



ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM
OXFORD

WEDDING JOURNEY



**BEGIN YOUR
WEDDING JOURNEY**

CONGRATULATIONS!

A WEDDING VENUE LIKE NO OTHER

The Ashmolean has been telling stories since 1683 and we want to help you tell yours.

Set among Oxford's dreaming spires, the Ashmolean Museum is an enchanting venue for your wedding, civil partnership, or celebration. The grade 1 listed building houses a vast and varied collection of art and history spanning half a million years, providing a range of unique and romantic backdrops to your special day. With its grand entrance, sweeping staircases and a selection of historic galleries or contemporary spaces, the Ashmolean offers you a choice of settings to suit your celebration.

The galleries are licenced to hold intimate daytime and larger evening ceremonies. In the evening the Ashmolean is exclusively yours for a ceremony, jubilant reception, sumptuous wedding breakfast and dancing. Our exceptional catering partners will provide an extraordinarily exquisite experience for you and your guests to enjoy.

Every wedding is different, which is why our friendly team are on hand to tailor your day to your vision. From finding the picture-perfect photo backdrop to sharing our handpicked list of suppliers and creatives, they are dedicated to creating cherished memories for you and your guests.

'We had such an amazing wedding at the Ashmolean, something we will always remember', Kirstie and Karl.

A Vase of Flowers ▶

*Elias van den Broeck (1649 or 1650-1708)
Second floor | Gallery 48 | Still-life Paintings*





Drinks 150

Martin Phelps Weddings

WELCOME

Nestled in the heart of Oxford city centre, the Ashmolean is the oldest public museum in the world.

The grand and elegant façade will not fail to impress your guests as they arrive at the Museum. The iconic portico and neoclassical architecture offer a fantastic opportunity for wedding photography and provide a wonderful backdrop for confetti following your ceremony.

The forecourt, with the iconic museum backdrop, is a perfect outdoor space for welcome drinks on a summer evening.

The Neoclassical Forecourt ▶
Charles Robert Cockerell, built in 1845





◀ **The Day Dream**
Dante Gabriel Rossetti (1828-1882)
Second floor | Western Art Print Room

COUPLES' PRIVATE GALLERY SUITES

We offer separate gallery suites as a private space for you both to relax in, for photography and to savour the moments leading up to your ceremony.



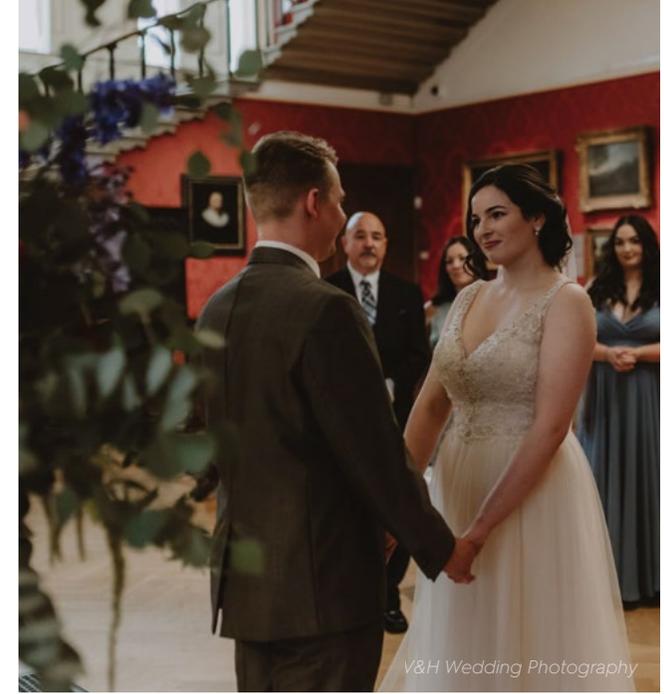
Ceremony 90
Drinks 70



CEREMONY

The European Art Gallery is a spacious ceremony room that evokes the richness of a historic art collection in an English country estate. Surrounded by an incredible collection of Old Master paintings and impressive portraits it provides the perfect backdrop of romance for you to say that all-important 'I do'.

