

San Diego Natural History Museum (The Nat) Social Story

A guide to help prepare individuals with autism for a museum visit



About the Nat

Things to Do Before You Go

Take care of your personal needs:

- Make sure to bring water, snack, sunglasses, phone, wallet with your ID, your Explorer Pass if you have one and any fidgets, headphones, or other comfort tools
- Communicate about your visit with your family
- Prepare for social engagement, create a social script for engaging with people who sell tickets to the museum or work in the galleries
- Call ahead to ask about peak hours/Free Tuesday
- Information on the website can inform you before you go about any potential sensory issues
- If you have a service dog, create a social script to answer questions about your dog

Plan your transportation to and from the museum

- Plan on where to park
- Find a map of Balboa Park so that you can find the museum from where you park. Maps are available online or at the Balboa Park Visitors Center

The exhibitions are always changing, so check on the website before you visit to find out what is on display.

San Diego Natural History Museum
1788 El Prado
Balboa Park
San Diego, CA 92101
619.232.3821
sdnhm.org

The Nat has two entrances. One on the north side of the building near the giant fig tree.



One on the south side of the building facing the fountain.



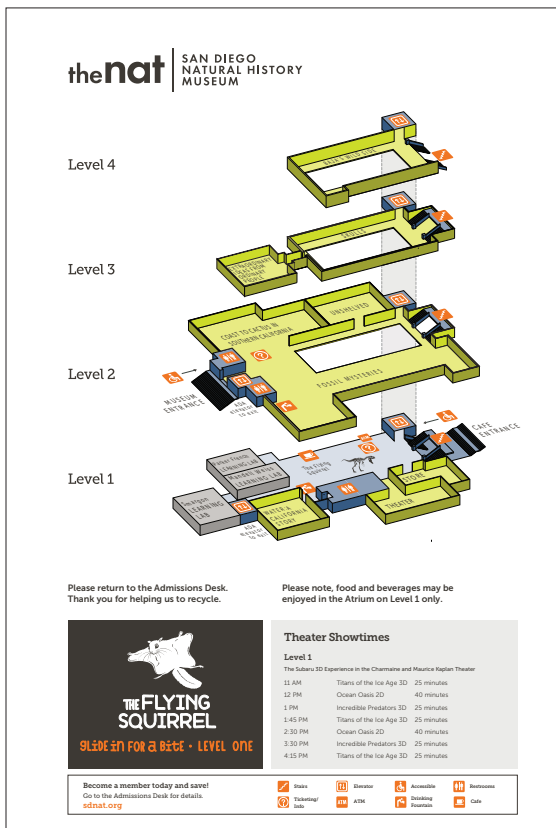
There are accessible entrances on both sides of the building. One to the right of the north entrance stairs and one to the left of the south entrance stairs.

The accessible entrance on the south side of the building leads to an elevator that takes you to the admissions desk on level 2.





Each of the entrances has its own admissions desk. After you enter the museum, you need to go to one of the desks to pay admission or scan your pass. You may have to wait in line, and it could be crowded. If you have any questions about admission fees, staff at the desk can answer them for you.



Once you pay for your admission or scan your pass, museum staff will give you a sticker to wear.



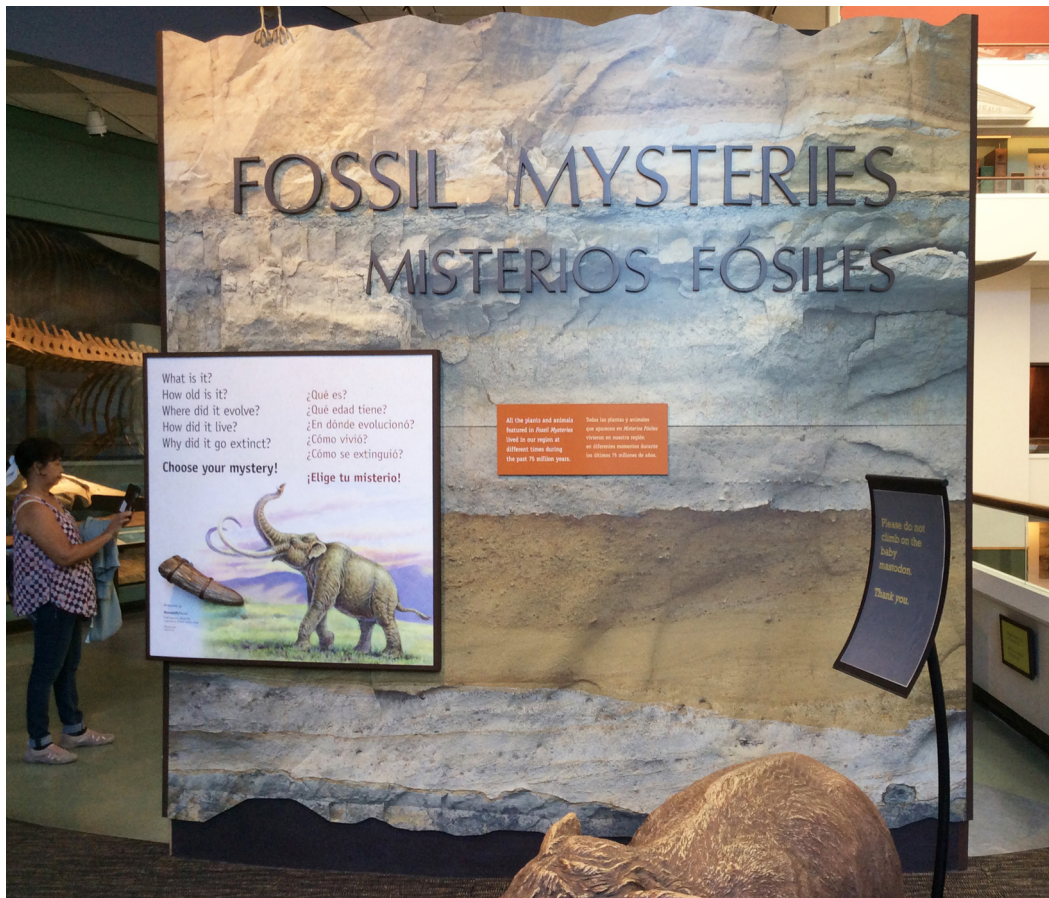
You can find a map at the admissions desks.



