

## About the Institute



Frank Debenham, geologist on Captain Scott's *Terra Nova* expedition to Antarctica, wrote his first rough notes proposing a polar research centre in December 1912, shortly after receiving the news that Scott and his four companions had died on their return from the South Pole. The centre, later named the Scott Polar Research

Institute, would not only bring together the records of polar expeditions, it would also be a fitting memorial to the lost men.

The idea for the Institute followed Debenham to Cambridge, where he and several other scientists from the expedition came to write up their results. Following his appointment to the University's first Chair of Geography in 1919, Debenham's continued lobbying finally brought about the establishment of the Institute in 1920. The building that now houses the Institute and its Polar Museum was completed in 1934. Then, as now, it was home to polar researchers and growing collections of polar artefacts, photographs and written materials.



The Polar Museum presents highlights from our library, archive, museum and picture library collections. It also showcases active research in the Institute on the natural and social sciences of the polar regions.



### The Polar Museum

Scott Polar Research Institute  
University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER  
01223 336540

The Polar Museum aims to make its collections available to everybody. Wheelchair access is available via a ramp. With advance notice we can provide access to our handling collections and we can offer an audio guide for blind and partially sighted visitors. Please contact us if you have access requirements, we will be happy to make arrangements to accommodate you.

Check the Polar Museum website at [www.spri.cam.ac.uk/museum](http://www.spri.cam.ac.uk/museum) for information about the latest exhibitions and events or to sign up to the Museum's email newsletter.

The Polar Museum is open  
10.00 – 4.00 Tuesday to Saturday and on Bank Holidays.  
We close for up to two weeks over the Christmas period.



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# The Arctic

## The Polar Museum

Visit for free to discover stories of survival and exploration in the Arctic and Antarctic.

[www.spri.cam.ac.uk/museum](http://www.spri.cam.ac.uk/museum)



THE  
**POLAR MUSEUM**  
SCOTT POLAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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Museum opening hours:  
Tuesday to Saturday, 10.00 – 4.00

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## Inside the Polar Museum

With hundreds of objects on display, from beautiful clothing and artwork by communities living in the Arctic to poignant artefacts from the early days of British Antarctic exploration, there's plenty to see at the Polar Museum.

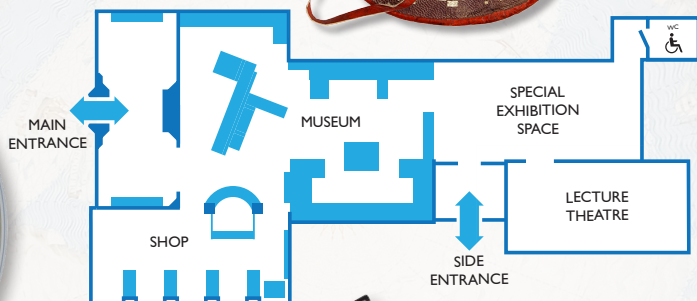


The Scott Polar Research Institute, where the Museum is based, was founded in memory of Captain Scott and his men. It is very fitting that his bust, cast by his wife Kathleen Scott, overlooks our sculpture garden.

The building that houses the Museum was built in 1934 specifically for polar research. Beautiful maps of the Arctic and Antarctic are just some of the clues to the building's polar purpose that can be found in the Museum's Memorial Hall.



We're still making discoveries about the Arctic and Antarctic, and how they affect the rest of the world. Researchers at the Scott Polar Research Institute study all things polar, from ice and climate to politics and penguins.



The earliest known evidence of humans in the Arctic is from 40,000 years ago in Western Siberia. Our displays offer a window into life in the Arctic, with kayaks, home technologies, artworks and more from communities across the Arctic.



In the nineteenth century there was intensive European exploration of the Arctic. What began as a project dedicated to mapping and scientific investigation became a major search effort after Sir John Franklin and his two fully crewed ships went missing in the 1840s.



By the early twentieth century the Antarctic was the last major unexplored continent on Earth. Photographs taken by Captain Scott and others are cared for by our Picture Library. They complement the Museum's collections of food, clothing and scientific instruments taken to Antarctica by early expeditions.



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