This charming and opulent space features a beautiful descending staircase, perfect for the wedding procession and making your grand entrance.



V&H Wedding Photography

NON-LEGAL CEREMONIES & RENEWAL OF VOWS

Celebrate your union your way. We work with a handful of celebrants who can work with you to create a ceremony that reflects your beliefs and your personalities. We also welcome a celebrant of your own choosing.

The Choice of Hercules ▶

Paolo de' Matteis (1662-1728)
Second floor | Gallery 44 | European Art



Phillipa James

Great Bookcase ▶

(1859-1862)

Third floor | Gallery 66 | Pre-Raphaelites

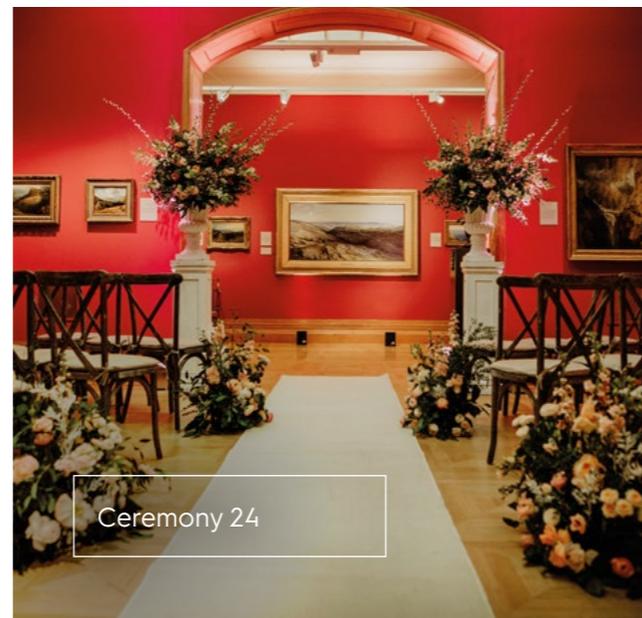


Ceremony 18

INTIMATE CEREMONY

The Museum boasts a number of charming and romantic art galleries for elopements and intimate wedding ceremonies. The 19th Century Art Gallery displays an array of landscapes and the Pre-Raphaelites Gallery holds the highly decorated Great Bookcase providing stunning backdrops to tie the knot.

The Cast Gallery offers an elegant and classical space which houses Britain's largest collection of monumental and sculpture casts. Perfect for an intimate ceremony or drinks reception, its understated elegance will certainly delight.



Ceremony 24

Jerusalem ▶

Edward Lear (1812-1888)

