

Virtual Museums Online

THE QUICK VERSION

- 1 On a computer or tablet, open a browser and go to artsandculture.google.com (or install the free app).
- 2 Browse by museum, artist, place, or color — or just tap 'explore' and wander.
- 3 Tap a painting, then pinch or scroll to zoom in close on the brushwork.
- 4 Look for 'Street View' or 'virtual tour' to walk through a museum's halls.
- 5 For American history and treasures, visit the Smithsonian at si.edu, free to all.
- 6 Type the web address yourself or use the official app; the real sites are always free.

Stuck? Call or text Bill — real help, no rushing.

Call or text: (330) 200-8042

Book a visit: billshometech.com/book · \$99 flat first visit



Virtual Museums Online: Smithsonian & Google Arts & Culture

Wander the world's great museums free - - zoom in to paintings, walk the halls, all from your chair

————— An Extended Guide · No. 1909 · NO. LE-19 —————

Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

Bill Davis — Bill's Home Tech

(330) 200-8042 · bill@billshometech.com · Atwater, Ohio

Book a visit — billshometech.com/book

What's Inside

Everything in this guide, with page numbers. Skip to whichever chapter answers your question right now.

1. Read this first — the world's great museums are free to visit online	5
2. The short version	5
3. Why this is a small marvel	6
4. What 'virtual museums' really means	6
5. Google Arts & Culture: the grand front door	7
6. Zooming in closer than you could in person	8
7. Walking through the halls	8
8. The Smithsonian: America's own, free to all	9
9. The playful features worth trying	9
10. Beyond the big two: museums with their own tours	10
11. Putting it on the big television	10
12. Getting started, step by step	11
13. Saving your favorites to return to	11
14. Letting the site give you a tour	12
15. How to look at a painting (no expertise needed)	12
16. Following a theme or a story	13
17. Science, history, and natural-history museums	13
18. Ohio and local museums online	14
19. Historic sites and world wonders	14
20. Concerts, opera, and the stage online	15
21. Making an afternoon of it	15

22. Sharing what you find	16
23. Comfortable viewing for tired eyes	16
24. If you get lost or stuck	17
25. Two ways people come to this — and both are fine	17
26. Setting it up for a parent	18
27. Keeping it safe and free	18
28. Common mistakes	19
29. Common questions	19
30. Is it really free?	20
31. Do I need a special device or fast internet?	20
32. Can I see the museums as if I am walking through them?	20
33. Is this suitable for grandchildren?	20
34. Can I put it on my television?	21
35. The quick recap	21
36. You do not have to do this alone	21
A Picture to Follow Along	23
A Second Look	24
A Note From Bill	24
Your Visit — and My Promise	25

WELCOME

1. Read this first — the world's great museums are free to visit online

You can wander the Louvre, the Smithsonian, and a thousand galleries from your armchair — free, with no account required to start.

Here is the whole idea: the finest museums on earth have put their collections online, free for anyone to explore. You can stand before a famous painting and zoom in closer than you ever could in person, walk the halls of a museum as though you were there, and browse millions of treasures — all from a computer, tablet, or television, without leaving your chair.

Nothing here costs a penny, and most of it needs no account at all. The two to know first are Google Arts & Culture, which gathers thousands of museums in one place, and the Smithsonian, America's own vast museum, which has opened its collections freely to all. We will start there and branch out.

I am Bill, from Bill's Home Tech here in Portage County, Ohio. For folks who love art and history but find travel harder than they once did, this is one of the loveliest things a screen can offer. This guide shows you how to visit, in plain steps, with no jargon and no cost.

WATCH OUT

You do not need to sign up for anything to begin. Open Google Arts & Culture in a web browser and you can start exploring at once — the account is optional and only saves your favorites.

THE SHORT VERSION

2. The short version

Open one website and you are walking through a museum in minutes.

If you would like the whole thing in a nutshell before we slow down, here it is.

- 1 On a computer or tablet, open a web browser and go to artsandculture.google.com, or install the free Google Arts & Culture app.
- 2 Browse by museum, by artist, by place, or just tap 'explore' and wander.
- 3 Tap a painting to open it, then pinch or scroll to zoom in close on the brushwork.
- 4 Look for 'Street View' or 'virtual tour' on a museum to walk through its halls.
- 5 For American history and treasures, visit the Smithsonian at si.edu, free to all.

