

Social Story



I am going to the **University of Michigan Museum of Natural History**. Inside the museum, there are dinosaur fossils, ancient rocks, and models of Michigan wildlife to teach visitors about our amazing planet.

When I arrive at the museum's main entrance, I will see **two black puma statues**.



When I enter the **museum atrium**, I will see two big mastodon fossils. Above me, there will be two ancient whale skeletons hanging from the ceiling. If it is a busy day, it might be **loud**.



To my right, there is a **white host desk**. The host wears a bright blue shirt with a **maize Michigan M** on it. If I am **lost** or have any **questions**, I can get **help** from anyone wearing this shirt.



I can also talk to any of the **security officers** who are walking around the museum. They are wearing **khaki pants, dark blue polo shirts** and a **radio**.

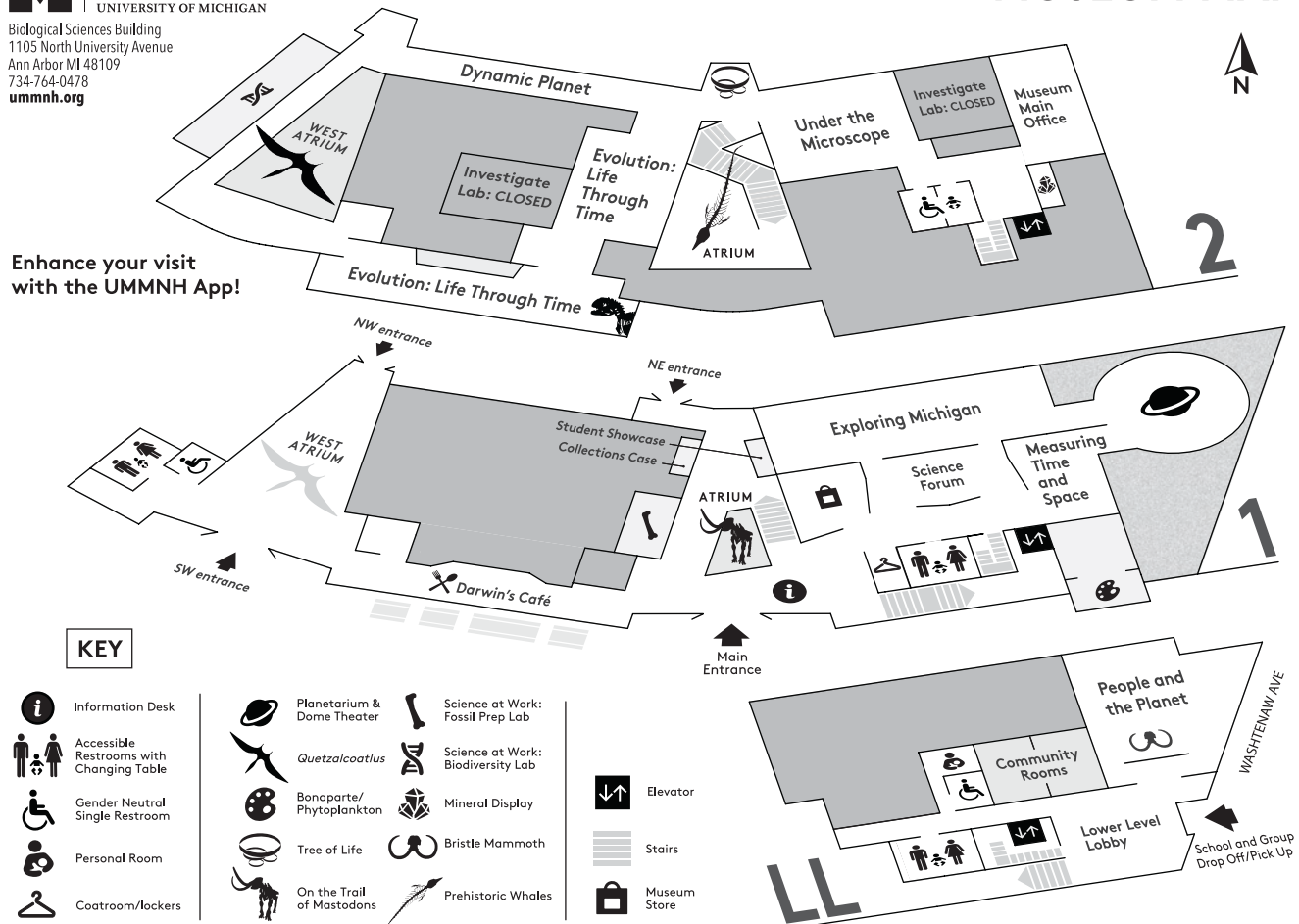


I can get a **museum map** at the host desk. There are three floors in the museum, so **I might not have time to see everything**. I can talk with my group to figure out what we want to see the most. If my group wants to go to a planetarium show, we can **buy tickets at the museum store**.

M MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Biological Sciences Building
