

My Visit to the Natural History Museum of Utah

A Social Story for General Visitors



Before My Visit

I will take care of my personal needs by:

- ▶ Making sure that I bring all my personal belongings, such as my phone, wallet, ID, membership card, or bus pass if I have one.
- ▶ Making sure that I bring headphones, fidgets, or other comfort tools just in case I need them.
- ▶ Making sure that I bring water, a snack, or a lunch if I think I might get hungry. (Or I can bring money to buy something to eat and drink from the Museum Cafe.)
- ▶ Communicating about my visit to friends or family.
- ▶ Preparing for social engagement, creating a social script for engaging with people who sell tickets or who will be working in the museum galleries.
- ▶ Calling ahead to ask about peak hours, quiet times, the special exhibit, or any other questions I may have.
- ▶ Planning if I will purchase tickets on the day of my visit, or before I visit by using this link: <https://nhmu.utah.edu/visit/get-tickets>

I will plan my transportation to and from the museum:

- ▶ I will **drive myself** and park in the visitor area.
 - Directions to the museum are here: <https://nhmu.utah.edu/visit/directions>
 - Or I can use Google Maps or a similar program in my car.
 - I can park in one of two lots at the museum. I can also check the “Winter Information” section to see a map with parking.
- ▶ I will take a **bus** or a **train**.
 - Utah Transit Authority (UTA) schedules: <https://www.rideuta.com/Rider-Tools/Schedules-and-Maps>
 - Paratransit Service: <https://www.rideuta.com/Rider-Info/Accessibility/Accessible-UTA/Paratransit-Services>
 - I can also download the Google Maps app or Utah Transit app on my smart phone or use a computer.
- ▶ I will plan to use a **rideshare service** like Lyft or Uber.
 - Lyft: <https://www.lyft.com/>
 - Uber: <https://www.uber.com/>
- ▶ If I am visiting during the winter I can check the “Winter Information” section on this document to learn more.



Winter Information

If I visit during the winter I will:

- ▶ Consider taking an alternate route if the roads are icy. The museum is on a very steep hill so I will do my best to stay safe as I go to and from the museum. An alternate route up to the museum is marked in red on this map, with blue “P” stickers to show parking.