That is the entire thing. Everything after this page is simply detail — the clever features worth trying, how to put it on the big TV, and a handful of other great museums with their own free tours.

GOOD TO KNOW

Collections and features change over time as museums add more, so treat every visit as a fresh wander. There is always something new to stumble upon.

WHY IT MATTERS

3. Why this is a small marvel

A free afternoon among the world's treasures, whenever you like.

Think of what this quietly makes possible. A trip to see the great museums of Paris, London, New York, or Washington would cost a fortune and a great deal of travel. Online, those same halls are open to you on a rainy afternoon, for free, with no crowds, no sore feet, and no admission line.

For anyone who finds travel difficult — a bad hip, a tight budget, a reluctance to fly — it is a genuine gift. And even for those who can travel, there are things you can do online that you never could in person: zoom in on a painting until you can see every crack in the varnish, or stand alone in a gallery that would otherwise be shoulder to shoulder.

It is also a wonderful thing to share with a grandchild. A half-hour exploring ancient Egypt or the surface of the moon together, free, beats almost anything on ordinary television.

WHAT IT IS

4. What 'virtual museums' really means

Three kinds of free visiting, all gathered in a few places.

'Virtual museum' covers a few different pleasures. The first is simply viewing art and objects as high-quality pictures you can zoom into. The second is the walk-through: using the same technology as the maps on your phone to stroll through a museum's actual halls, turning left and right as you please. The third is the guided story — short, illustrated features that explain an artist, an era, or a single famous work.

Google Arts & Culture offers all three, for thousands of institutions, in one free place. The Smithsonian offers its own enormous collection. And many individual museums — the

Louvre, the British Museum, the Metropolitan in New York — host their own free tours on their websites. You can start in one spot and roam as far as you like.

GOOD TO KNOW

You do not need to understand the technology. If you have ever looked at a photo and pinched to zoom in, or used the maps on a phone, you already know everything you need.

GOOGLE ARTS

5. Google Arts & Culture: the grand front door

Thousands of museums, free, in one friendly place.

Google Arts & Culture is the best place to begin. It is a free website and app from Google that has partnered with thousands of museums and galleries around the world to put their collections online in one searchable home. There is no charge and no account needed to explore; you simply open it and start.

From the front page you can browse by artist, by art movement, by historical figure, by color, or by place on a map. You can lose a happy hour just following your curiosity — from a Van Gogh to the time he lived in, to the town he painted, to another painter entirely. It is built for wandering.

An account is optional and free; its only job is to let you save favorites to come back to. You can enjoy the whole thing without ever signing in, so there is no barrier to simply looking.

TIP

Begin at the home page and tap whatever catches your eye — a painting, an artist, a place. Google Arts & Culture rewards wandering far more than searching for one exact thing.

ZOOM IN

6. Zooming in closer than you could in person

See the brushwork on a masterpiece from your sofa.

One of the most astonishing features costs nothing and needs no special knowledge. Many famous paintings have been photographed in extraordinarily high detail, so when you open one you can zoom in — with a pinch on a tablet or a scroll on a computer — far closer than a museum guard would ever let you stand. You can study a single brushstroke, a signature, the fine cracks in old varnish.

This turns looking at art into a kind of exploration. A painting you thought you knew reveals tiny figures in the background, a hidden detail in a corner, the texture of the paint itself. It is a pleasure quite unlike seeing the same picture roped off across a crowded gallery.

Try it with a painting you have always loved. Open it, zoom in slowly, and wander across the surface. Many people find it the single most delightful thing on the whole site.

STREET VIEW

7. Walking through the halls

Stroll a museum as if you were really there.

The second great pleasure is the walk-through. Using the same 'Street View' technology that lets you stroll a neighborhood on a map, many museums let you wander their actual galleries online — moving forward down a corridor, turning to look at a wall, stepping into the next room. It is remarkably like being there, minus the airfare and the crowds.

