

Visiting the Museum

Soon I'll be visiting the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences in downtown Raleigh, North Carolina.



The North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences is the largest museum of its kind in the southeastern United States.



The Museum is so big it has two buildings – the Nature Exploration Center and the Nature Research Center.



Both entrances have an Information Desk with friendly Museum staff. If I have any questions about the museum, the receptionist will be happy to help me. They can also provide me with a sensory map, wheelchair or an assistive listening device if I need one.



In the Nature Exploration Center, I will look at species that roamed through North Carolina millions of years ago, like the Terror of the South—*Acrocanthosaurus*! I will also look at plants and animals that are alive today from North Carolina's mountains to the sea.



In the Nature Research Center, I will see scientists at work. I can become a scientist in the Investigate Labs with some hands-on experiments. I can also explore touchable specimens in the Naturalist Center.



Both buildings have high ceilings and open spaces filled with live animals, preserved animals, skeletons, and even fossils of prehistoric animals for me to see.



To see everything in the Museum, I will walk across the bridge that connects the two buildings. There's an indoor bridge on the 2nd floor and an outdoor bridge on the 3rd floor. I'll see some great views of downtown Raleigh from the bridge!



The Museum gets around one million visitors per year, so it can get a bit busy or loud at times. There are quieter areas of the Museum where I can go if I need to. If I need any help, the friendly Museum staff and volunteers will be happy to assist me.



It's also really important that I stay close and listen to my friends and family at the Museum. They will help me stay safe, have fun, and follow the rules.



There are some things at the Museum behind barriers that I can't touch, like these rare and valuable rubies.



However, there are lots of things I **CAN** touch and explore at the Museum like this *T. rex* skull!

I can't wait to visit!

