



House Museums

THE UK IS FAMOUS FOR MUSEUMS SUCH AS THE TATE MODERN, THE NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM AND THE BRITISH MUSEUM. BUT THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF OTHER LESSER-KNOWN MUSEUMS THAT ARE EQUALLY FASCINATING. AND MANY MUSEUMS ARE ACTUALLY IN THE HOUSES WHERE THE FAMOUS PERSON ONCE LIVED. HERE ARE SOME OF THE BEST HOUSE MUSEUMS IN THE UK.

House museums are in a special category of their own. For a start, they give you a fascinating **insight into** the life of the famous person. You can see where they lived, how they lived and where they created some of their **finest works**. Sir John Soane's Museum in London is a great example of a house museum. Sir John lived in London during the 18th century (1753-1837) and his house is exactly as he left it. In fact, visiting the house is just like **stepping back in time**. It's full of thousands of **weird** and wonderful objects from around the world, including valuable paintings, beautiful sculptures and an Egyptian mummy.



The Dickens House Museum is in honour of the famous English writer, Charles Dickens. It is in the town of Broadstairs, Kent, which Dickens regularly visited. There are numerous personal **artefacts** and documents (including many letters) in **exhibit rooms**. The town also has an annual Dickens Festival, which takes place in June. During the festival, **townspeople dress up** in Victorian clothing. There are exhibitions, parades, theatre plays and musicians.

Some contemporary artists open their homes as house museums, too. Ted Coney has created an art gallery at



his home in Ely, England. He's been painting for over forty years. His collection consists of a group of forty

paintings on the theme of family life and relationships. Some of the topics include a daughter's marriage, the birth of a first grandchild, family anniversaries, marriages, bicycle tours by the artist, and dark family secrets. Most of the paintings are oil on **canvas**, although there are some examples of painting on glass, wood and Ivorene.

So, the next time you go to England, why not visit a house museum? ✨

House Museums

Sir John Soane's Museum

An incredible 18th century house that is home to artefacts collected by Sir John Soane.

www.soane.org

Jane Austen's House Museum



The 17th century house where the novelist Jane Austen spent the last 8 years of her life.

www.jane-austens-house-museum.org.uk

Dickens House Museum

A charming house that has been adapted as a museum to commemorate the novelist's association with Broadstairs.

www.dickensfellowship.org/DHMB.htm

Ted Coney's Family Portraits

An incredible collection of paintings on the theme of family life.

www.tedconeyfamilyportraits.co.uk



Kettle's Yard

A unique house containing a distinctive collection of modern art.

www.kettlesyard.co.uk

GLOSSARY

an insight into something *exp*
an understanding of something

fine *adj*
you can use this word to describe something that you admire or think is very good

a work *n*
something created by an artist: a painting, a piece of music, etc.

to step back in time *exp*
to go back in time to a previous period of history

weird *adj*
strange and unusual

an artefact *n*
an object of historical or archaeological interest

townspeople *n*
the people from a town

to dress up *phr vb*
to put on costumes and clothing

canvas *n*
a piece of fabric on which a painting may be done