





HOUSTON MUSEUM
of NATURAL SCIENCE

Sugar Land








Pre-Visit Resources for Neurodivergent Guests

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At-A-Glance Tips



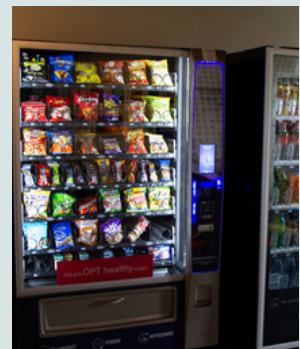
Accessible Parking

There are accessible parking spaces at the front of the Museum, just outside the main entrance. There is a ramp just outside the main entrance and there is a button to open the doors.



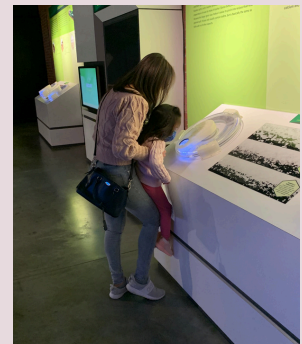
Eating at HMNS Sugar Land

Be sure to plan ahead for lunch – we do not allow food or drink in our exhibit halls! You may either pack a lunch and keep it stored in a bag that you carry with you until lunchtime or keep a lunch stored in your car until lunchtime. Lunch and snacks may be eaten in the Snack Bar area or outside in the Outdoor Learning Center or Butterfly Garden. Your Permanent Exhibit Hall ticket gives you access to exit and re-enter the Permanent Exhibits throughout the day, so feel free to eat lunch and return to the museum!



Busy Times

Our museum halls can get crowded on the weekends, during holidays (especially Spring Break), and during the summer. During weekdays in the spring, the halls may be crowded with school groups visiting on field trips. The best times to visit are right when the museum opens (10:00 a.m.) during the week, on Thursdays and Fridays. If you have any questions about how busy the museum is, you can call 281-313-2277 to speak with a representative from our Visitor Services Department.





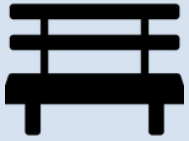
Going to HMNS Sugarland



I'm going to the **Houston Museum of Natural Science at Sugar Land!** Opened in 2009, the building was part of Central State Prison Farm. The Museum features many science exhibits about dinosaurs, space, and more!

I can buy tickets on their website or at the box office, where I might have to wait in line. Inside, I might see a moving, roaring dinosaur ride! I'll explore different floors, using the elevator or stairs.

Museum staff in gray or black shirts labeled "Team Member" can help me. Some staff may wear facemasks, and I can too, if I want. Following the rules ensures a fun, safe visit! I'm ready to explore!



Ways to Take a Break



There are lots of areas to explore at the Museum. Some might be loud, dark, or crowded. If I need to relax, I can take a break and find a quiet spot, like the benches in the back of the Paleontology Hall on the Second Level.

I can sit and take slow, deep breaths until I'm ready. I can also visit the Snack Bar with vending machines for food.

If I want to eat a snack or run around, I can do that outside by the Learning Center.

I can also ask a Museum staff member for a Sensory Backpack, which has headphones to make things quieter.



Leaving the Museum



When it is time to leave HMNS Sugar Land, I can walk with my family or friends to the exit.

I might feel sad to leave the Museum, but I can try to remember all the fun that I had during my visit! I can talk to my family and friends about my favorite parts of visiting the Museum. I hope I can come back again soon!



Main Level Sensory Map



Loud



Low Lights



Break Area



Tactile



Bright Lights



Movement Area





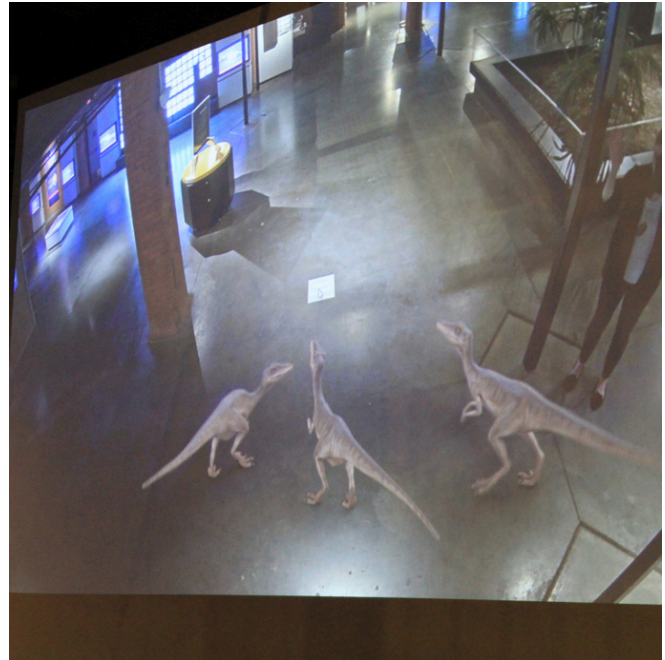
Augmented Reality

Main Level

Considerations:



Loud



The **Augmented Reality** is like being part of a movie! I can watch the movie on a large screen.

