



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the opening hours of Real Bodies The Exhibition?

10am to 7pm (last entry 6.00pm), Thursday to Sunday.

What are the off-peak vs peak times?

Off-peak pricing is on Thursday and Friday, from 10am to 7pm (last entry 6pm).

Peak pricing is on Saturday and Sunday, from 10am to 7pm (last entry 6pm).

How long does it take to see Real Bodies The Exhibition?

While everyone's experience may be different, on average the exhibition takes between 45 and 60 minutes to explore. All guests are welcome to stay and be fascinated by the 10 thought-provoking galleries as long as they like.

Parking

Parking is available for the exhibition charged at £5 for your visit.

When arriving at the NEC, follow the signs to the car park in use for **Real Bodies The Exhibition**.

A free shuttle bus service will be available from the car park, or it's a 10 minute walk to Hall 4 where **Real Bodies The Exhibition** is held.

Getting here

Please see the visitor information for getting to the NEC on our usual web pages which can be found [here](#)

Is Real Bodies The Exhibition suitable for children?

This is a great exhibition for all ages to enjoy, however parental guidance is suggested because the exhibition contains real human bodies and anatomical specimens which have been posthumously dissected and preserved using the process of plastination, some in their entirety with model eyeballs and full genitalia.

Can I take my pram or pushchair into Real Bodies The Exhibition?

Yes, the exhibition can accommodate prams and pushchairs.

Is Real Bodies The Exhibition wheelchair accessible?

Yes.

Is there an audio description to accompany Real Bodies The Exhibition?

There is no audio description for the exhibition.

Are bags allowed into Real Bodies The Exhibition?

Handbags are allowed into the exhibition, however large bags, suitcases, backpacks etc. are not permitted. There is a cloakroom close to the entrance of the exhibition, items can be left and charged at £1 per item.

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Is photography permitted in Real Bodies The Exhibition?

We ask all guests to be mindful that the specimens in **Real Bodies The Exhibition** are real human bodies, and to treat them with dignity and respect at all times. Respectful, non-commercial photography is allowed. "Selfies" are not.

Any guest acting in contrary to these guidelines will be asked to leave the exhibition immediately.

Can I take food or drink into Real Bodies The Exhibition?

No food or drinks are permitted inside the exhibition.

Where are the nearest food and drink facilities?

Starbucks will be open at the NEC main entrance, next to Hall 5, a two minute walk from **Real Bodies The Exhibition**.

Are there toilet facilities in the exhibition?

There are toilet facilities next to the entrance to Hall 4 where **Real Bodies The Exhibition** will be held, but there are no toilets once you are inside the exhibition.

Why should I pre-book my ticket?

We recommend that you book your tickets in advance to avoid disappointment on sold out days, to avoid the queues, and to be able to choose the day you would like to see the exhibition!

When a day sells out, tickets are not available for purchase at the box office.

Where can I purchase tickets?

Tickets for the exhibition are available online through the exhibition website [here](#), in person at the venue box office (opposite the entrance to Hall 4 where **Real Bodies The Exhibition** will be held) or over the phone on 0844 581 4906. Calls cost 7p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.

Can I enter and exit the exhibition more than once with my ticket?

No. Tickets are valid for one exhibition entry per person only. Used tickets will show as such in our system to prevent re-entry, so visitors should purchase tickets only from official outlets.

Guests may exit and re-enter the exhibition during the same visit however (e.g. to use the toilet), with re-entry validated by hand stamp.

Can I buy tickets to the exhibition on the day?

If there are tickets available for that day, yes. Tickets for the next available session can be purchased online or from the venue box office on the day. We strongly recommend that you pre-book your tickets to avoid disappointment.

Can I exchange my tickets for another date?

Tickets cannot be exchanged or refunded. We do have untimed tickets which allow the flexibility for you to enter the exhibition at any time during the open hours.

Are group or school bookings available?

Yes. For all group and school group sales, please call 0800 358 0058 to book tickets. Group discounts are available for 10+ visitors. School discounts are also available.

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I am accompanying a school or care group, is my entry free?

Teachers accompanying school groups receive complimentary tickets in the ratio of 1 free ticket for every 10 tickets (for a teacher / chaperone). Teachers visiting with their friends or families (not on an excursion) will need to pay the adult rate for entry.

What makes Real Bodies The Exhibition different from other exhibitions?

Real Bodies The Exhibition is a comprehensive educational experience with multi-layered narratives and unique individual specimens presented in dramatic, compelling environments.

The full body specimens are presented in more dynamic poses with superior dissection and detail than similar exhibitions. The exhibition also includes immersive environments of art, science and culture such as the Anatomist's Study, similar to walking through a cabinet of curiosities that includes unique and sometimes strange examples of the early days of anatomical study.

