

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 a school holiday program, some things may be different.

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

BEFORE I GO TO THE MUSEUM

My family and I can look at the South Australian Museum 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, a fidget toy and some communication cards.

WHAT ARE THE MUSEUM RULES?

The Museum is a walking space. If I need to go for a run, I can do this on 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. The Parent's Room on level one is also a quieter space, but sometimes someone might be using it to feed their baby.

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 can be loud but it will be over quickly.

ENTRANCES

There are two entrances to the Museum.

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



Image: Back entrance to the Museum.

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



Image: Front entrance to the Museum.

GROUND FLOOR - FACILITIES

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

There is a big shark hanging on display inside the front entrance – it isn't real. It's a model of a shark. There is also a dinosaur skeleton above the shop and skeletons of whales and dolphins hanging from the ceiling. These are on strong wires, and they won't fall.

The front desk is in the foyer of the Museum. Museum staff sit here and can sell tickets to special exhibitions or answer questions about where to find things in the Museum.

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I might also see security guards walking around in their uniforms. They are here to help and can also answer questions about where to find things.

There are maps on display. We can scan the QR code to get a digital copy, or we can donate \$2 to take a paper map with us.



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.

[photo: 2 different lifts]



Image: Mammals gallery lift; Australian Aboriginal Cultures Gallery lift.

Toilets

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

There are male, female and accessible toilets available. The male and female toilets can be noisy when lots of people are using the hand dryers, but the accessible toilets are quieter.

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. [Terrace Eatery | SA Museum](#)

Before the Museum opens, there will sometimes be a food van open on North Terrace out the front of the Museum. The van sells drinks and some small snacks.

Shop

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

Museum in a Box

In some galleries in the Museum, I will see 'Museum in a Box' stations. These are drawers with activities, books and toys relating to the displays in the Museum. I can play in these areas. I will put everything back in the drawers when I am finished.

GROUND FLOOR EXHIBITIONS

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

The foyer changes a lot, especially the big wall. Televisions in the foyer have information about the current special exhibitions. Sometimes there will be a line of people waiting to go into the special exhibition. We don't need to line up if we just want to see the regular Museum galleries.

On the ground floor, I can explore:

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

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

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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 10:30 until 2:30. There are some live reptiles and frogs 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.

LEVEL 2

Level 2 is home to the South Australian Biodiversity Gallery.

This 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.

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.

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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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