Third floor | Gallery 67 | 19th Century Art



Ceremony 42
Drinks 50



Drinks 50 – 150
Upper galleries 600

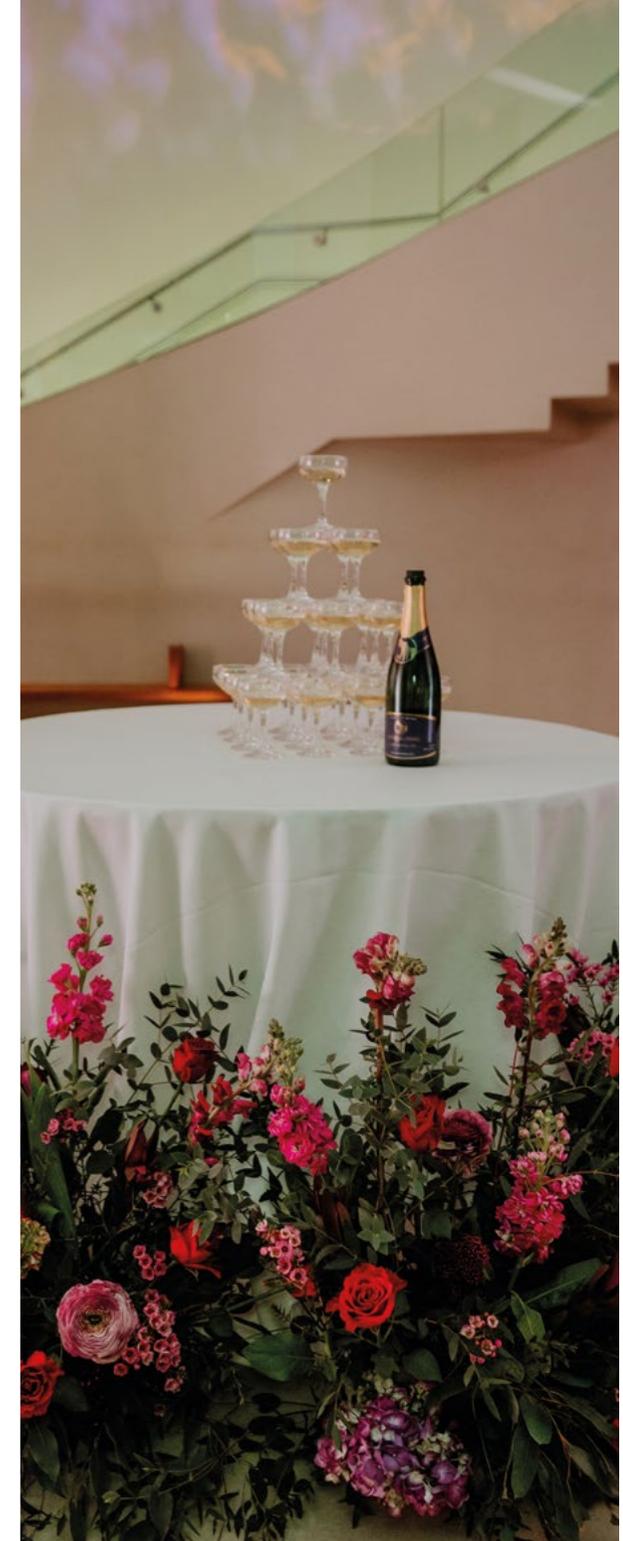
V&H Wedding Photography

DRINKS RECEPTION

The Atrium is a beautiful contemporary space that provides an unforgettable setting for a drinks reception. The architectural staircase sweeps up through the heart of the Museum and offers the perfect platform for addressing your guests.

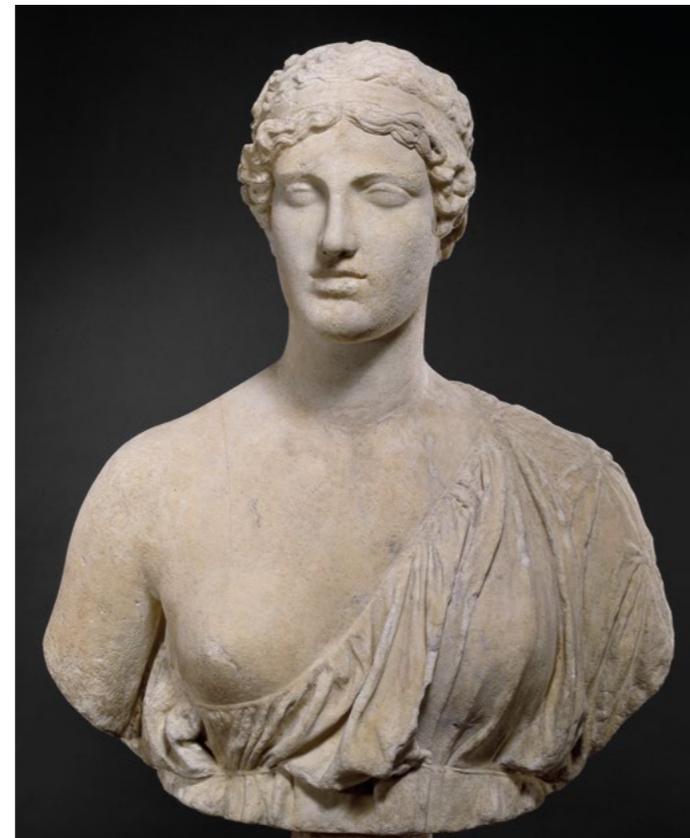
The colossal statue of Apollo from the Temple of Zeus at Olympia, and the adjoining galleries, make it an impressive space where your guests can socialise, enjoy a fine selection of drinks and canapés while exploring the Museum's world-class collections.

