



100 YEARS

Churchill and the Middle East

Churchill War Rooms

Opens 9 October 2017

Included in price of admission to Churchill War Rooms

This autumn, a new display will be added to the Churchill Museum, part of the Churchill War Rooms, exploring Winston Churchill's complex relationship with the Middle East.

Items including an annotated map of the Middle East, drawn up for Churchill in 1921*, will be exhibited as part of this new display at Churchill War Rooms. This new addition to the Churchill Museum will investigate this complex but important part of Winston Churchill's life.

The intimate display will comprise just over twenty items, such as a portrait by British war artist James McBey of Emir Feisal bin Hussein, an Arab noble who Churchill would elevate to King of Iraq, as well as a number of historic flags. These include the flag used to surrender the city of Jerusalem to British forces in 1917, a Hejaz flag which flew over Feisal's residence in Damascus, Syria in 1919, and a flag flown by General Sir Alan Cunningham, who in 1948 served as the last British High Commissioner for Palestine. As well as a facsimile of the Balfour Declaration and material including ephemera, photography and correspondence, the display will be accompanied by an audio-visual element.

The content offers visitors the historical context to reflect on the impact and influence of Winston Churchill on the modern Middle East. Offering a narrative of his involvement in the region, which is still subject to debate and controversy today, the display offers a starting point for visitors to explore the historic complexities of this region.

Churchill and the Middle East will be situated within the Churchill Museum, which opened at Churchill War Rooms in 2005. The Churchill Museum offers visitors a chance to understand Winston Churchill's life and legacy: to examine his talents and flaws, to understand his complex personality, to see how his values and views changed over his lifetime. In the Churchill Museum, visitors can discover the real story of Winston Churchill's remarkable 90-year life, from his childhood to his military career and two periods as Prime Minister.

Situated at the heart of Churchill War Rooms, this new permanent display can be explored alongside the historic rooms of this underground network that protected the staff and secrets at the heart of Britain's government during the Second World War. Visitors can peer into the Cabinet Room and see Churchill's chair featuring deep scratch marks gouged by the man himself during tense meetings. In the Map Room are the original sugar cubes belonging to Wing Commander John Heagerty; now more than seventy years old, these were discovered hidden in a drawer and untouched since the room ceased to be operational in 1945.

The display has been supported by Sir Frank Lowy and Westfield and The Balfour100 Committee.

– Ends –

For further information, images and interview requests, please contact:
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Notes to Editors:

*A facsimile of this document, rather than the original, will be displayed for conservation reasons

Churchill War Rooms

Churchill War Rooms was the secret underground headquarters where Winston Churchill and his team directed the course of the Second World War. We show visitors where the staff lived and worked, explain how the decisions made here changed the course of history and reveal Churchill himself and his role in British history.

Opening hours: 9.30am – 6pm. Last admission 5pm.

Closed 24 – 26 December

Admission*: £19 Adults; £15.20 Concessions (Senior, Student, Disabled); £9.50 Child (5- 16); Free Child (under 5); Family tickets available; Special rates for groups of ten plus.

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* Please note entry prices include a voluntary donation, making a valuable contribution to the care and conservation of this historic site

Balfour100 is the official tribute of the British Jewish community to mark the centenary of the Balfour Declaration, a letter dated 2nd November, 1917 addressed to Lord Walter Rothschild from the British Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour which promised that Britain would aid in the creation of a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine.

IWM

IWM (Imperial War Museums) tells the story of people who have lived, fought and died in conflicts involving Britain and the Commonwealth since the First World War.

Our unique Collections, made up of the everyday and the exceptional, reveal stories of people, places, ideas and events. Using these, we tell vivid personal stories and create powerful physical experiences across our five museums that reflect the realities of war as both a destructive and creative force. We challenge people to look at conflict from different perspectives, enriching their understanding of the causes, course and consequences of war and its impact on people's lives.

IWM's five branches which attract over 2 million visitors each year are **IWM London**, IWM's flagship branch that recently transformed with new, permanent and free First World War Galleries alongside new displays across the iconic Atrium to mark the Centenary of the First World War; **IWM North**, housed in an iconic award-winning building designed by Daniel Libeskind; **IWM Duxford**, a world renowned aviation museum and Britain's best preserved wartime airfield; **Churchill War Rooms**, housed in Churchill's secret headquarters below Whitehall; and the Second World War cruiser **HMS Belfast**.

IWM Centenary

2017 marks Imperial War Museums (IWM) centenary. IWM was established while the First World War was still being fought. Since its establishment people have entrusted IWM with their stories of war from 1917 to the present day, in the knowledge it will continue to share these stories with future generations. IWM will commemorate its 100 years through a centenary of stories from its rich collections across its five branches (IWM London, IWM North, IWM Duxford, Churchill War Rooms and HMS Belfast).



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First World War Centenary

2014 - 2018 marks the centenary of the First World War, a landmark anniversary for Britain and the world. IWM is marking the centenary by leading a vibrant, four year programme of cultural activities across the world. For more information visit www.1914.org