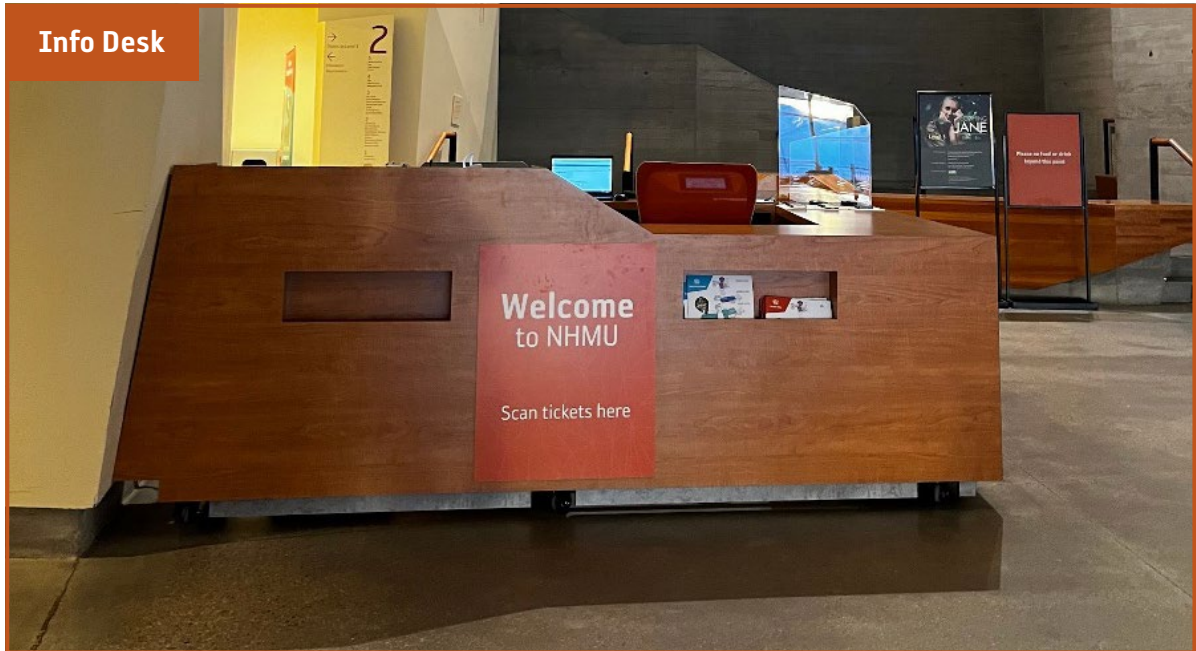


- ▶ Call ahead to check if the museum is open after a severe winter storm. It is possible, though rare, that the museum may have closed unexpectedly.
- ▶ Check the [UDOT website](#) to see the conditions of the road if I am concerned about the weather.
- ▶ Remember the museum is not open on Christmas Day or Thanksgiving. Both the day before Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve the museum will close early.
- ▶ Be cautious when walking on campus after a snowstorm. Snow and Ice are removed by the University after every storm. The roads are plowed and salted. But, I will still be aware and careful.
- ▶ Leave my jacket on the communal coat rack on the second floor of the museum.

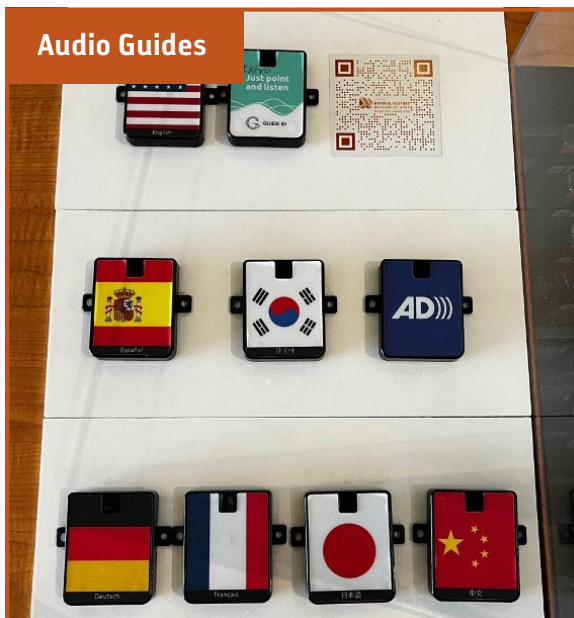
Arrival

When I arrive I will:

- Purchase my ticket at the front desk on the first floor, or show my barcode to the info desk on the second floor.
The info desk looks like this:



- If I want to, I can rent an audio tour for \$2. These are available in multiple different languages including: English, Korean, German, French, Chinese, Japanese, and an Audio Description for the visually impaired.

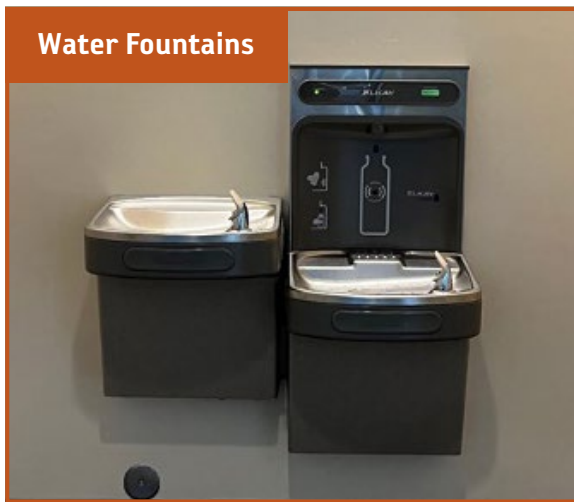


The audio guides look like this (the images on them may vary)

- Pick up a map in Spanish or English.
- Ask the staff which way to go or any other questions I may have.