**Cast Statue of
Kouros A**
*Delphi (590–580 BCE)
Lower Ground Floor
Atrium*



WEDDING BREAKFAST

The majestic Greek and Roman Sculpture Gallery boasts high ceilings, beautiful alcoves and is lined with classical sculptures, statues, and inscriptions, offering a dramatic and unique location for a wedding breakfast.



The Oxford Bust

Rome (50-200)

Ground floor | Gallery 21 | Greek and Roman Sculpture



Drinks 120
Buffet 120
Dinner 150
Ceremony 120



Drinks 80
Dinner & Dancing 65
Ceremony 50

Carol Elizabeth Photography



Ellie Gillard Photography

ROOFTOP DINING ROOM & OUTDOOR TERRACE

This hidden gem, an oasis of calm, high above the busy city centre of Oxford is bathed in natural light that pours through the floor to ceiling windows by day, and reflects the glittering lights of the city by night. Perfect for a morning ceremony, wedding breakfast or anniversary celebration.

The Terrace offers an elegant outside space where you can catch-up with your guests and take in the view, while enjoying a fine selection of drinks & canapés. Guests will take their seats indoors for a fine dining experience, followed by dancing and a late bar.



◀ Flowers and Insects

Jan van Kessel, the Elder (1626-1679)
Second floor | Gallery 48 | Still-life Paintings



EVENING RECEPTION

The vaulted under-croft with its flagstone flooring, vaulted ceiling arches and booth-style seating alcoves, is an atmospheric and informal setting to end the evening with dancing, live music, and an optional bar. It is the perfect place to relax and have some fun with your guests.

Enjoy your celebration for longer by requesting a late licence.



◀ **Dancing girl performing for a Raja**
18th century (1701-1800)
Eastern Art



Drinks 180
Dancing 150



V&H Wedding Photography

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM EXPERIENCES

Engage your guests with an expert-led private tour of our collections or exhibitions. It will spark conversations and make your day even more memorable.

Djeddjehutyluefankh Mummy – nested coffins ▶
Deir el-Bahri, western Thebes, Egypt c. 770–712 BC
Ground floor | Gallery 24 | Life after Death in Ancient Egypt





MULTICULTURAL WEDDINGS

At the Ashmolean we celebrate the richness of cultural diversity. Our experienced Weddings Team will work with you to weave in your traditions and customs to create a very special day.

CHAKRA EVENTS

Chakra Events' dedicated team of event stylists, event planners, talented chefs that specialise in the smell and taste of expertly cooked South Asian and East Asian cuisine make for the finest weddings and private parties.

They combine the most unique and forward-thinking cuisine concepts with breath taking presentation to deliver a truly unique culinary experience for their couples.



◀ **Hanging lamp**
Mamluk Period
(1299-1340)
First floor | Gallery 31
Islamic Middle East





ASHMOLEAN A-LIST

TRUSTED PARTNERS

Over the years we have developed relationships with trusted partners who support events at the Museum. This means we can offer our clients a list of hand-picked suppliers and creatives who share our values and meet our high standards. Familiar with our event spaces, they will work with your ideas and bring them to life in the Museum.

Before considering a partnership, we ask about sustainable policies; what they are doing to reduce their own carbon footprint and how we can work together towards more environmentally sustainable events.

WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY

The Museum offers many unique and romantic backdrops for your celebration photographs. From enchanting art galleries to classical architecture, it really is a venue like no other.





CATERING PARTNERS

OXFORD FINE DINING

At Oxford Fine Dining every single wedding is a new story. Whether you are dreaming of a timeless sit-down wedding breakfast with champagne and canapés, a vintage outdoor party with cocktails, or a relaxed buffet, their chefs will use innovation and creativity tailored to you to ensure deliciously different menus on your most special occasion.