On a museum's page in Google Arts & Culture, look for a 'Street View' or 'virtual tour' option. Click to step inside, then use the arrows or your finger to move and look around. When a work catches your eye on the wall, you can often tap it to see it up close.

It is a wonderful way to give yourself a proper visit rather than just flipping through pictures — a slow walk through the Musee d'Orsay of an evening, say, with a cup of tea at your elbow.

SMITHSONIAN

8. The Smithsonian: America's own, free to all

The nation's attic, opened to everyone.

The Smithsonian in Washington is the largest museum and research complex in the world, and it has long been free to visit in person. Online it is just as generous. Through its website at si.edu and its Open Access program, it has released a vast number of images and records of its collections for anyone to view, and in many cases to download and use freely.

You can explore everything from the Wright brothers' airplane to dinosaur bones, historic gowns, spacecraft, and masterpieces of American art. Each of its many museums — air and space, natural history, American history, art — has its own corner online, and many offer virtual tours of their halls.

Because it is a public institution, the Smithsonian's spirit is openness: it wants you to look, learn, and share. For American history and science especially, it is the first place I would send anyone.

FUN FEATURES

9. The playful features worth trying

Clever little games that make art a delight.

Google Arts & Culture hides several playful features that are pure fun. One lets you explore art by color — choose a shade and see every painting built around it. Another, the 'Art Selfie,' takes a photo of your face and finds historical portraits that resemble you, which never fails to get a laugh at a family gathering.

There are also puzzles made from famous paintings, 'zoom' games, and short daily features that drop a small piece of culture into your day. None of it is serious, and all of it is free. These touches are what make the site a joy to hand to a grandchild as much as to enjoy yourself.

GOOD TO KNOW

The 'Art Selfie' and the 'explore by color' tools are a hit with grandchildren. They are a gentle way to get a child curious about art without it feeling like a lesson.

OTHER MUSEUMS

10. Beyond the big two: museums with their own tours

The Louvre, the British Museum, and many more, free online.

Many of the world's great museums also host free tours and collections on their own websites, over and above what Google gathers. The Louvre in Paris, the British Museum in London, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, and countless others offer online exhibitions, high-resolution images, and virtual walks, all free.

The simplest way to find them is to type the museum's name into a search along with the words 'virtual tour' or 'online collection.' Go to the museum's own official website — not an advertisement or a lookalike — and you will usually find a free way in. Science centers, presidential libraries, and historic homes often do the same.

Half the fun is the hunt. Think of a place you have always wanted to see, search for its online collection, and more often than not a door opens.

ON THE TV

11. Putting it on the big television

The grandest screen in the house, for free art.

Paintings and museum halls look wonderful on a large screen, so it is worth getting this onto the television if you can. If you have a smart TV or a streaming box, you can often open a web browser on it, or look for the Google Arts & Culture app in the device's app store. Some streaming players also let you 'cast' or mirror the picture from a tablet to the TV.

On an Apple TV, Roku, Fire TV, or Google TV, check the app store for an arts or Google Arts & Culture app, or use the built-in browser to visit the website. Settling in on the sofa with a great museum filling the big screen is a lovely way to spend an evening.

If getting it onto the TV feels fiddly, a tablet propped on a stand is a perfectly fine second best — and far easier to zoom and steer with your fingers.

GETTING STARTED

12. Getting started, step by step

A browser and your curiosity are all you need.

On a computer or tablet, open your web browser — the program you use for the internet — and type artsandculture.google.com into the address bar at the top. The front page appears, and you can begin tapping right away. On a phone or tablet you can instead install the free Google Arts & Culture app from your app store for a tidier experience.

For the Smithsonian, type si.edu into the same address bar. From there you can choose a museum, browse collections, or search for something you are curious about. Neither one requires payment, and neither requires an account to look.

Take it gently. There is nothing to break and no wrong turn; if you wander somewhere and want to go back, the browser's back arrow returns you. The whole point is to roam.

TIP

Type the web address yourself into the browser's address bar — artsandculture.google.com or si.edu — rather than following a link in an e-mail. That one habit keeps you safely on the real site.

SAVING FAVORITES

13. Saving your favorites to return to

Build your own little gallery of loved things.