1105 North University Avenue
Ann Arbor MI 48109
734-764-0478
umnh.org

MUSEUM MAP



Find 12 hidden drawings by artist David Zinn, scattered through the museum in non-exhibit areas!

Note: The Investigate Labs are currently closed.

I might also want to ask for a **sensory activity kit!**

These clear backpacks are available at the **host desk**. Besides the social narratives, they have headphones, emotion cards, and colorful toys to make my visit to the museum awesome.

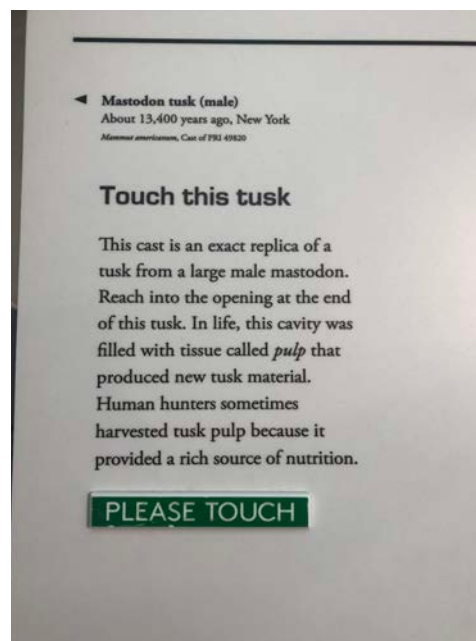
If I want to take off my coat, I can hang it up in the **coatroom**. I can also put any bags in the **lockers**. I should leave **behind any food or drinks**, too.



If I get hungry during the day, I can eat at **Darwin's Café**, which is right **next to the atrium**. They offer snacks like **muffins** and **pastries**, or I can have **soup** or a **sandwich**. Be sure to ask the host if they are open today.



In the museum, there are small green signs that say **PLEASE TOUCH**. I can touch any of the objects that have this label, like this cast of a mastodon tusk.



Next to the mastodons is the **Fossil Prep Lab**. I can look inside the lab to see what kinds of tools are used to clean real fossils. If there is a **scientist** working inside, I might be able to **ask them questions**.