BENUGO EVENT CATERING

Benugo Events create spectacular culinary occasions with a magical sense of the unexpected, exquisite taste and exacting attention to detail. Created with passion, their food is sustainably sourced, showcasing the best seasonal and local produce, beautifully designed to create an extraordinary dining experience.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

From 8:30am - 10:00am the Museum is available for exclusive hire for a morning ceremony

From 10:00am - 5.00pm we can host daytime ceremonies and will close off the gallery to the public.

From 5.30pm the Museum is exclusively yours for the evening until midnight with an optional extension to 1am.

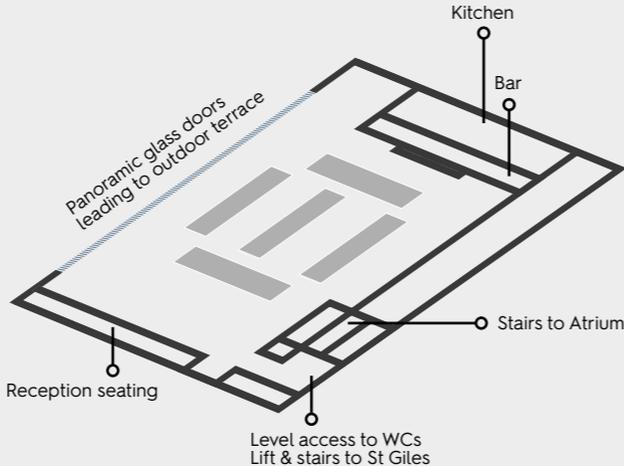
You may host your wedding reception in the Rooftop Dining Room in the daytime, or the evening and in the galleries **from 6.00pm** each evening.

All our galleries and external spaces are fully accessible.

