What do we know?

How do we know?

What's happening now?

How can I get involved?

Getting Around

There's more to experience!

Prairie Ridge Ecostation for Wildlife and Learning
1671 Gold Star Drive, Raleigh, NC 27607
919.707.8888

Whiteville Branch
415 South Madison Street, Whiteville, NC 28472
910.914.4185

Accessibility

Wheelchairs and Assistive Listening Devices are available at the Information Desks.

Programs or tours can be scheduled for special needs groups.

Family restroom and nursing room are available.

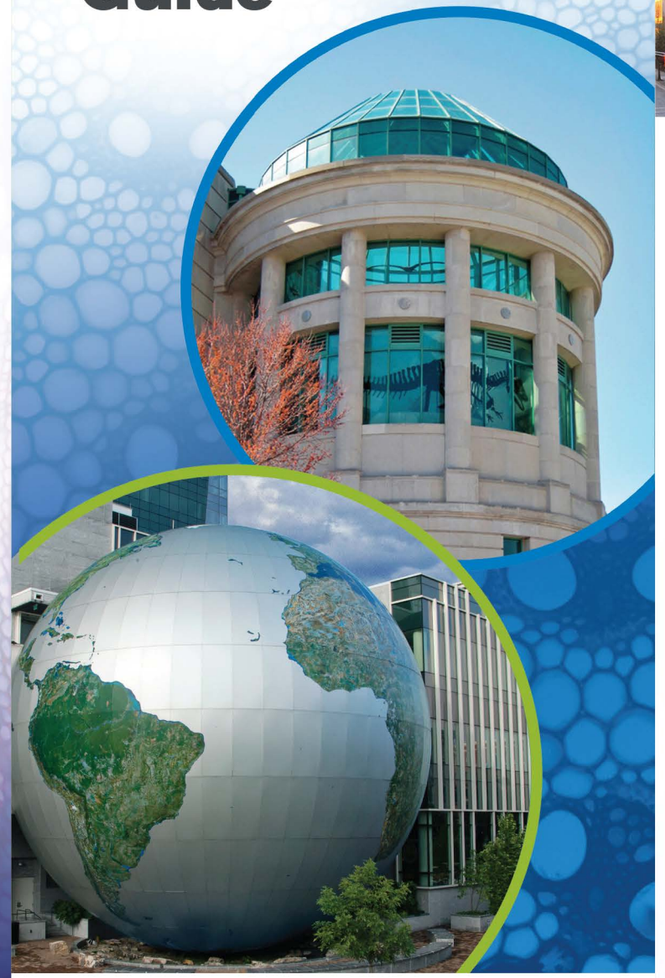
Parking

Parking is available weekdays in several pay lots nearby. Parking is free on evenings and weekends. Check parking map below and online.

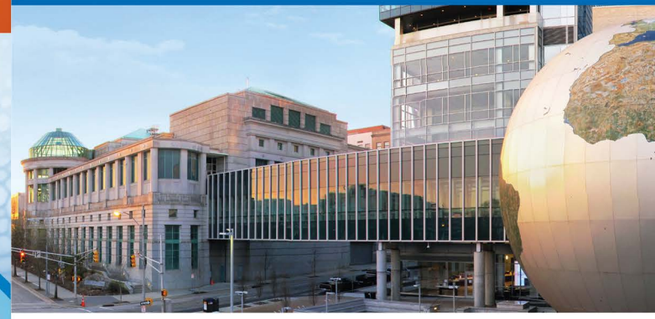
NORTH CAROLINA
Museum of Natural Sciences
11 West Jones Street · Raleigh, NC 27601
919.707.9800 · 1.877.4NATSCI (toll free)
naturalsciences.org

suggested donation $1

Museum Guide



NORTH CAROLINA
Museum of Natural Sciences



Welcome

to the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences

Filled with exciting exhibits, programs, research collections, laboratories and more, the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences has been serving up science since 1879.

Free admission
Donations gratefully accepted

Hours

Monday – Saturday: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Sunday: 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM
First Fridays: 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM

The Nature Research Center stays open until 9:00 PM every Thursday.