If you make a free account on Google Arts & Culture, you can save favorites — paintings, places, stories — into your own collections, so your treasures are waiting for you next time. It is a pleasant way to build a personal gallery of the things that move you, and to organize a tour for a grandchild's visit.

The account is free and asks only for an e-mail and password, or you can sign in with a Google account you may already have. If you would rather not bother, you can still enjoy everything; you simply start fresh each time, which many people are perfectly happy to do.

Saving favorites also makes it easy to share. You can send a loved one a link to a painting you adored, a small gift of beauty in a message.

A GUIDED TOUR

14. Letting the site give you a tour

Short, illustrated stories that teach as you look.

Besides the collections, both Google Arts & Culture and the Smithsonian offer short, illustrated features — a few screens each — that tell the story behind an artist, an invention, a historical moment, or a single famous work. They are written for ordinary visitors, not scholars, and they are a gentle way to learn as you look.

These are perfect when you do not know where to start. Rather than searching, just open one of the featured stories on the front page and follow it. One tends to lead to another, and before long you have had a proper little lesson without it ever feeling like one.

They are also wonderful shared aloud. Reading a story about a painting together, then zooming into the painting itself, makes for a warm and easy afternoon with company.

HOW TO LOOK

15. How to look at a painting (no expertise needed)

A gentle way to enjoy art, even if you 'know nothing about it.'

Many people feel they cannot enjoy art because they were never taught about it. Not so. The simplest and best approach is to look slowly and ask yourself easy questions: What is going on here? What catches my eye first? How does it make me feel? There are no wrong answers, and no one is testing you.

The zoom feature helps enormously. Pick a famous painting, zoom right in, and simply wander across its surface, noticing small things — a face in the background, the texture of the paint, a detail you would never spot in a gallery. Then read the short description to learn a little about it. That is all 'appreciating art' really is: looking, noticing, and being curious.

Give yourself permission to like what you like and pass by the rest. The great collections are so vast that there is something for every taste; your job is only to wander until something stops you.

THEMED COLLECTIONS

16. Following a theme or a story

Let a thread lead you through the collections.

One delightful way to explore is to follow a theme rather than a single museum. Google Arts & Culture lets you wander by subject — gardens in art, the sea, a particular period of history, a single color — gathering works from museums all over the world around one idea. It turns browsing into a little journey with a thread to follow.

You might spend an afternoon on nothing but paintings of the ocean, or portraits from a certain century, or the art of a country you once visited. Following a theme gives shape to the wandering and often teaches you something without any effort, as the works quietly talk to one another across the centuries.

The site's featured stories are a fine way in: pick one that sounds interesting and let it lead you from work to work, country to country.

SCIENCE MUSEUMS

17. Science, history, and natural-history museums

Not only art — dinosaurs, inventions, and the past, too.

Museums online are not only about paintings. Natural-history museums put their dinosaurs, gems, and specimens online; science and technology museums show their inventions and machines; history museums share their artifacts and stories. Through Google Arts & Culture and the museums' own sites, you can explore all of these free, the same way you explore an art gallery.

For a grandchild who loves dinosaurs or machines, or for your own curiosity about history, this opens a vast door. The Smithsonian alone covers air and space, natural history, and American history in depth. You can roam from a moon rocket to a dinosaur skeleton to a historic gown in a single sitting.

So whatever your interest — art, nature, history, invention — there is a museum online for it, waiting free.

OHIO & LOCAL

18. Ohio and local museums online

Treasures closer to home, online too.

It is not all far-off palaces. Many museums closer to home, in Ohio and around the country, offer online collections and virtual exhibitions as well. State historical societies, regional art museums, and local history collections increasingly put their holdings online, which is a lovely way to explore the heritage of your own region from your chair.

Your library can be a help here, too. Library staff often know which local museums and historical collections have put material online, and the library's own local-history resources may surprise you. A search for a nearby museum's name along with 'online collection' is a good place to begin.

GOOD TO KNOW

Ask at your library about local and Ohio history collections online. Much regional heritage is now digitized and free, and the staff often know exactly where to point you.

HISTORIC SITES

19. Historic sites and world wonders

Not just art — the great places of history, free online.