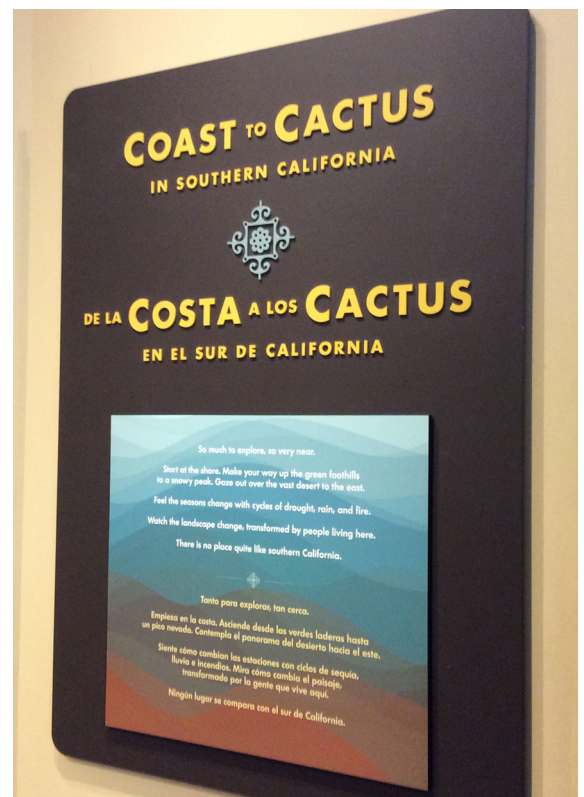
You can use the elevators or the stairs on the north side of the building to access all of the different floors/exhibitions in the museum.

There is a movie theater of level 1 of the museum. The theater shows 3D and regular movies throughout the day. You can find out more information about the movies and the showtimes at one of the admissions desks.





The museum has permanent and temporary exhibitions.





Some of the exhibitions have sound, video, and light elements.



Some of the exhibitions have animals that are alive in tanks.



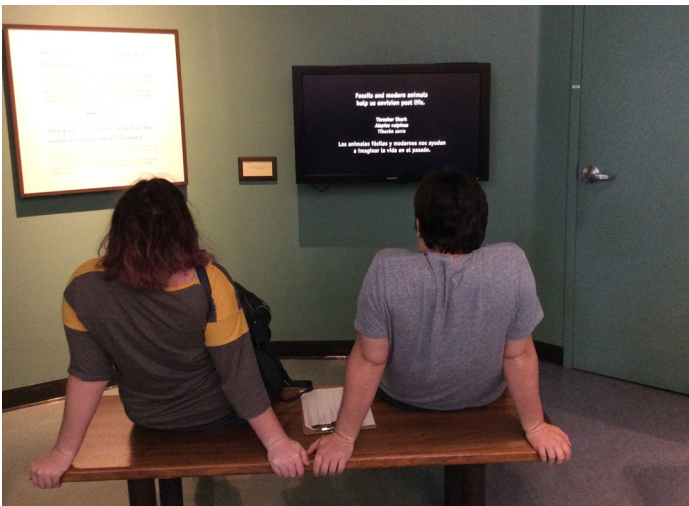
Some exhibitions have animals that are dead, but posed to look like they are alive.