The movie will show what different animals and dinosaurs look like when they are standing next to me. I might see a big cat, pterosaur, T. rex, or raptor!

If I feel nervous, I can remember that these animals are not real. They are just for fun!



Broncosaurus Ride

Main Level

Considerations:



Loud



Tactile



While I am at the Museum, I might be able to ride on a **Broncosaurus**. The Broncosaurus is a big replica of a dinosaur that moves and roars.

I need to be at least 3 years old, less than 5 feet tall, and less than 130 pounds to ride this ride. I also need to purchase a special ticket to ride the Broncosaurus.

If the ride is too loud or scary, I can ask to get off, and a Museum staff member will help me.

If I can't ride the Broncosaurus, that is okay. There are many other things in the Museum to explore!



Dig Pit

Main Level

Considerations:



Tactile



While visiting the Museum, I might try the **Dig Pit**, where I can search for pretend dinosaur fossils under the dirt.

The Dig Pit is for kids aged 3-11 and requires a special ticket. If I can't go in because I'm too old or because I don't have a special ticket, that's okay. I can explore other parts of the Museum.

If I do go into the Dig Pit, I can use a tool like a shovel or brush to find bones and fossils. Other kids will be digging for fossils, too. We can try to work together or play by ourselves. I can try to identify the fossils I find using the "Can You Find It" Chart.

I will remember to stay calm, not throw dirt or shovels, and follow the Museum staff's rules.



Hall of Technology

Main Level

Considerations:



Bright Lights



Tactile



In the **Hall of Technology**, I can explore different sciences like Chemistry, Energy, Geology, and Salt. The hall is large, so I can try to stay close to my group.

Chemistry studies how substances change and react. I'll see a periodic table and visit the Phosphorescent Room, where a flash of light shows my outline on the wall!

In the Energy area, I can press a button to create a cloud. This will help me learn how windmills and turbines generate energy.

Geology reveals Earth's history through rocks. In this area, I can learn about and touch different types of minerals.

In the Salt area, I'll explore Salt Domes and examine different salts with a magnifying glass.



Life Science

Main Level



In the **Life Science** exhibit, I can learn about insects, plants, and other living things.

I'll see different **vivariums**, which is a space where we observe how plants and animals grow. I might see insects crawling, walking, or flying, but they are safe inside their vivariums.

If I want to learn more, I can go outside with my group to the Pollinator Garden and Outdoor Learning Center. I might see butterflies and hummingbirds. Even if I don't see any animals, I can still observe the different plants in the garden.



Salt Mine

Main Level

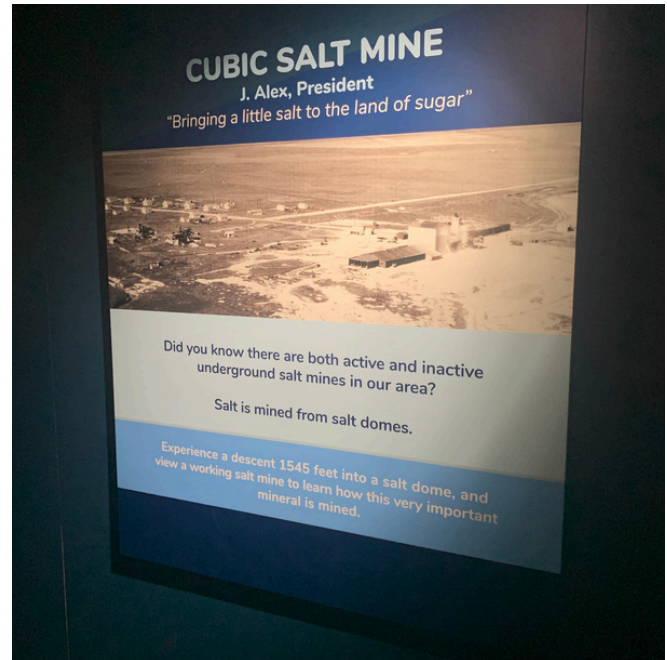
Considerations:



Loud



Low Lights



In the **Salt Mine**, I can pretend I am walking through an actual mine below the ground. I can learn about how people dig resources like salt out of mines. I can also learn about different active and inactive salt mines in the area around the Museum.