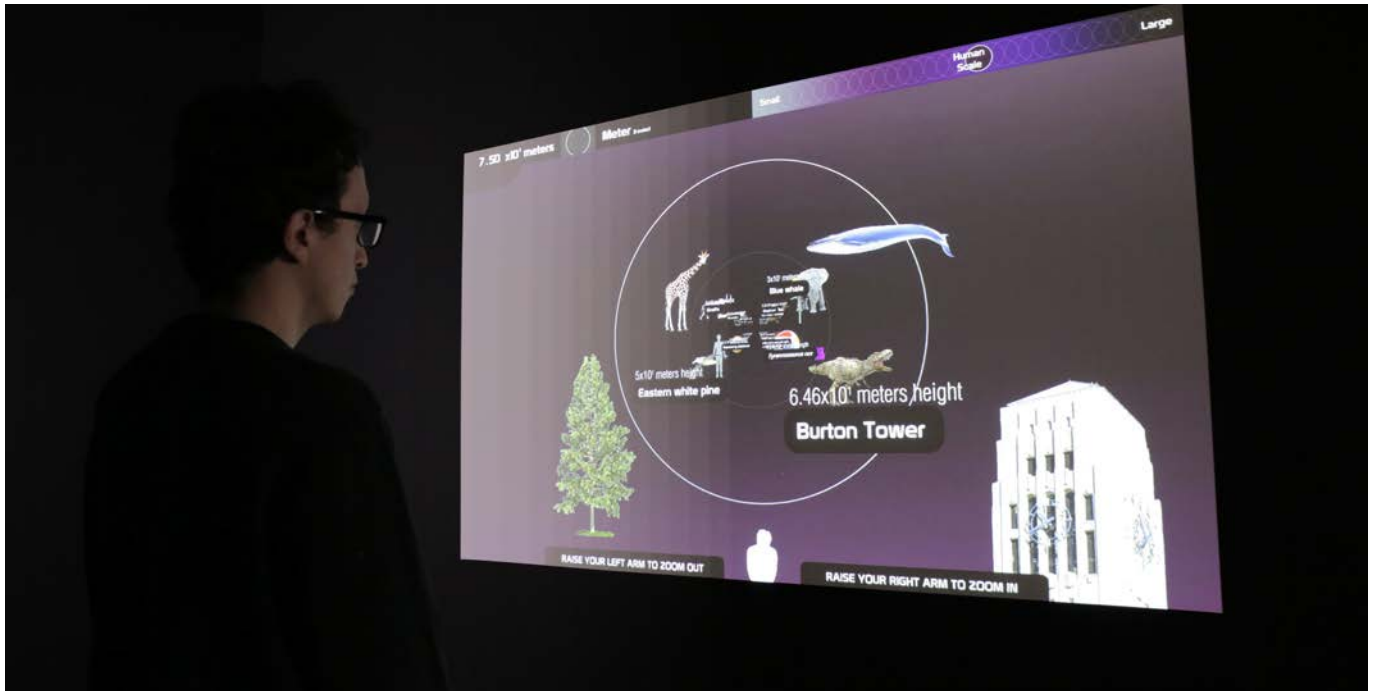
In the **Science Forum**, there is usually a **film** with video and audio about Michigan nature playing on a loop. Other times, there will be a **science demonstration**, like a cow eye dissection. If I want, I can sit down on the wooden benches and watch.



There are two sets of doors on either side of the Science Forum. These lead to **Exploring Michigan**, an exhibit about the **state's wildlife**. There is even a Michigan **wolverine!**



Down the hall, I can go to the **Measuring Time and Space** exhibit, where there is calm music playing. There is a screen where **I can raise my arms up and down** to see big and small objects in our universe.



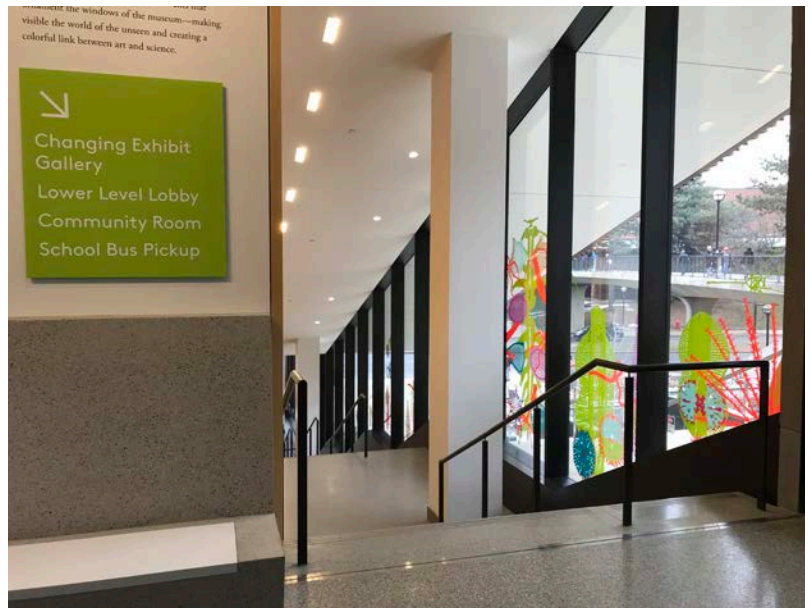
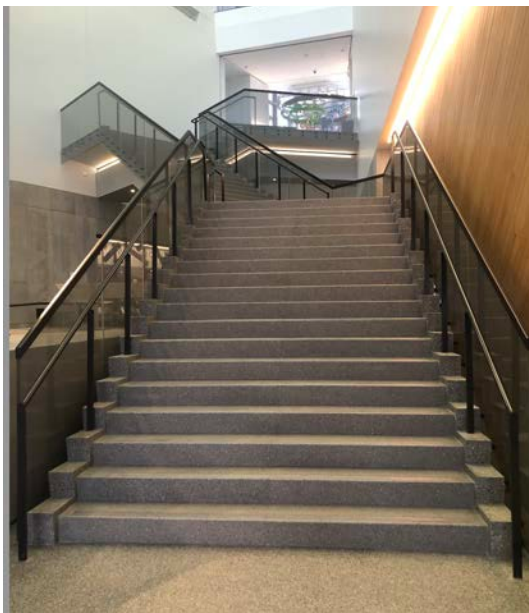
The entrance to the **planetarium** is up a ramp and through two doors. I can watch a **planetarium show** if my group bought tickets. The planetarium is dark, and the screen covers the whole dome. A docent will talk about the night sky. If I get **dizzy**, I can close my eyes.