Virtual museums are not only about paintings. Many of the world's historic sites and wonders can be explored online too: ancient ruins, grand cathedrals, castles, and monuments. Google Arts & Culture has partnered with heritage sites around the globe, and you can often walk through them with the same Street View strolling you use for galleries.

For a lover of history, this is a quiet thrill — to stand, in a sense, inside a place you have only read about. You can explore the inside of a cathedral, the chambers of an old palace, or the stones of an ancient site, reading the little explanations as you go. It brings the pages of a history book to life.

Search the name of a historic place along with 'virtual tour' or look for it within Google Arts & Culture. More often than you would expect, a door opens onto somewhere you thought you would never see.

CONCERTS & STAGE

20. Concerts, opera, and the stage online

The performing arts, free or nearly so, from your sitting room.

Alongside museums, a good deal of the performing arts has moved online. Some orchestras, opera houses, and theaters stream performances free or offer recordings on their websites, and public television carries concerts and stage productions through its free app. It is not quite the same as a night out, but it brings music and theater within reach of anyone who cannot easily get to a hall.

Your library's apps come into this too: Kanopy and Hoopla often carry recorded concerts, operas, and stage productions you can watch free with your card. For an evening of music or drama without leaving home, it is a gentle, dignified pleasure.

GOOD TO KNOW

Check your library's Kanopy and Hoopla for recorded concerts, operas, and plays — a free evening at the theater, courtesy of your card.

AN AFTERNOON

21. Making an afternoon of it

How to turn browsing into a proper visit.

The trick to enjoying this fully is to treat it like a real outing rather than idle tapping. Pick one museum or theme, make a cup of tea, and give it a proper hour. Begin with a guided story to set the scene, take a Street View walk through the halls, then linger over two or three works you love, zooming in close. It becomes an occasion rather than a distraction.

Some people make a little ritual of it — a museum every Sunday afternoon, say, working slowly around the world's great collections one at a time. There is no rush and no end to it; the museums will always be there, and there is always another room to wander into.

However you do it, going slowly is the secret. These are places built for lingering, even on a screen.

SHARE IT

22. Sharing what you find

A small gift of beauty, sent in a moment.

One of the quiet joys of exploring museums online is how easily you can share a discovery. When a painting moves you or a story delights you, you can send a loved one a link to it in a message or an e-mail — a small gift of beauty that costs nothing and takes a moment. It is a lovely way to stay in touch with family who are far away.

Saved collections make this easy: gather a handful of favorites and share the lot, or send a single painting with a note about why it caught you. Grandchildren especially enjoy being sent something to look at — a dinosaur, a spacecraft, a famous painting — and it opens a warm little conversation.

In a world of hurried messages, sending someone a beautiful thing to look at is a gentle and memorable gesture.

EASY VIEWING

23. Comfortable viewing for tired eyes

Make the art easy to see and easy to enjoy.

You need not squint at any of this. On a computer you can enlarge the whole page with a simple keyboard shortcut or the browser's zoom, and on a tablet you pinch to make things bigger. The deep zoom on paintings means detail that would be a strain in a gallery becomes clear and comfortable on your own screen, as large as you like.

If glare tires you, dim the room a little and turn the screen's brightness down; art often looks richer that way. And if sitting at a computer is uncomfortable, a tablet in a favorite chair, or the television across the room, may suit you better. There is a comfortable way to enjoy this however your eyes and back are doing.

GOOD TO KNOW

On a computer, hold the Ctrl key (or Command on a Mac) and press the plus sign to enlarge everything on the page. It is the quickest way to make a museum site easy on the eyes.

IF STUCK

24. If you get lost or stuck

There is no wrong turn you cannot undo.

One gentle reassurance: you truly cannot break anything here, and no wander is a wrong one. If you find yourself somewhere you did not mean to be, the browser's back arrow — the arrow pointing left at the top corner — returns you to where you were, step by step. The search box always takes you somewhere new.

If a page seems stuck or blank, it is usually just loading; wait a few seconds, as the high-detail images take a moment. If it stays stuck, close the tab and open the site fresh. None of this requires any repair on your part — a fresh start almost always does the trick.

So explore freely. The worst that can happen is you end up somewhere unexpected, which is half the fun, and one tap brings you home.