The lighting in this area is darker and there is a video that makes me feel like I'm going through a working salt mine. If this area is too dark or loud for me, I can tell my group that I want to explore a different area.

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Second Level Sensory Map



Loud



Low Lights



Break Area



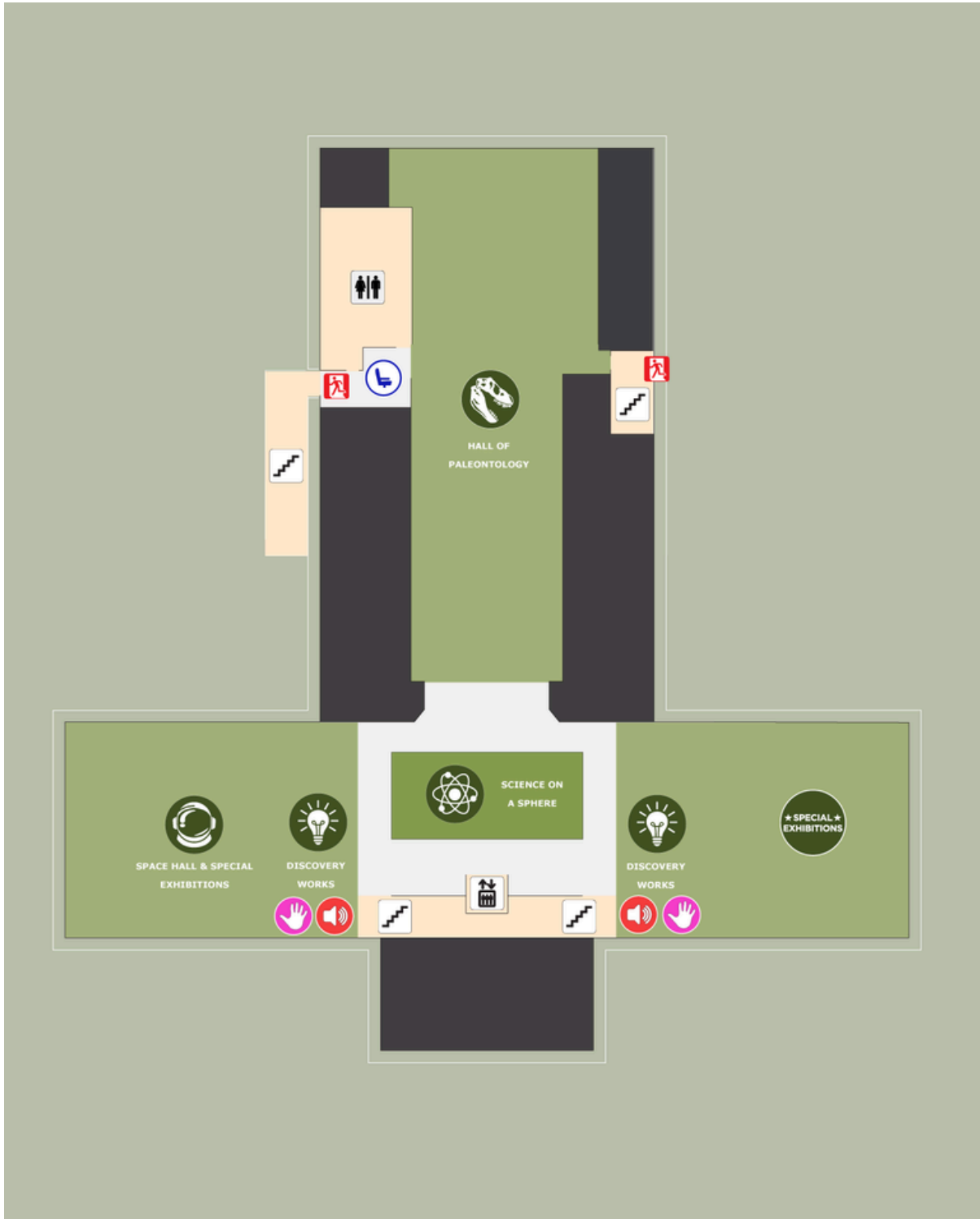
Tactile



Bright Lights



Movement Area





Discovery Works

Second Level

Considerations:



Loud



Tactile



Discovery Works is located on the second floor of the Museum. In this exhibit, I can explore science in many different ways. Each area has an experiment that can help me understand more about how science works.

I can turn, pull, spin, and shake the different items in this exhibit! In one area, I can make electricity just by moving my muscles. In another area, I can try to send a whisper across the room to someone else by speaking into a giant dish.

It might be a little loud in this area, so if I need a break, I can ask to go to a different area.



Hall of Paleontology

Second Level



The **Hall of Paleontology** has fossils of different animals. Fossils are remains of living things that have hardened over time.