Visit us online at

naturalsciences.org
facebook.com/naturalsciences
@naturalsciences

Download our iPhone app at the Apple Store.

Smithsonian Affiliate · ASTC Association of Science-Technology Centers · American Alliance of Museums

2014 National Medal Winner from the Institute of Museum and Library Services

Printed 2014 by Friends of the Museum on 100% post-consumer waste paper.

NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Pat McCrory, Governor • John E. Skvarla, III, Secretary

Eat & Shop

Daily Planet Café
NATURE RESEARCH CENTER, 1ST FLOOR
MONDAY – FRIDAY: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
THURSDAYS AND FIRST FRIDAYS: 8:00 AM – 9:00 PM
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Acro Café
NATURE EXPLORATION CENTER, 4TH FLOOR
MONDAY – SATURDAY: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
SUNDAY: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Enjoy drinks, snacks and meals of the freshest local ingredients. Members receive a 10% discount.

Museum Store and Nature Art Gallery
NATURE EXPLORATION CENTER, 1ST FLOOR
MONDAY – SATURDAY: 9:00 AM – 4:45 PM
SUNDAY: 12:00 PM – 4:45 PM
FIRST FRIDAYS: 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Center Store
NATURE RESEARCH CENTER, 1ST FLOOR
MONDAY – SATURDAY: 9:00 AM – 4:45 PM
SUNDAY: 12:00 PM – 4:45 PM
THURSDAYS: 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM
FIRST FRIDAYS: 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM

The Museum Store and Center Store offer a wide variety of merchandise for children and adults. The Nature Art Gallery has changing exhibits with receptions every First Friday. Proceeds benefit the Museum. Members receive discounts.

Discover

Daily Discoveries
Join us for *Meet the Animals* and *Storytime* in the Windows on the World Theater.

Learn science skills and use research tools in the Investigate Labs.

Meet scientists and learn about their latest research in the Daily Planet Theater.

See live animals from across the state and around the world in exhibits and programs.

Special Events
The Museum has an exciting special events calendar. Start the year with Astronomy Days and welcome autumn with Fossil Fair. In between, don't forget our giant BugFest. Food, crafts, games and live animals abound!

Science Thursdays
Spend your Thursday nights geeking out at the Museum's Nature Research Center. Enjoy dinner with local beer and wine on tap during the Science Café. Discuss the latest research with scientists or show off your knowledge in science trivia contests.

First Fridays
Spend a delightfully different evening at the Museum on the First Friday of every month. At 7:00 PM, catch a free cult classic at the Natural Horror Picture Show in the WRAL Theater.

Enjoy

Special Exhibitions
The Museum hosts a selection of the best touring exhibitions. Offered for a limited time, special exhibitions cover topics old and new, from titanic dinosaur fossils to recovered artifacts from the *Titanic*.

WRAL 3D Theater
Sharks! Storms! Science! The WRAL 3D Theater offers an exciting array of films for all ages. Films are about 30 minutes long.

Ticket prices and schedules vary for exhibitions and movies. Check the Box Office or naturalsciences.org for details. Members receive free or discounted tickets.

Rent the Museum
Looking for a memorable place to host your meeting, party, wedding reception or other special occasion? When you choose the Museum, you not only have a unique and beautiful location, you also support important exhibits, research and educational programs. We have your special event down to a science.

Join

Become a Friend of the Museum
The Friends of the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to benefit the Museum's educational programs, exhibits and research through membership, fundraising and advocacy.

Please join the Museum family. Exclusive tours, special discounts, and our profound gratitude are just a few of the benefits of membership.