TWO WAYS IN

25. Two ways people come to this — and both are fine

A quiet wander alone, or an outing with the grandchildren.

People come to online museums for two quite different pleasures, and both are lovely. Knowing which you are after helps you get the most from it.

If you want a peaceful wander on your own

You would like to enjoy art and history quietly, at your own pace.

- Open Google Arts & Culture and follow your curiosity — artist to era to place.
- Zoom deep into paintings you have always loved and take your time.
- Save favorites into a collection so you can return to them whenever you like.

If you want an outing with the grandchildren

You would like something free, wholesome, and fun to share with a child.

- Try the 'Art Selfie' and the explore-by-color games together for a laugh.
- Take a Street View walk through a museum, letting the child steer.
- Explore a theme a child loves — space, dinosaurs, ancient Egypt — hand in hand.

GOOD TO KNOW

Whether alone or with company, there is no schedule and no admission. You can visit for five minutes or a whole afternoon, as the mood takes you.

HELPING A RELATIVE

26. Setting it up for a parent

A window on the world for someone who cannot get out as easily.

For a parent who loved to travel or always meant to see the great museums, this can be a real tonic — a window on the world from a comfortable chair. Set up the Google Arts & Culture app or a bookmark to the website on their tablet, and show them just two things: how to open a painting and zoom in, and how to take a Street View walk.

Keep it simple at first. One favorite artist, one museum walk, and the zoom feature are plenty to begin with; the rest they will discover as they grow comfortable. Put a bookmark right on the home screen so it is one tap away and they never have to type the address.

A parent who finds getting out harder than they used to may be quietly moved to walk through a gallery again, even on a screen. It is a small kindness that opens a very large door.

TIP

Put a bookmark to the museum site right on a parent's tablet home screen, so it opens with one tap. Start them with the zoom and one museum walk; let the rest come later.

STAYING SAFE

27. Keeping it safe and free

The real sites are free; beware anything that asks to be paid.

The genuine services here — Google Arts & Culture and the Smithsonian — are completely free, and so are the official websites of the world's major museums. The safe habit is to reach them by typing the address yourself, or by installing the real app from your phone's official app store, rather than clicking a link in an e-mail or an advertisement.

Be wary of any site that promises 'exclusive museum tours' and asks for a credit card, or any pop-up claiming you have won a prize. The real museums do not charge you to look online and do not hand out prizes through pop-ups. If a page asks for payment to see art that should be free, close it and go to the museum's own address instead.

WATCH OUT

No major museum asks for your credit card to view its collection online. If a 'virtual tour' site wants payment or personal details, back out — the genuine tours at the museum's own address are free.

COMMON MISTAKES

28. Common mistakes

Avoid these and every visit is a pleasure.

The handful of snags people hit are all small and easily avoided.

- Searching for one exact thing instead of wandering — these sites reward curiosity far more than a shopping list.
- Forgetting you can zoom; the deep zoom on paintings is the best part, so use it.
- Following a link from an e-mail rather than typing the museum's own address.
- Giving up because a page is slow; high-detail images take a moment to sharpen — just wait a breath.
- Thinking you need an account; you can explore everything without ever signing in.

TIP

If a painting looks blurry when you first zoom in, wait a few seconds. The fine detail streams in a moment after you zoom, then sharpens beautifully.

COMMON QUESTIONS

29. Common questions

The questions I hear most about visiting museums online.

Here are the ones that come up most often when I show someone this for the first time.

If yours is not here, it is likely a quick answer — ask at the library, or give me a call, and we will sort it.

QUESTIONS

30. Is it really free?

Yes — the great collections online cost nothing.

Yes. Google Arts & Culture, the Smithsonian, and the official online collections of the world's major museums are free to explore. There is no admission and no credit card. An optional free account only saves your favorites; you never need it to look.

QUESTIONS

31. Do I need a special device or fast internet?

A tablet or computer and ordinary home internet will do.

Any reasonably recent computer, tablet, or smartphone with a web browser works. A home internet connection is all you need; the high-detail images take a moment to sharpen on a slower connection, but they still arrive. A tablet is especially pleasant because zooming is a simple pinch of the fingers.