I can take the **elevator** up to the second floor of the museum or down to the lower level. The elevator is **big**, and it might be empty or crowded. It also moves **slowly**, so I have time to rest and think about what I want to do next.



I can also take the **stairs**. To go to the **second floor**, I can use the stairs by the mastodons, and to go to the **lower level**, I can use the stairs by the host desk.



In the exhibit ***Under the Microscope***, I can learn about the smallest things alive, like cells and bacteria. In the corner, there is a **video playing with gentle music**. If I want, I can watch examples of the life cycle in nature, such as a zebra being born.



If the ***Micro Worlds Lab*** is open, I can walk in with an adult. There are **science experiments** for anyone ages five or older, and anyone can take a look at the microscope on the table.



In the *Evolution Gallery's Investigate Lab: Nature*, I can **touch** real fossils and learn more about their place in the natural world. There are fun **activities** on the tables about topics like trees and birds.



The *Majungasaurus* can be found in the *Evolution Gallery*. Although this is the museum's newest dinosaur, it lived 68 million years ago! I can look at the *Majungasaurus*' **huge tail** and **tiny arms**.



The *Quetzalcoatlus* soars high above me in the west atrium, just as I exit the Evolution Gallery. The Quetzalcoatlus is one of the biggest flying animals of all time! I can **spread my arms out and pretend to fly**.



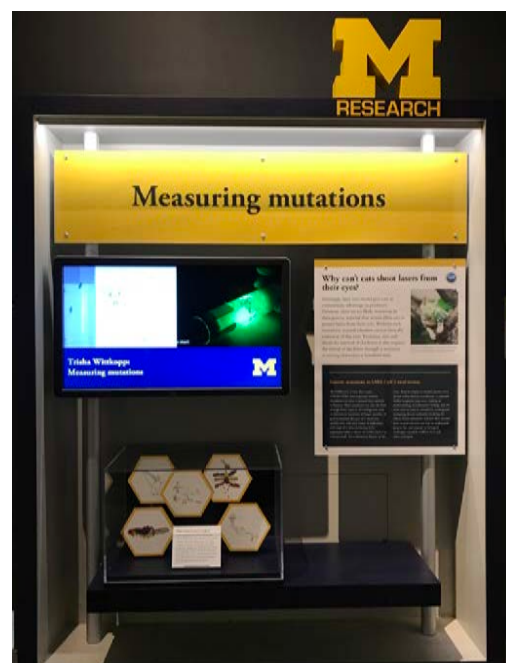
If I am **tired**, I can sit down in this quiet, sunny spot in the corner of the second floor. There are **comfortable** yellow chairs, and I can look out the tall windows and see the University of Michigan **campus**.



The exhibit on the lower level **changes**, but I might see the **Bristle mammoth**, which was found in nearby Chelsea, Michigan! There are **videos with sound** playing in this exhibit.



Throughout the museum, I will see different **research stations about** that U-M scientists do. I can stop at the stations to **watch a video with captions** and look at objects related to their work.



When I am done looking at the exhibits, I can go to the **museum store** and look at plush dinosaurs, astronaut ice cream, and museum hoodies.



Now I can pick up anything I left in the coatroom and say goodbye to the mastodons.

Until next time!

If found, please return to:

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Biological Sciences Building
1105 N University Ave
Ann Arbor, MI 48109**