It's easy to join or renew online, at the Box Office, or in the Museum Stores. Enjoy these benefits and more:

- Free or discounted admission to Special Exhibitions
- Free or discounted admission to 300+ museums
- Invitations to Museum and Member events
- Discount and priority registration on Summer Camps
- 10% discount in Museum Stores and Cafés
- Discount on special Museum events and programs

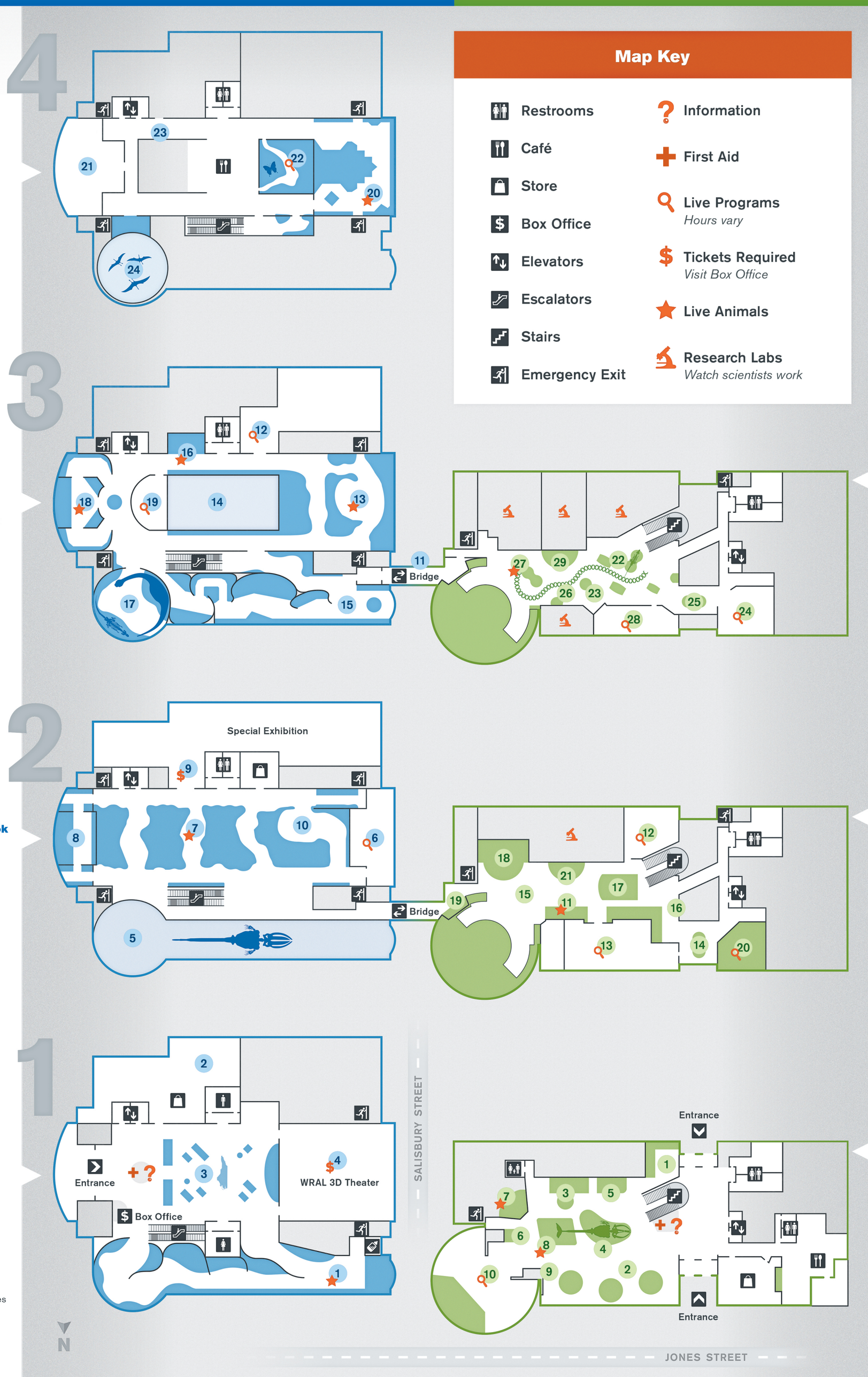
Volunteer
Join the team by volunteering at the Museum. Check naturalsciences.org for details.

