



Fernbank Museum, 3D Theater and Forest

A Social Narrative



Let's Go to Fernbank!

I'm going to visit Fernbank Museum. When I arrive, I will see a large plaza with a fountain outside that features a family of dinosaurs. These dinosaurs are statues made of bronze. I will hear the water cascading down the fountain and see flowers around the plaza. The Dinosaur Plaza is directly in front of the museum building.

I will see doors behind the Dinosaur Plaza that I will use to enter the museum.

2nd Floor



Admissions

I will need to enter through the main doors to explore the rest of Fernbank. I will visit the Admissions agents to buy or scan our digital tickets. Sometimes other visitors will be there, and I may have to wait briefly. Waiting can be difficult, but I can be patient.

I will see a variety of museum employees during entry, which may include the admissions associates, security officers, volunteers and more. If I have questions during my visit, I can ask these helpful team members. I will have lots of fun at Fernbank.

1st Floor



Giants of the Mesozoic

When I go down one floor to the atrium, I can see life-size skeletons of *Argentinosaurus* and *Giganotosaurus*. The dinosaur skeletons are big and impressive, but they cannot move or hurt me. I cannot climb onto the dinosaurs' pedestals, but I can walk beneath them and take pictures with them.

This is an area where visitors like me tend to spend time taking photos, where I may hear soft music, and where some field trip students may be eating lunch.

On some days, there might be special activities around the dinosaurs, which may include science stations, carts or crafts.

1st Floor



Star Gallery

The Star Gallery is a beautiful, dark room on the first level. When I look up at the ceiling, I can see constellations that are found in the night sky. I can also learn about our Solar System and space exploration.

I may also see people lining up to enter the Giant Screen Theater to see a movie. There are many times during the day when this area can be quiet and can be a nice place for me to go if I need to take a break.

1st Floor



World of Shells

Behind the Star Gallery I can visit the World of Shells, where I can see shells from every ocean and learn how shells are made. The shells are beautiful and it is fun to explore their stories. The people I am visiting with might even have their own stories about seeing shells around the world if I ask them.

1st Floor



Giant Screen 3D Theater

I can see a film in the Giant Screen Theater. If I need an accessible entrance, I can enter from the 2nd floor behind the admissions area.

The theater is dark and can sometimes be loud. I'll need to sit in a seat for 25-45 minutes, and I might need to wear 3D glasses over my eyes to see the movie. The screen is very tall and there can be a lot of people in the theater during the movie.

I should discuss if this is an environment I'd enjoy with the people I'm with. Fernbank sometimes offers screenings of films that have a lower sensory experience so if I don't want to see a movie today, I might be able to attend another time. I can find dates of sensory screenings at [FernbankMuseum.org/Sensory](https://www.fernbankmuseum.org/Sensory).

2nd Floor



A Walk Through Time in Georgia

As I go through this exhibit, I move through the history of the Earth and Georgia's regional ecosystems.

I can journey through the scenes and discover fish, birds, dinosaurs and other animals. These animals look real but are not alive so they do not move. This is a fun way to learn about the history of the world.

If I live in Georgia, I can see how my region differs from other locations in our state. If I live somewhere else, I can explore how Georgia is both similar and different from my home.

2nd Floor



Conveyed in Clay

Here, I can learn about how Native Americans made pottery hundreds of years ago — from pinch pots to coil pots. I can understand more about their history, how they lived and their culture.

3rd Floor



Fantastic Forces

In this exhibit, I can explore the forces of our planet and participate in hands-on activities. This exhibit can be noisy and busy with other guests so I might prefer to visit another exhibit instead. If the sounds, people and activity are not bothersome, I can launch rockets, defy gravity and form a volcano.

3rd Floor



NatureQuest

In this kid-friendly exhibit, I can explore different habitats through hands-on activities, as well as the sights and sounds of nature.

I can climb up a tree and through a club house. I can examine different types of rocks, and I can search for animals. Some animals are models and some are living in safe enclosures.

Other people might be playing in NatureQuest, too, so sometimes it may be loud or I may have to wait if the interactive areas are busy. I can be patient and have fun.

3rd Floor



Sky High

I can see birds close up in this exhibit to learn more about the feathered friends that live in Georgia year-round as well as those who stop here as they migrate to other places. These birds are not alive so I can get close to them and look at their feathers, colors, various sizes and more. I can also see how large their wings are compared to my body.

This exhibit overlooks the admissions area I stopped in on the way into the museum. I'll be able to see and hear other guests entering and exiting Fernbank from this balcony.

If I need to take a break, there is also an alcove and a bench at the far end of this exhibit on the opposite side of the balcony from the restrooms.

3rd Floor



Reflections of Culture

In this exhibit I can learn about similarities and differences across cultures of the world. I can also see the clothing, jewelry and other objects worn and displayed by different cultures. There are a lot of colors and pretty displays. It is cool to see what I have in common with others and learn about what makes other cultures unique.

1st Floor, Outside



Fernbank Forest

I can explore an old-growth Piedmont forest to enjoy the calm and beauty of nature within the middle of Atlanta.

If I am physically able, I can step carefully over roots, hop on rocks, and maybe even see a wild animal. Because this is the home to living plants, trees, animals and fungi, I will not take anything from the forest, and won't leave anything I brought with me behind.

1st Floor, Outside



WildWoods

If I am not able to journey into Fernbank Forest, due to time, physical ability or other reasons, I am still able to experience nature in WildWoods. I can explore with the use of strollers or wheelchairs and get an elevated view of the beautiful trees, creek and hillside from the tree pods.

Nature can be calm, but there may also be other people enjoying the areas in WildWoods so it could feel busy at times. Children can climb on the nature-inspired structure in Nature Stories and explore a fort in Adventure Outpost. Along the paths, I can hear birds chirping, discover examples of animal tracks, and feel textures, like pinecone patterns, at the Sensory Wall.



Even More Fun Things to Explore

There are so many places where I can have fun, eat and explore at Fernbank. I can use the signs around the museum to discover what's on each floor and how to find places like restrooms.

There are a lot of areas to enjoy that I might not have seen today. If I come back another day, I can discover what's new and different next time.

If I come back, there might be a new special exhibit, and even special sensory-friendly museum hours or screenings of films in the Giant Screen Theater. I can check for Sensory Morning dates at [FernbankMuseum.org/Sensory](https://www.fernbankmuseum.org/Sensory).

I can ask one of the Fernbank employees how to find out more before I leave. When I leave, I'll see many of the same people and places I saw on the way in.