Features that I will be aware of:

- ▶ The museum has restrooms on every floor. They are by the elevators and also marked on the map.
- ▶ There are water fountains on every floor and a water bottle refilling station on floor 2 by the restrooms. This station looks like this:



- ▶ There are wheelchairs available for use at front desk. I can use one if I ask the staff on the first floor.
- ▶ The staff will be walking around the museum, at the info desk, or at the front desk. I can ask them for help. All staff will have a name tag that looks like this:



- ▶ The museum has a cafe on the second floor with an area for me to sit and eat. It does not take cash so if I want to buy something I have to bring a credit card.
- ▶ The museum also has a gift store where I can buy something as a reminder of my visit if I want to.

I will uphold these expectations:

- ▶ I will not bring any food or drinks into the galleries with me, unless it is plain water.
- ▶ I will keep my ticket on me at all times.
- ▶ I will use a quiet voice so I do not distract from another visitor's experience.
- ▶ I will understand that Field Trips may be loud and will have lots of different age ranges.
- ▶ I will keep in mind that the field trips will be on most weekdays of the school year (September to May) and will be between 9:30 am and 2:00 pm. There may also be summer activities too. I can call ahead to find out more about expected crowds.
- ▶ I can go outside onto one of the terraces on each floor if I feel overwhelmed and use the bar code on my ticket to come back in when I feel better.

Galleries

Past Worlds Gallery

This is the **Past Worlds Gallery**. Here I will see dinosaurs and other ancient animals. Some will be big, and some will be small.



There is a dig pit. I can explore in this area if I want to. I will be respectful of other people by sharing tools and keeping sand in the box. This area might be busy cutting my time short, and this is okay.

Great Salt Lake Gallery

This is the **Great Salt Lake Gallery**. Here I can learn all about the lake and what animals live here. There are some things I can touch, like the hand crank on the water table. There are some things I will just look at, like the birds in the dioramas.



First Peoples Gallery

This is the **First Peoples Gallery**. Here I can learn all about people who lived in Utah a long time ago. There will be baskets, pottery, shoes, and more.



Median Village

There is a remake of an old village in this gallery—**Median Village**. I can explore and look inside but I will be respectful by walking and using my inside voice.



Land Gallery

This is the **Land Gallery**. Here I will learn about rocks, land formations, plants, and more. I can simulate an earthquake by jumping where it says "Jump" on the floor. I will take turns with other visitors.



Erosion Table

This is the **erosion table**. I can play with the sand and water to see how water moves the sand. I will be respectful of others by sharing space and keeping the sand in the box. The sand may feel weird on my hands and that is okay. This area might be busy cutting my time short, and this is okay.



Life Gallery

This is the **Life Gallery**. I can learn all about animals and plants. In this gallery there are some live animals such as a tarantula. I can be respectful by looking just with my eyes and keeping my hands to myself.



5th Floor Galleries

On the fifth floor there is:

- ▶ An outdoor gallery which I can visit. It might be closed if the weather is bad.
- ▶ The Native Voices Exhibit.
- ▶ The Climate of Hope Exhibit.



Native Voices Gallery

This is the **Native Voices Gallery**. There is a speaker when I enter that will greet me in many different languages. I can learn about Utah's Native Nations in this gallery. There are many items to look at and a video. I can listen to the video if I want to. I will be respectful by being quiet and walking.



Climate of Hope Exhibit

This is the **Climate of Hope Exhibit**. This exhibit has lots of screen games and a tiny forest to explore! I will share the space with others and allow them to have a turn on all of the screens and toys.



I may not get to see everything during my visit at the Museum. I can come back another time!

I am excited to explore the Natural History Museum of Utah!