QUESTIONS

32. Can I see the museums as if I am walking through them?

Yes — look for 'Street View' or 'virtual tour.'

Many museums offer a walk-through using the same technology as the maps on your phone. On a museum's page, look for a 'Street View' or 'virtual tour' button, click it, and use the arrows or your finger to stroll the halls and look around, just as if you were there.

QUESTIONS

33. Is this suitable for grandchildren?

Wonderfully so — and there are games to make it fun.

It is excellent for children. Google Arts & Culture has playful features like the color explorer and the 'Art Selfie,' and exploring a theme a child loves — space, dinosaurs, ancient Egypt — is a free, wholesome way to spend time together. There are no ads to worry about on the genuine sites.

QUESTIONS

34. Can I put it on my television?

Often yes, through the TV's browser or app.

Many smart TVs and streaming boxes let you open a web browser or install an arts app, and some let you cast the picture from a tablet to the TV. Art looks grand on a big screen. If the TV proves fiddly, a tablet propped on a stand is an easy and enjoyable alternative.

QUICK RECAP

35. The quick recap

The whole guide in one glance.

- The world's great museums are free to explore online — no admission, no credit card.
- Google Arts & Culture gathers thousands of museums in one free place; start at artsandculture.google.com.
- The Smithsonian opens America's collections free at si.edu.
- Zoom in on famous paintings closer than you ever could in person, and walk the halls with 'Street View.'
- Try the playful features — explore by color, the 'Art Selfie' — especially with grandchildren.
- Type the address yourself or use the official app; the real sites never charge you to look.

GOOD TO KNOW

A rainy afternoon, a cup of tea, and the Louvre on the screen — free, uncrowded, and open whenever you like.

BILL'S HERE TO HELP

36. You do not have to do this alone

You just have to remember that a friendly, patient person is one call away.

I hope this guide made visiting the world's museums online feel a little less daunting and a lot more doable. Keep it in a drawer with your other home papers, come back to a page whenever you need it, and do not worry for a moment about memorizing anything.

When you would rather have a hand, that is exactly what I do. I come to your home, work at your pace, and never make you feel rushed or silly for asking. A first visit is a flat \$99, and for the parts that do not need me on-site I can often help right on your screen for \$49. Every visit comes with a 30-day, come-back-free guarantee. I am a patient tech helper, so

for getting the museum sites onto your tablet or television I will happily sit with you until it is working.

GOOD TO KNOW

Call or text me at (330) 200-8042, or visit BillsHomeTech.com. Serving Atwater and all of Portage County. 30+ years of patient, plain-English tech help — and if you are ever not 100% happy with a visit, I will make it right or refund it. That is a promise. — Bill

AT A GLANCE

A Picture to Follow Along

Three Ways to Visit

What you can do at a museum online



All free -- no admission, no credit card, no account needed to look.

AT A GLANCE

A Second Look

Where to Start

The main free homes for museums online

	Best for	Go to
Google Arts & Culture	Thousands of museums	artsandculture.google.com
Smithsonian	American history, science	si.edu
Individual museums	Louvre, Met, British Mus.	Their own websites
On your TV	Big-screen art	TV browser or app

Type the address yourself -- the genuine sites never charge to look.

BEFORE YOU GO

A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill. I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results.



HOW I CAN HELP

Your Visit — and My Promise

In-home visit — \$99 flat for your first visit. No contracts and no surprise charges, and a 30-day follow-up is included.

Remote Support — \$49 for a screen-share session. I only connect with your permission, you watch the whole time, and you can end anytime. If I can't fix it over the screen-share, I refund the \$49 — and if it turns out you need me in person, that \$49 goes toward your visit. It's included free for Support Plan members (\$39/mo).

GOOD TO KNOW

My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full \$99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated.

Call or text **(330) 200-8042** · Book a visit: **billshometech.com/book** · **bill@billshometech.com**

This free guide is for general information only — not professional advice, and no substitute for your device's own manual. Any prices or outside products mentioned can change; please confirm current details before you buy. Please use your own good judgment and follow it at your own risk — for anything involving electricity, gas, water, or heights, stop and call a licensed professional. Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results. © 2026 Bill's Home Tech, LLC.