

# Visiting the 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 [programs@samuseum.sa.gov.au](mailto:programs@samuseum.sa.gov.au) or call 8207 7575.

South Australian Museum  
North Terrace, Adelaide  
[www.samuseum.sa.gov.au](http://www.samuseum.sa.gov.au)



# 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. There are also some noise-cancelling headphones behind the security desk that I can borrow for my visit.

# 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 there may be an announcement over the loudspeaker. This is loud but will be over quickly.

# Entrances

There are two entrances 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.



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

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 hosts and security guards sit, and where I can leave my bag if I need to.

Security guards and hosts are here to help if I need. I can ask them questions about where things are in the Museum. There are maps at the front desk that I can take with me.



# Facilities

## 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.



## Toilets

There are toilets available 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.

## 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. The wall usually has pictures about the current special exhibitions.

A map is available from the front desk. On the ground floor, I can explore:

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

## Ground floor exhibitions

In the Mammals Gallery, 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. There are some live reptiles 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, 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.

## 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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