Quiet spaces can be found throughout the museum:

Level 2

In the back of the *Coast to Cactus* under the stairs.



Level 2

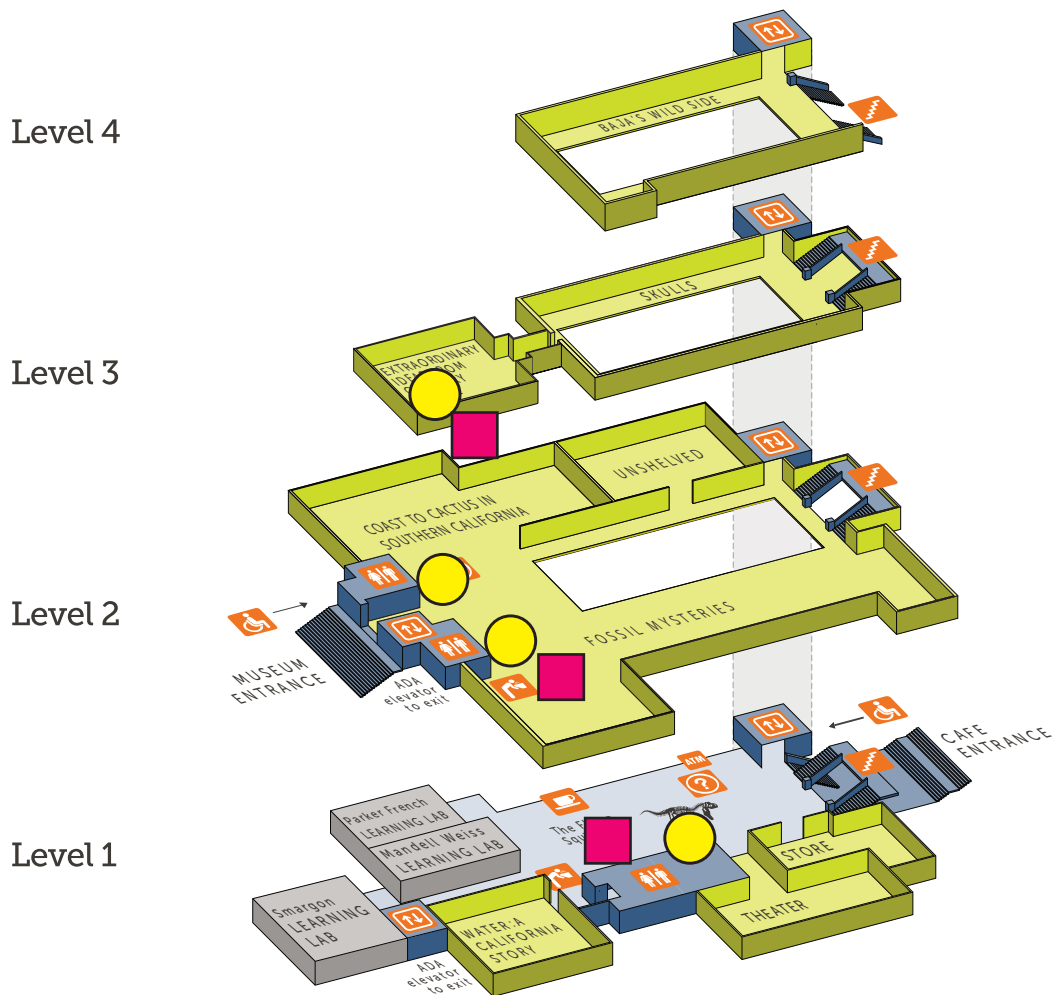
Video alcove in *Fossil Mysteries* across from the Megalodon near the whale skulls.



Level 3

The mezzanine in *Extraordinary Ideas from Ordinary People* exhibition.





● = Bathroom

■ = Water Fountains

Restrooms and water fountains can be found on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd levels.

- Level 1 restrooms and water fountains are next the movie theater and the *Water in California* exhibition
- Level 2 restrooms and water fountains can be found on either side of the entrance area.
- Level 3 restroom and water fountains can be found in the back of the *Extraordinary Ideas from Ordinary People* exhibition.



The museum gift store is located on level 1.



Make sure you have all of your belongings when you leave.

Keep your sticker on if you plan to return to the museum that day.



You can exit on level 2 next to *Coast to Cactus in Southern California* exhibition.

You can exit on level 1 between the stairs.



Notes

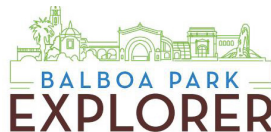
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Funded by:



Supported by:



This social story was created by a team of young adults with autism.
Thank you to Joel A., Zoe B., David B., Davis H., Austin J., Naomi J.,
Bella L., Terrence P., Nate P., and Charlie Q. for your hard work.

2018