Real Bodies The Exhibition explores much more than just the human anatomical systems and the way we work. It is not only an in-depth look at the "how" of human anatomy, but also an exploration of "why," posing deeper questions in each gallery such as "Why are we here?" "Where are we going?" and "What becomes of us?"

What types of things can be viewed in this exhibition?

Real Bodies The Exhibition uses real human specimens that have been respectfully preserved to explore the complex inner workings of the human form in a refreshing and thought-provoking style. System by system, the exhibition provides an approachable and fascinating insight into what's happening inside every one of us. The exhibition also explores how elements such as breathing, hunger, the rhythm of the heart, and other essential body functions have deep cultural and emotional significance that reach as far back as the dawn of humanity.

How are the bodies preserved?

The process used by **Real Bodies The Exhibition** is commonly used in this type of preservation. The method is called Polymer Preservation and uses liquid silicone rubber to prevent the natural body process of decaying – ultimately permanently preserving the body. The experts that preserve the displays at the exhibition are the best in the business, allowing for nearly perfect preservation. The process can take up to a year, depending on the size of the organ or size of the overall body.

What do we hope audiences of Real Bodies The Exhibition will take away from their experience at this new exhibition?

We want visitors to have fun while learning more about themselves through the study of the human form presented in this approachable and thoughtful way. We hope they come away with an uplifting sense of how resilient, creative, and hopeful humanity has been through time – and continues to be today. **Real Bodies The Exhibition** offers a message of unity in a time the world can use it most.

Where have the bodies in the exhibition come from?

The specimens in **Real Bodies The Exhibition** are provided by Dalian Hoffen Bio-Technique Co. Ltd, one of the world's leading centres of plastination research and innovation. The specimens are all unclaimed bodies that have been donated by the relevant authorities to medical universities in China. The specimens featured in the exhibition were donated legally, were never prisoners of any kind, showed no signs of trauma or injury, were free of infectious disease, and died of natural causes.

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What is an unclaimed body?

An unclaimed body is an individual that has passed away whom no next of kin have come forward to claim, or cannot be found within a period of time set by the relevant authorities.

What is the process to determine if a body is unclaimed?

The exact process varies from province to province, but for example, if a person passes away in a place other than a hospital, the police may make local enquires at the scene of the discovery of the body and with persons in the vicinity who may know or have knowledge of the deceased, to ascertain as far as possible the details surrounding the death and the contact details of the family members. Searches will also be made in the police computer databases, if necessary, to see if he/she is wanted or has been reported missing. If the body is still unclaimed after a set period however, the coroner will designate the body as unclaimed, and the mortuary will inform the relevant government department to remove the dead body for cremation or donation to medical universities.

What is the timeframe a body is held before it is determined to be unclaimed in China?

Although timeframes can vary from province to province in China, the average timeframe is approximately 30 days.

Is there a waiting period before an unclaimed body is donated for teaching and research?

Waiting periods vary by province, mortuary availability and the needs of the education and research facilities. The legal minimum is 3 months.

Who decides what criteria determine which bodies are used for teaching and research?

The coroner for the relevant local authority where the body is discovered.

In the absence of physical injury, under what circumstances would the death of a person be unclaimed and unidentified?

There could be many causes of death, for example a non-infectious disease such as cancer. A person's body could be unclaimed for many reasons, for example the deceased had no identification at the time of his or her death, or no next of kin can be found to claim the body.

What process was used to determine the cause of death?

The coroner for the relevant local authority where the body is discovered determines the cause of death.

Do bodies need to be plastinated within a certain time frame (e.g. within 48 hours)?

The polymer preservation, or plastination, process could be 10 days or 100 years after death, as long as the body has been preserved. Contrary to some reports, the plastination process does not need to begin within 24-48 hours after death.

Is China the only the country that utilises unclaimed bodies for research and education purposes?

No. Many countries allow unclaimed bodies to be donated for research and education purposes including South Africa, Brazil, India and some states of the USA, for example the state of Maryland.

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Who are Imagine Exhibitions?

Imagine Exhibitions is currently producing over 35 unique exhibitions in museums, science centres, aquariums, integrated resorts, and non-traditional venues worldwide. In addition to developing successful travelling exhibitions, Imagine Exhibitions designs, opens, and operates permanent installations and venues, and consults on building, expanding, and directing museums and attractions. With over 25 years of diverse experience in the museum and entertainment industries, Imagine Exhibitions consistently develops exhibitions that educate and excite while exceeding attendance goals. For more information, visit www.ImagineExhibitions.com or find them on [Facebook](#).