

Webb Ellis Rugby Football Museum

Free Admission



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The Webb Ellis Rugby Football Museum is famous for being housed in the building with the longest continuous association with the game of rugby in the world.

It was here, in 1842, that William Gilbert established the first rugby football workshop, beginning a tradition of rugby football manufacture on the site that is carried on by Webb Ellis Ltd. to this day. With such a prestigious past, the museum is a must-see attraction on the Warwickshire tourist trail and receives visitors from all over the world.

Redeveloped in 2009, and housing a rich collection of international rugby memorabilia and artefacts gathered over the last 160 years, the museum tells the story of the rugby ball, the building and the birth of the game. Displays show a fascinating range of objects from the earliest rugby balls to James Gilbert's Great Exhibition stand which showcased the workshop's cutting-edge innovation at the height of the Victorian era.



Visitors can...

Learn about the traditional manufacture of the rugby ball from its origin as a pig's bladder to its highly technical production today.

Find out about the game's beginnings from the exploits of Rugby School pupil William Webb Ellis and his 'fine disregard for the rules of the game' to the establishment at Rugby School of the first set of laws for the game of rugby football.

Discover how rugby grew into the popular international sport we know today.

In the unique historic atmosphere of the famous shop and workshop, discover how the first rugby balls were made and how the game began, growing rapidly into an international sport that is now one of the most popular in the world.

Whether you are a fan of the game, or if you simply want to enjoy the fascinating story of sporting endeavour and industrial innovation behind it, the Webb Ellis Rugby Football Museum will delight and absorb you.

The collection is privately owned and currently on loan to Rugby Borough Council. It is being managed and cared for by staff from Rugby Art Gallery & Museum.



Quotes from our visitors

"A must-see for all rugby enthusiasts"

"Great to be able to trace the origins of such a wonderful game"

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Learning Opportunities

School visits can be made by prior arrangement. To book, call Rugby Visitor Centre on (01788) 533 217. Activity booklets for young people are also available.

Group Tours & Accessibility

To arrange a group visit, or to discuss individual requirements, call Rugby Visitor Centre on (01788) 533 217.

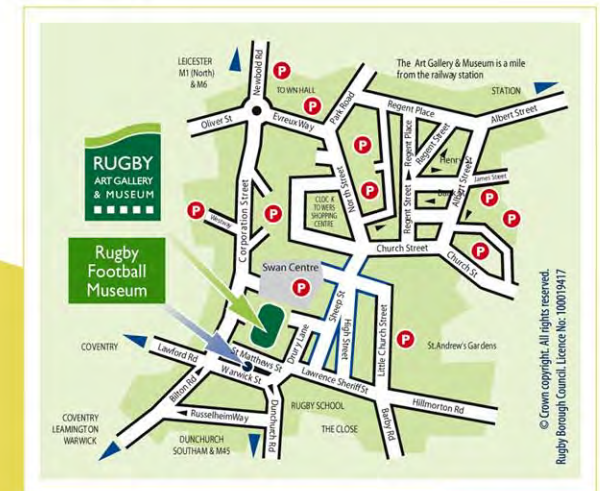
Please note: The museum is unstaffed and visits are self-led.



Limited access for people with disabilities - please call in advance of visit.

Opening Times: Mon-Sat 9.30am-5pm

How to find us



5-6 St Matthews Street
Rugby, Warwickshire CV21 3BY
www.rugbyfootballmuseum.org.uk

For further information, please call
Rugby Visitor Centre on (01788) 533 217
or e-mail visitorcentre@rugby.gov.uk

Discover more about the town of
Rugby at www.enjoyrugby.info

