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Sir John Soane's Museum

Sir John Soane was the son of a bricklayer who eventually became a Professor of Architecture at the Royal Academy. And this inquisitive young man never stopped learning: Soane traveled around the world, learning about different cultures and bringing artifacts home with him. When he died, an Act of Parliament turned his home into a museum, where it's not unusual to find an Egyptian sarcophagus wedged between an Italian Renaissance sculpture and a Chinese scroll. There's also a significant collection of work from the painter J.M.W. Turner, a close friend of Soane's. Visit on a Tuesday evening to tour the house by candlelight.

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