

Visiting the South Australian Museum

This guide will tell you about visiting the Museum for general visits. When you attend for special events such as the school holiday program, some things may be different.

If you have any further questions, please email education@samuseum.sa.gov.au

South Australian Museum

North Terrace, Adelaide

samuseum.sa.gov.au



Government
of South Australia



SOUTH
AUSTRALIAN
MUSEUM

Before I go to the Museum

My family and I can look at the SAM website,
<http://www.samuseum.sa.gov.au/> to see what galleries
I'm interested in.

Sometimes exhibitions can change during the year;
there may be new exhibitions that I want to see.

In case I need them, I will have my calming kit or fidget toys
with me. I can borrow a sensory backpack by asking at the
Museum security or information desk. In the backpack
there will be a pair of noise cancelling headphones, a soft
toy, and some communication cards.

What are the Museum rules?

I will try not to run inside. If I need to go for a run, my family can take me to the front lawns.

I may need to wait my turn to look at the exhibitions or do the activities. While I wait, I can play with my fidget toys or look at something else.

If I need a quieter space, some of the galleries are quieter and darker than others. I can go to the Australian Aboriginal Cultures Gallery on the ground level and level 1, or the small Egyptian Gallery on Level 3.

I can eat food in the café, on the front and back lawns, or in the parents' room.

Sometimes I may hear an announcement over the loudspeaker. This is loud but it will be over quickly.

Entrances

There are two entrances to the Museum.



Image: Back entrance to the Museum.

One entrance is at the back of the Museum. There is an accessible parking space behind the Museum, but no general parking.

If the accessible park is being used, there are more accessible parks available across the road at City of Adelaide UParks. These parks are free for 2 hours.



Image: Front entrance to the Museum.

One entrance is at the front of the Museum on North Terrace. The front lawns are a place to sit, eat and run around.

Ground floor facilities

When I enter the Museum, I'll be on the ground floor.

There is a big shark hanging from the ceiling just inside the front entrance – it won't fall, and it isn't real. It's a model of a shark.

The front desk is in the Main foyer of the Museum. This is where security guards sit. There is also an information desk where helpful Museum hosts sit.

Security guards and hosts are here to help if I need. I can ask them questions about where things are in the Museum.

There is a model of a dinosaur by the front entrance. If people donate money to the Museum, it will move and roar. This can be loud, but it doesn't last for long.



Image: Model shark hanging in the Main foyer

Lifts

There are two different lifts, one at the end of the Mammals gallery and one at the southern end of the Australian Aboriginal Cultures Gallery.



Image: Mammals gallery lift



Image: Australian Aboriginal Cultures Gallery lift

Toilets

There are toilets on the ground floor, including an accessible toilet. They are down a corridor at the end of the Mammals gallery.

Parent room

There is a parent room on Level 1 with a microwave, seating and a baby changing table.

Café

The Café is open from 10am–4pm daily. Their menu is on the SAM website if we need to look at it before we visit:

[Museum Eatery & Shop | SA Museum](#)

Shop

The Museum shop is open from 10am–5pm daily.

Ground floor exhibitions

In the Museum, some of the exhibitions change every few months, and some of them stay the same for years.

The Main foyer changes a lot, especially the big wall. Televisions in the Main foyer have information about the current special exhibitions.

We can buy a map from the information desk or download one for free from the SAM website here: [Home | SA Museum](#). The map shows which areas can be loud and which are usually quieter.

On the ground floor, I can explore:

- Whales
- Mammals
- Australian Aboriginal Cultures Gallery
- Special Exhibitions

Ground floor exhibitions

In the front foyer, the lion might move his tail. His name is Nathan.



Galleries

Mezzanine level

I can take the big red stairs or the big lift up to the Mezzanine level ('mezzanine' means it is between two floors).

The Mezzanine level has the Pacific Cultures Gallery.

Level 1

On level 1, I can go into the Discovery Centre if it is open. It is open on Wednesdays, Fridays and on weekends from 10:30am until 2:30pm. There are some live reptiles, frogs, and insects in tanks. Staff here can answer some of my questions about animals.



Image: Children using the microscopes in the Discovery Centre.

There is also another section of the Australian Aboriginal Cultures Gallery on this level.

Galleries

Level 2

Level 2 is home to the South Australian Biodiversity Gallery.

Here is where I can look at South Australian animals, insects, birds, and fish.

There are some screens in Biodiversity, with more information about the displays.



Image: Two children looking at a display in the Biodiversity Gallery.

Galleries

Level 3

Level 3 has many different galleries. I can look at:

- Ediacaran fossils
- The Australian Polar Collections Gallery
- Megafauna
- Minerals
- Opal fossils
- The Ancient Egypt Gallery

Sometimes there are temporary displays next to the Megafauna Gallery.

There is an ice wall in the Australian Polar Collections Gallery. It is real ice, so it is very cold. I can touch it if I want to, or I can just look if I prefer.

The giant squid

The giant squid starts at the ground floor and ends on the third floor. It is at the southern end of the Australian Aboriginal Cultures Gallery, next to the lift and stairs.

I can see sections of the squid on each floor.

On the third floor, I can stand on top of the squid and look down through the glass. It is a long way down, but it is safe. If I want to, I can just look instead of standing on the glass.



While I'm at the Museum

Going to the Museum will be lots of fun! If I need help or feel uncomfortable, I can tell an adult. The staff are there to help. There are so many galleries to explore and so many different things to learn about!



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