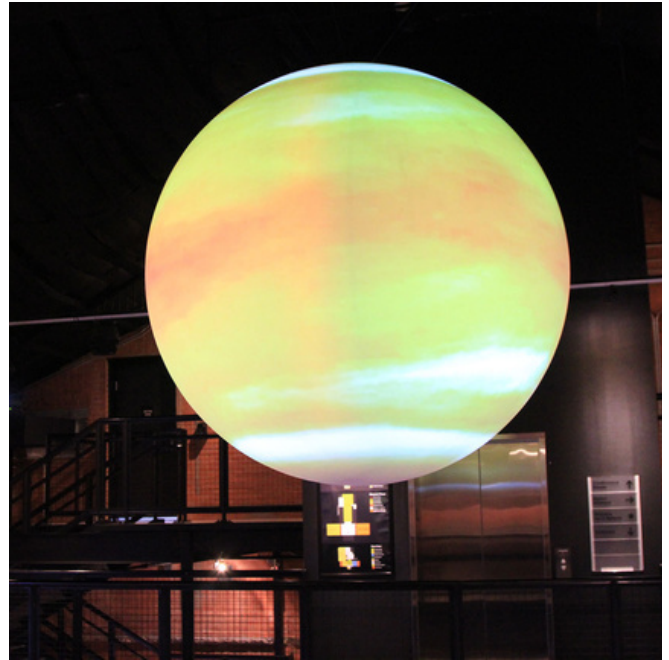
I'll see fossils from ancient ocean animals and dinosaurs, including Triceratops, Ankylosaurus, and Stegosaurus, and an ancient sea crocodile! These fossils are arranged in chronological order, from the oldest to the most recent.

If it is open, I can also visit the Paleontology Lab. In the Lab, I might hear a loud tool used there to help remove the fossils. If the lab is closed, that's okay. I can ask a Museum staff member if I have questions about the fossils I've seen.



Science on a Sphere

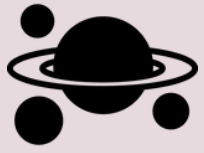
Second Level



To see the **Science on a Sphere** exhibit, I can look up at the ceiling! On the second floor, above the fossil of a T. rex, I will see a giant sphere, or ball, hanging from the ceiling. The sphere will change to look like the earth, sun, moon, and more.

The sphere will also show animated images that explain how different objects in space move and change.

In front of the sphere, I can choose which movie I want to play by selecting one of the options on the screen. I can explore the ocean, the atmosphere, or outer space.



Space Science

Second Level

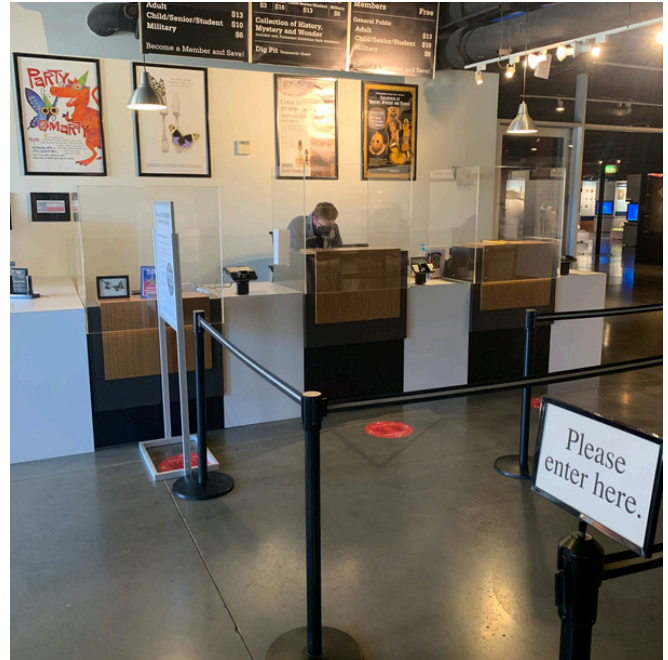


In the **Space Science** area, I can explore our universe. I will see pictures of outer space that were taken by powerful telescopes. I will also be able to see meteorites that have crashed to earth.



Special Exhibits

Second Level



Sometimes when I go to the Museum, I might see a **Special Exhibit**. A Special Exhibit is an area of the Museum that changes its topic. Sometimes I may need a special ticket to go into the Special Exhibit.

In the Special Exhibit, I might learn about a new science topic, different animals, or a culture that is different from my own. The information, artwork, and activities in a Special Exhibit will change.

I can try to read the signs and listen to the Museum staff to learn more. If I have any questions about a Special Exhibit, I can ask a Museum staff member. It can be fun to explore new topics!



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