Nature **Exploration** Center

Nature **Research** Center

Map Key

- Restrooms
- Café
- Store
- Box Office
- Elevators
- Escalators
- Stairs
- Emergency Exit
- Information
- First Aid
- Live Programs *Hours vary*
- Tickets Required *Visit Box Office*
- Live Animals
- Research Labs *Watch scientists work*



4

- 20 **Arthropod Zoo** — Meet all the creepy-crawlies
- 21 **Explore on Four** — Invited guests only
- 22 **Living Conservatory** — Live butterflies, a sloth & more
- 23 **Rotating Art Gallery** — Wildlife photography & other nature art
- 24 **Terror of the South Overlook** — Take a peek at pterosaurs
- **Acro Café**

3

- 11 **Bridge across Time** — Take a walk through prehistory
- 12 **Curiosity Classrooms** — Call to schedule your program
- 13 **Mountain Cove** — Find secretive mountain species
- 14 **Mountains to the Sea Overlook** — A tree-top view of the dioramas
- 15 **Prehistoric North Carolina** — Our ancient past & extinct animals
- 16 **Snakes of North Carolina** — See live native snakes
- 17 **Terror of the South** — Meet the *Acrocanthosaurus*
- 18 **Tropical Connections** — Dart frogs, tree boas & tropical topics
- 19 **Windows on the World** — *Meet the Animals* & *Storytime* programs

2

- 5 **Coastal North Carolina Overlook** — Whale skeletons up close
- 6 **Discovery Room** — Family-friendly science exploration
- 7 **Mountains to the Sea** — Explore habitats with live animals
- 8 **Nature's Explorers** — Our Museum from past to present
- 9 **Special Exhibition** — Exciting new experiences for every visit
- 10 **Underground North Carolina** — Dig deep for crystals, gems & geology

1

- 1 **Coastal North Carolina** — Our coastal habitats & wildlife
- 2 **Nature Art Gallery** — From paintings to pottery
- 3 **Natural Treasures of North Carolina** — Our state's natural diversity
- 4 **WRAL 3D Theater** — Enjoy science & nature films
- **Box Office** — Buy tickets for special exhibits & 3D movies
- **Museum Store**
- **Nursing Room** — Key available from the Information Desk

4

- **William G. Ross, Jr. Environmental Conference Center** — Invited guests only

3

- 22 **Ancient Fossils, New Discoveries** — Meet *T. rex* & other ancient animals
- 23 **Beyond Our Planet** — Explore astronomy & outer space
- 24 **Micro World Investigate Lab** — Discover life on a microscopic scale
- 25 **Planet Micro** — Connect with larger-than-life microbes
- 26 **Postcards from Space** — Meet the meteorites
- 27 **Unraveling DNA** — Uncover the facts about DNA
- 28 **Visual World Investigate Lab** — Interact with novel technologies
- 29 **Window on Research** — Meet scientists, learn tools & techniques

2

- 11 **Diversity of Life** — Learn how we study biodiversity
- 12 **Natural World Investigate Lab** — Explore nature in a hands-on lab
- 13 **Naturalist Center** — Touch & study specimens from our collection
- 14 **One Planet, One Health** — Explore the links between people & planet
- 15 **Our Changing Climate** — Adaptation under a dynamic atmosphere
- 16 **Patterned by Nature** — Sights & sounds of a unique atrium sculpture
- 17 **Researching Weather** — Learn how we study the weather
- 18 **Science Panorama** — Interactive & immersive theater
- 19 **Treasures Unearthed** — Gems & minerals from around the world
- 20 **Window on Animal Health** — Veterinary medicine in action
- 21 **Window on Research** — Meet scientists, learn tools & techniques

1

- 1 **Citizen Science** — Contribute to research projects
- 2 **Exploratory Gallery** — From model cars to model forests
- 3 **Exploring the Deep Sea** — Dive deep in our research submersible
- 4 **Investigating Right Whales** — Meet Stumpy, a whale with a story
- 5 **Local-Global Connections** — Learn about Monarch Butterfly migration
- 6 **North Carolina's Green Gems** — Impressive emeralds & hiddenite
- 7 **Our Changing Ocean** — See live fish from our coastal reefs
- 8 **Protecting Fresh Water** — How do we keep our wetlands clean?
- 9 **Science News, Your Views** — Give your opinion on breaking science news
- 10 **SECU Daily Planet** — Nature videos & live science presentations
- **Center Store**
- **The Daily Planet Café**
- **Family Restroom** — Key available from the Information Desk