

GalleryQuest

Rediscover and Explore NHMU

There are hidden secrets and discoveries to be made around every corner at the Museum. Go on this self-guided tour to take a deeper dive into your NHMU experience. Take photos along the way and share your best moments using #NHMU.

Insider Scoop

A quest to see what Museum insiders find most interesting

Panoramic Views *Sky Terrace | Level 5*

Picked by Echo Paixao, Assistant Gallery Programs Coordinator



On a clear day you can see the entire 500-square miles of the Salt Lake Valley, surrounded by the Oquirrh Mountains, Traverse Ridge, Wasatch Mountains, and the Great Salt Lake. This spot was once the shoreline of a massive freshwater lake where dinosaurs roamed 200 million years ago.

From here you can see millions of years of geological history surrounding Salt Lake City.

Navajo Story Basket *Native Voices | Level 5*

Picked by Valerie Allyse, Education Program Facilitator



In the southeastern Utah Navajo Nation, a renaissance of Navajo basket weaving has emerged. Artists like Mary Holiday Black have found increasingly unique ways to express their own artistic voices and meet their customers' interests through weaving. The "story basket" style breaks from

traditional designs, telling personal and contemporary stories with sometimes unexpected images.

Coiled Basket *First Peoples | Level 3*

Picked by Anne Lawlor, Anthropology Asst Collections Manager



Anthropologist Phil Geib found this coiled basket in Cowboy Cave, Utah while camping. This basket—which wouldn't look out of place at a weekend farmer's market—is the oldest coiled basket on record! Radiocarbon dating tells us it's at least 8,688 years old.

Tourmaline Carvings *Gems & Minerals | Level 3*

Picked by Abby Curran, Chief Operating Officer



These carvings are made from tourmaline, a mineral that, when cut and polished, has one of the widest ranges of colors of any gem. The variation of color that shows up in these carvings looks like they could be man-made, but is just how the colors naturally occur in the stone. The artist

must work creatively with the color transitions to use them strategically in the design.

Mammoth Casts *Past Worlds | Level 3*

Picked by Sarah Allen, Community Outreach Manager



During the Ice Age, Utah was home to amazing animals like ground sloths, saber-tooth cats, massive short-faced bears, and even giant mammoths. In 2019, near Lake Powell in southern Utah, a Columbian mammoth was discovered. NHMU's scientists and volunteers were lucky enough to

get to excavate it! Studies of the fossil material may give us a new snapshot into Utah's past.

Ankylosaur *Past Worlds | Level 2*

Picked by Nichelle O'Saurus, Volunteer & Community Programs Mgr



This species of armored dinosaur lived 76 million years ago in what is now Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Covered in osteoderms (spikes) that gave it protection and a flashy look, it took NHMU volunteers nearly four years to prepare all the bones of *Akainacephalus johnsoni*. Randy

Johnson, honored in the species' name, prepared the skull.



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