ROOFTOP DINING ROOM

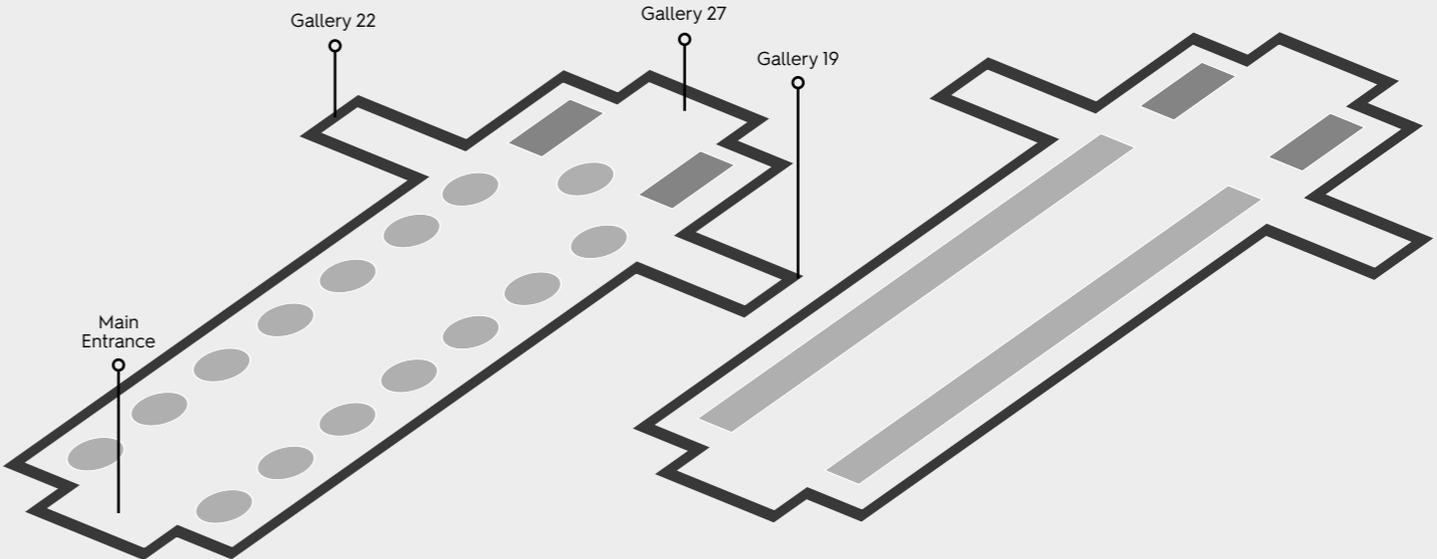
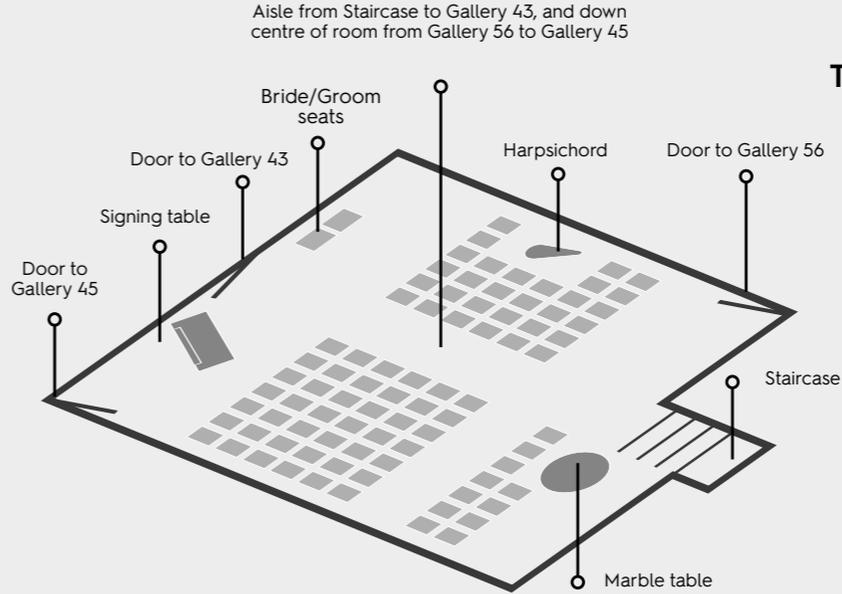
65 Guests with drinks and dancing area

<p>Capacity <i>Drinks 80</i> <i>Dinner & Dancing 65</i> <i>Ceremony 50</i></p>
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THE EUROPEAN ART GALLERY

<p>Capacity <i>Ceremony 90</i> <i>Drinks 70</i></p>
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GREEK AND ROMAN SCULPTURE GALLERY
with 15 round tables

