

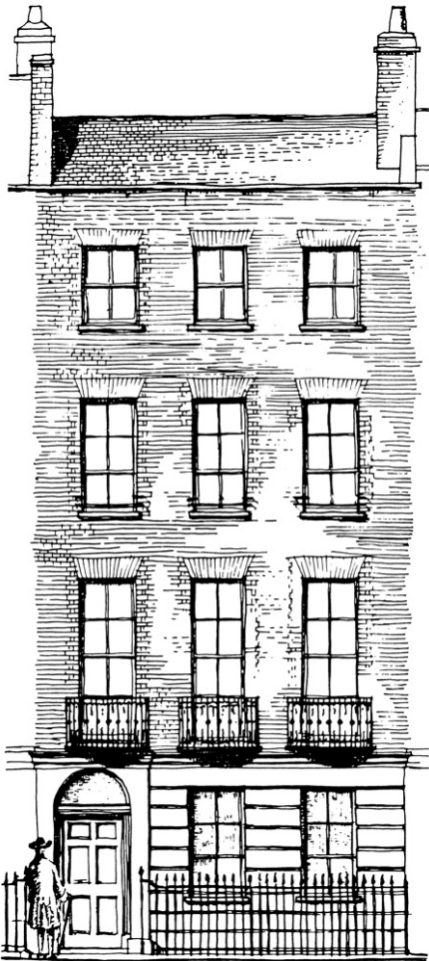


BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HOUSE

36 Craven Street, London

Visit

Bringing History To Life



A Place for History

Between 1757 and 1775, Dr. Benjamin Franklin – scientist, diplomat, philosopher, inventor, US Founding Father – called 36 Craven Street home.

During this intense period, his main occupation as colonial agent was mediating unrest between Britain and America. Though ultimately unsuccessful, he planted seeds of a special relationship that continues to be a source of strength for both nations. During his time in London, Franklin was also postmaster for the colonies, pursued science and health, music and letters, all while forging a hearty social life and close friendships with leading figures of the day.

Rescued from dereliction, 36 Craven Street's conserved interiors are a graceful backdrop for the House's unique offerings. Built circa 1730, the building holds a Grade I architectural listing for its extensive original features, including 14 fireplaces, wall panelling, shutters, doors and a central staircase, which Franklin claimed to use daily for exercise.

A Place for Today

Benjamin Franklin House opened to the public for the first time on Franklin's 300th birthday in January 2006. This precious heritage asset – the world's only remaining Franklin residence – has been brought back to its eighteenth century lustre as a dynamic museum and education facility.



"I have given a loose to imagination"

– Benjamin Franklin

Franklin and London: A Timeline

- 1706 ● Franklin born in Boston
- 1729 ● Becomes owner and publisher of Pennsylvania Gazette
- 1730 ● Enters common law marriage with Deborah Read
- 1741 ● Designs Franklin Stove
- 1753 ● Appointed Postmaster for America
- 1757 ● Travels to London and takes lodgings at 36 Craven Street to negotiate colonial interests
- 1760 ● King George III ascends the throne
- 1761 ● Invents musical instrument, the glass armonica
- 1763 ● End of Seven Years War (Europe and beyond)
- 1765 ● Faces debate over Stamp Act
- 1768 ● British troops land in Boston
- 1771 ● Begins Autobiography
- 1774 ● Attempts final peace negotiations between Britain and America
- 1775 ● Returns to America – outbreak of the American Revolution
- 1776 ● Signs Declaration of Independence
- 1777 ● Begins residence in France, representing the new United States
- 1783 ● Signs Treaty of Paris between America and Britain, ending the Revolutionary War
- 1787 ● Signs US Constitution
- 1790 ● Franklin dies in Philadelphia

Historical Experience

During the Historical Experience the eighteenth century spaces serve as a stage for a drama that seamlessly blends live interpretation and cutting edge sound, lighting, and visual projection to tell the rich story of Franklin in London.

Architectural Tours

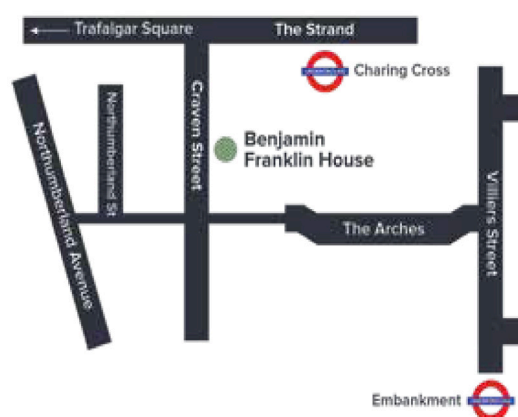
The Architectural Tour explores the Georgian features of the House, along with its fascinating history encompassing Franklin's long residence (1757-1775), the Hewson anatomy school, and the comprehensive conservation project that saved it from dereliction.

In addition to the Historical Experience and Architecture Tour, the **Student Science Centre** focuses on Franklin's London science, from lightning rods to hydrodynamics, allowing school children to satisfy their historical and scientific curiosity, free of charge.

The **Robert H. Smith Scholarship Centre** is the European focal point for the study of Franklin and the myriad subjects with which he is associated, featuring the Papers of Benjamin Franklin catalogued by Yale University, as well as an active internship programme and vibrant public events calendar.

Venue Hire

Book Benjamin Franklin House for exclusive entertaining, lectures, private dining, and drinks receptions or for filming and photography. Contact us for further information.



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Franklin at Craven Street, London and Beyond

Virtual Tour: Explore the spaces of Franklin's only remaining home [here](#).

Bloomberg Connects: For a behind the scenes look at the House and special features, including a virtual view of what 36 Craven Street would have looked like in Franklin's time, download Bloomberg Connects—available on *Apple* and *Google Play*— and search for the Benjamin Franklin House guide

Frank(lin) Views podcast: Hear thought leaders across disciplines on themes associated with Benjamin Franklin, including leadership, the purpose of history, modern day publishing, and diplomacy [here](#).

Franklin Trail: Discover the links Benjamin Franklin (and many other key founders of the USA) has with many places across London and the United Kingdom [here](#).

Franklin Timeline: Discover the extraordinary life of Benjamin Franklin through our interactive timeline [here](#).

Benjamin Franklin House events: See an exciting array of upcoming virtual and other events [here](#).

On-demand programmes: Watch programmes that reveal the life and times of Benjamin Franklin and the tumultuous 18th century in which he lived [here](#).

Education

School visits: Students explore the history of Benjamin Franklin's only surviving home and visit the Student Science Centre to take part in fun experiment which reveal the lasting importance of Franklin's London science. Schools unable to visit in person can arrange virtual visits. Find out more [here](#).

Educational outreach: Our Education Manager takes Ben's Traveling Suitcase out to schools for Franklin learning inside the classroom. In addition we offer family days including our Annual Summer Fete with peers from the world of heritage; and special events including Science on Stage, in partnership with The Royal Institution; and Frankly Speaking, a debate contest for young people, with the US Embassy London, Bloomberg and the DAR; and much more. Find out more [here](#).

Teacher resources: Find useful resources and links to on-demand lectures [here](#).

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