

INSIDE THE M60

Manchester's 1001 Inventions go to Turkey and USA

The 1001 Inventions exhibition, conceived and raised in Manchester, has become so successful it is going on a foreign tour.

1001 Inventions: Discover the Muslim Heritage in Our World has already been visited by more than 300,000 culture vultures in Manchester and London, where it is currently showing at the Science Museum. Its success means it will now travel to Istanbul and then New York.

The exhibition, which highlights the scientific heritage the world has inherited from Muslim civilisation, was created, designed and managed in Manchester and has consistently been praised in the media all over the world. It traces the forgotten story of a thousand years of science which originated in the Muslim world's golden ages. The exhibition looks at the social, scientific and technical achievements that are credited to the Muslim world, whilst celebrating the shared scientific heritage of other cultures. It features a diverse range of exhibits, interactive displays and dramatisation, all of which acknowledge the Muslim world's contribution to many modern inventions, including engineering, medicine and architecture.

1001 Inventions has caught the popular imagination because of the stories that it tells and the quality of the exhibits. One of the iconic focal features of this exhibition is a five-metre high replica of the Elephant Clock, a visually striking early 13th century water clock, the body of which contains symbols referring different cultures. It features alongside a short feature film starring Oscar-winning actor Sir Ben Kingsley as Al-Jazari, inventor of the fabled clock.

The exhibition was created by the Manchester-based Foundation for Science, Technology and Civilisation, which is based in the Northern quarter, and sponsored by the Jameel Foundation.

The short film, 1001 Inventions and the Library of Secrets, which is shown at the exhibition and stars Sir Ben Kingsley, has been [downloaded](#) by over two million people worldwide, an extraordinary achievement. It has already won many industry awards at the International Visual Communications Association award ceremony and the New York, Los Angeles and Hamburg Film Festivals.

Since the exhibition moved to London four months ago, it has been visited by many prominent political, religious and business leaders from the Muslim world, including the Turkish prime minister and his senior cabinet members, almost all the Arab ambassadors, US Embassy representatives, HRH Prince Hasan of Jordan and Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Conference.

The exhibition will now transfer to Istanbul in August, as part of the Capital of Culture celebrations, where it will go on display in a specially constructed marquee adjacent to the iconic Aya Sofia Mosque and Blue Mosque. It will be opened formally by the Turkish Prime Minister. The exhibition will then travel to the Hall of Science in New York in November and then to other venues in the USA.