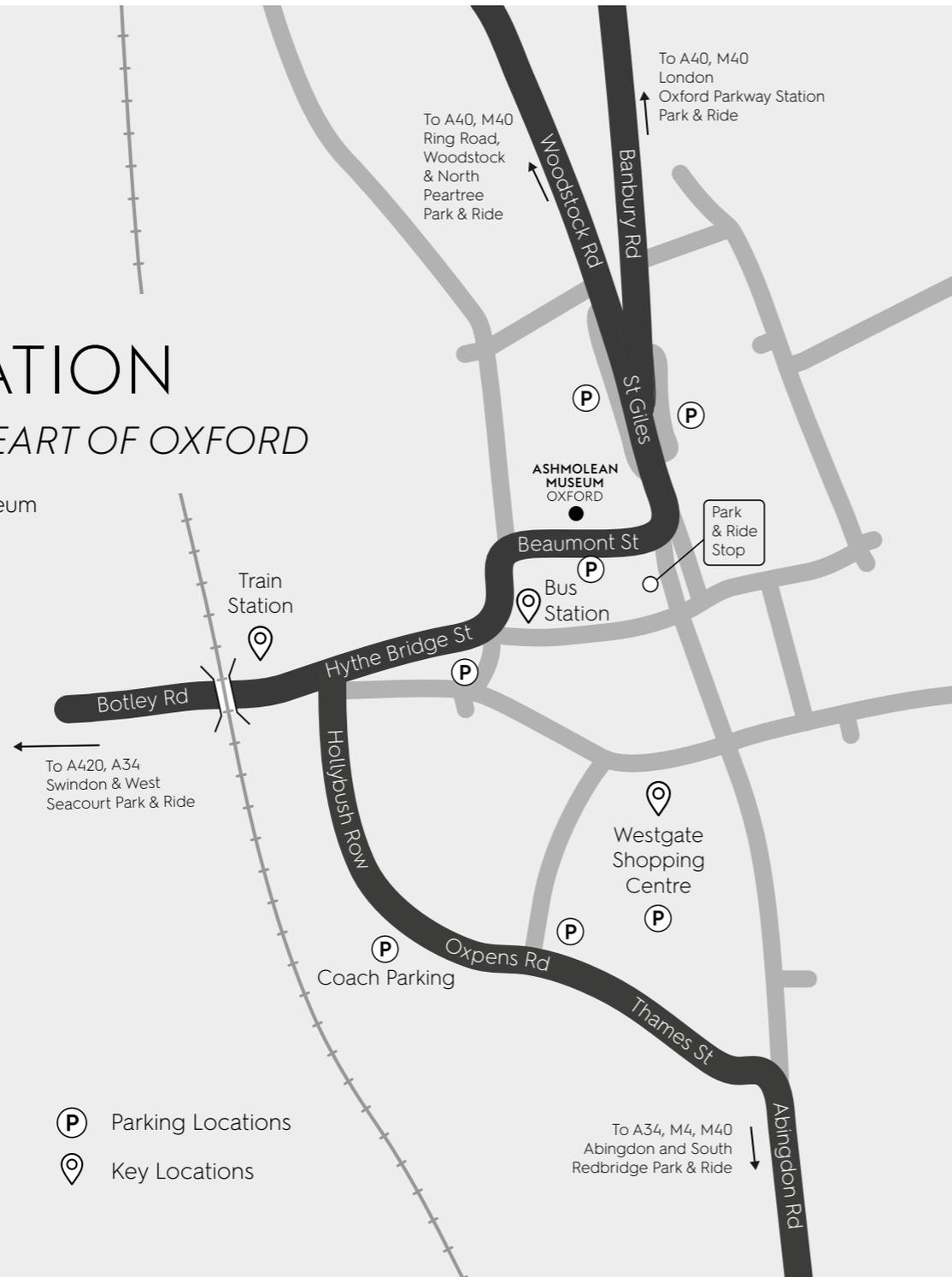
<p>Capacity <i>Drinks 120</i> <i>Buffet 120</i> <i>Dinner 150</i> <i>Ceremony 120</i></p>
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GREEK AND ROMAN SCULPTURE GALLERY
with long tables

LOCATION

AT THE HEART OF OXFORD

Ashmolean Museum
Beaumont St
Oxford
OX1 2PH



OUR COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY



We wholeheartedly believe that weddings can be kinder to the planet without compromising on style or quality. Our team is passionate about upholding our responsibility for the environmental impact of weddings at the Ashmolean.

We are proud to have been awarded accreditation from the Sustainable Wedding Alliance, an alliance of businesses with the shared purpose of creating more sustainable and environmentally conscious weddings.

360° VIRTUAL TOURS

Click the links below to virtually explore some of the Ashmolean Museum's wedding spaces.

