - **Sound:** the rooms have a slight echo.
  - **Lighting:** stays on throughout.
  - **Length:** workshops last 1 hour or 1 hour 15 minutes.
  - **Format:** these are closed workshops. Most people stay for the whole session.
  - **Numbers:** 20 to 25 people in each workshop.
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## 9. Toilets

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- **Outside the River Rooms:** male, female, gender neutral and accessible toilets. These are the main step-free accessible toilets.
  - **In The Exchange:** male, female and gender-neutral toilets, plus an accessible toilet.
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## 10. BSL, guide dogs and access support

- **BSL interpretation:** interpreters will not be at the event unless you ask in advance. If you need one, please email us ahead of the event taking place and we will provide one.
- **Guide dogs:** welcome.
- **Other access needs:** email or call us before the event.