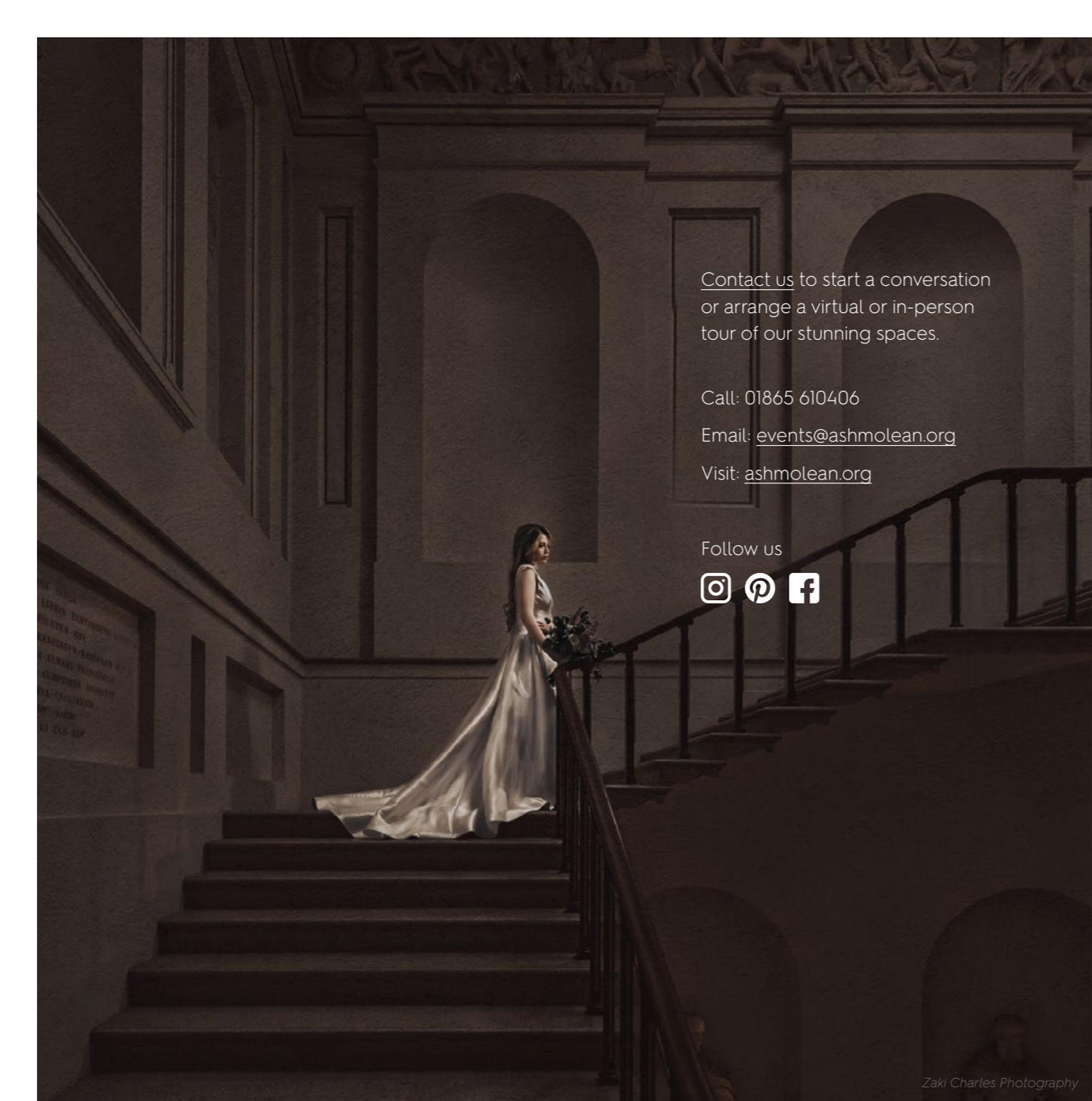
[Arrival](#)

[European Art Gallery ceremony](#)

[Rooftop Restaurant and Terrace intimate ceremony and reception](#)

[Atrium drinks reception](#)

[Wedding breakfast](#)

A woman in a long, flowing white wedding dress stands on a grand, dark stone staircase. She is holding a bouquet of flowers and looking down. The staircase is set within a grand, classical building with arched doorways and a decorative frieze above the arches. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the woman against the dark background of the building.

[Contact us](#) to start a conversation
or arrange a virtual or in-person
tour of our stunning spaces.

Call: [01865 610406](tel:01865610406)

Email: events@ashmolean.org

Visit: ashmolean.org

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