



**NORTH DAKOTA HERITAGE CENTER
& STATE MUSEUM**

VISITOR GUIDE



WELCOME. WE'RE HAPPY YOU'RE *here!*

NORTH DAKOTA HERITAGE CENTER

The North Dakota Heritage Center, located on the capitol grounds in Bismarck, is home to the State Museum, the State Historical Society of North Dakota, the North Dakota Geological Survey, and the State Archives. The building is operated by the State Historical Society. An expansion project completed in 2014 added 97,000 square feet of exhibit, storage, and office space. Don't miss the outside attractions, including the outdoor amphitheater, rock formations, and a petrified tree.

STATE MUSEUM

The State Museum at the ND Heritage Center tells the stories of North Dakota from its earliest geologic formation to contemporary times. Collections in the galleries span more than 600 million years. We invite you to take a personal journey through the beautiful new museum spaces that showcase our people, our landscape, and current and future development. Admission is free.



Northern Lights Atrium

NORTHERN LIGHTS ATRIUM

One of the most unique architectural structures of the Northern Plains is the stunning 40' x 40' Northern Lights Atrium. Made of steel and glass, the box is cradled in walls of copper panels. Similar to an earthlodge design, the lobby includes 20 poles. What does the structure look like to you? Does it resemble a tipi, a grain bin, or something else? Back-lit screens project colorful lights at night as a nod to the Northern Lights.

Take a close look at the "hearth" of the building, a five-foot glass circle in the floor with a lighted image of the Great Seal of North Dakota. Around the circle are the names of all 53 counties. The Atrium is available as a rental space for after-hours events.

RUSSELL REID AUDITORIUM AND GREAT PLAINS THEATER

The auditorium, seating up to 275 people, showcases lively programming such as music and theater performances, educational seminars, and films. The Great Plains Theater also offers

entertainment options for groups of up to 70 persons. Check the daily schedule at both entrances for free films.

SHOPPING AND DINING

At the Museum Store, you'll find a unique selection of books, gifts, and items handcrafted by regional artists including jewelry, woven baskets, Native American crafts, and more. State Historical Society Foundation members receive 15% discounts.

The James River Café offers casual dining, snacks, and specialty coffees.

ABOUT THE STATE MUSEUM

Welcome to the newly expanded State Museum, showcasing North Dakota's world-class collections and presenting the state's heritage through stories of adaptation, innovation, and inspiration.

Tour four new State Museum galleries:

- Adaptation Gallery: Geologic Time
- Innovation Gallery: Early Peoples
- Inspiration Gallery: Yesterday and Today
- Governors Gallery

Which one is your favorite?

"This place is a grand showcase of North Dakota history."

- ND Governor Jack Dalrymple



Governor Jack and First Lady Betsy Dalrymple are regular visitors to the North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum.

Become immersed in a world of monstrous creatures and grinding glaciers from 600 million to 13,000 years ago.





Meet our roaring *Tyrannosaurus Rex*, 35 feet in length.



Archelon was the largest prehistoric turtle — about the size and shape of a classic Volkswagen Beetle.

ADAPTATION GALLERY: GEOLOGIC TIME

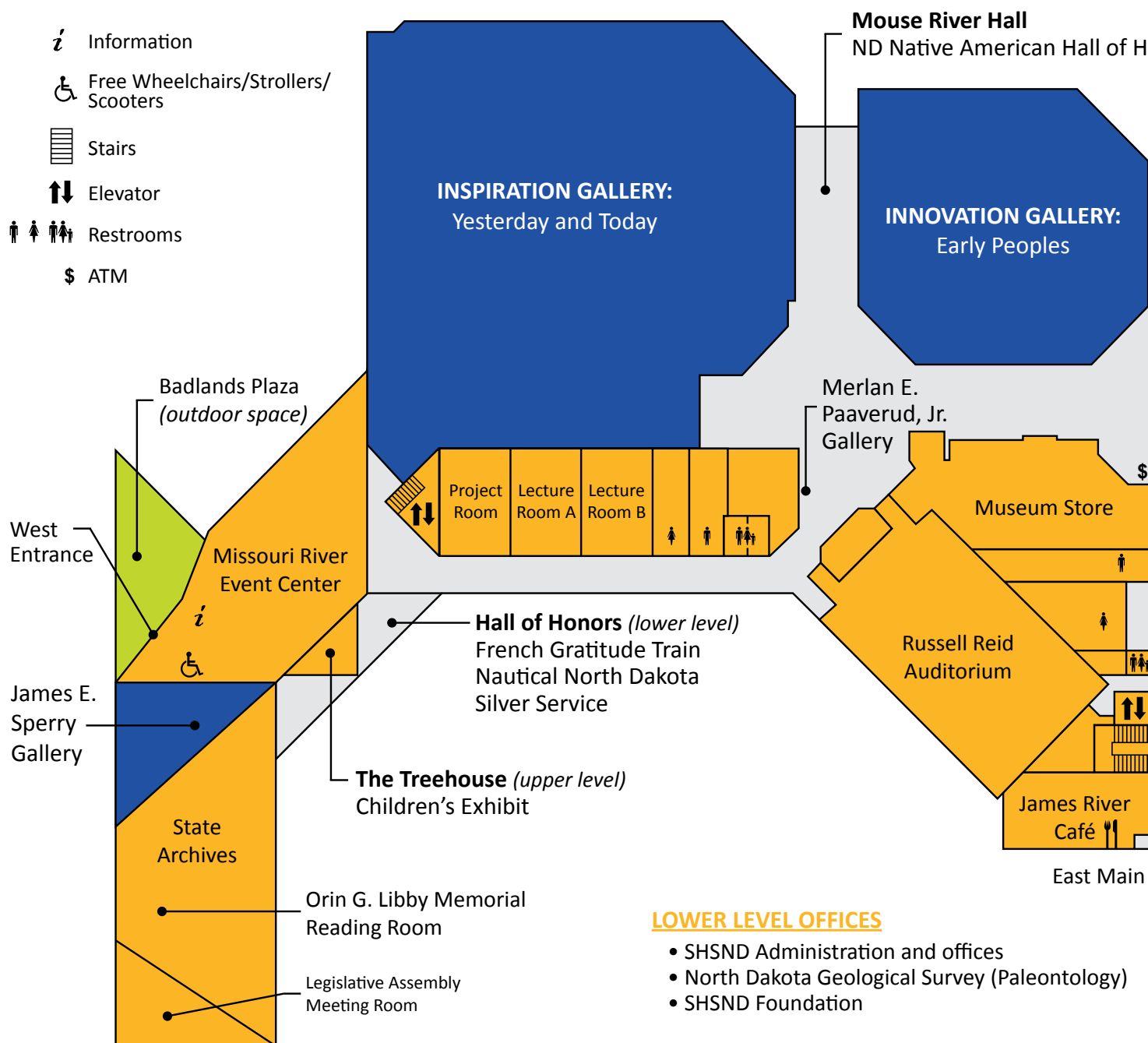
Start your chronological journey through time with the Adaptation Gallery. From monstrous sea creatures living in primordial oceans to the rise and extinction of dinosaurs, from tropical swamplands with crocodiles to the appearance of mastodons during the ice age, this gallery covers the fascinating story of evolving geology and the earliest life in North Dakota.

Become immersed in the underwater world of 80 million years ago, when North Dakota was covered by an ocean. Touch an interactive table to explore a timeline of geological changes in North Dakota from 600 million years ago to the present. View life-size casts of a *Tyrannosaurus rex* and a *Triceratops*. Discover what the glaciers left behind.

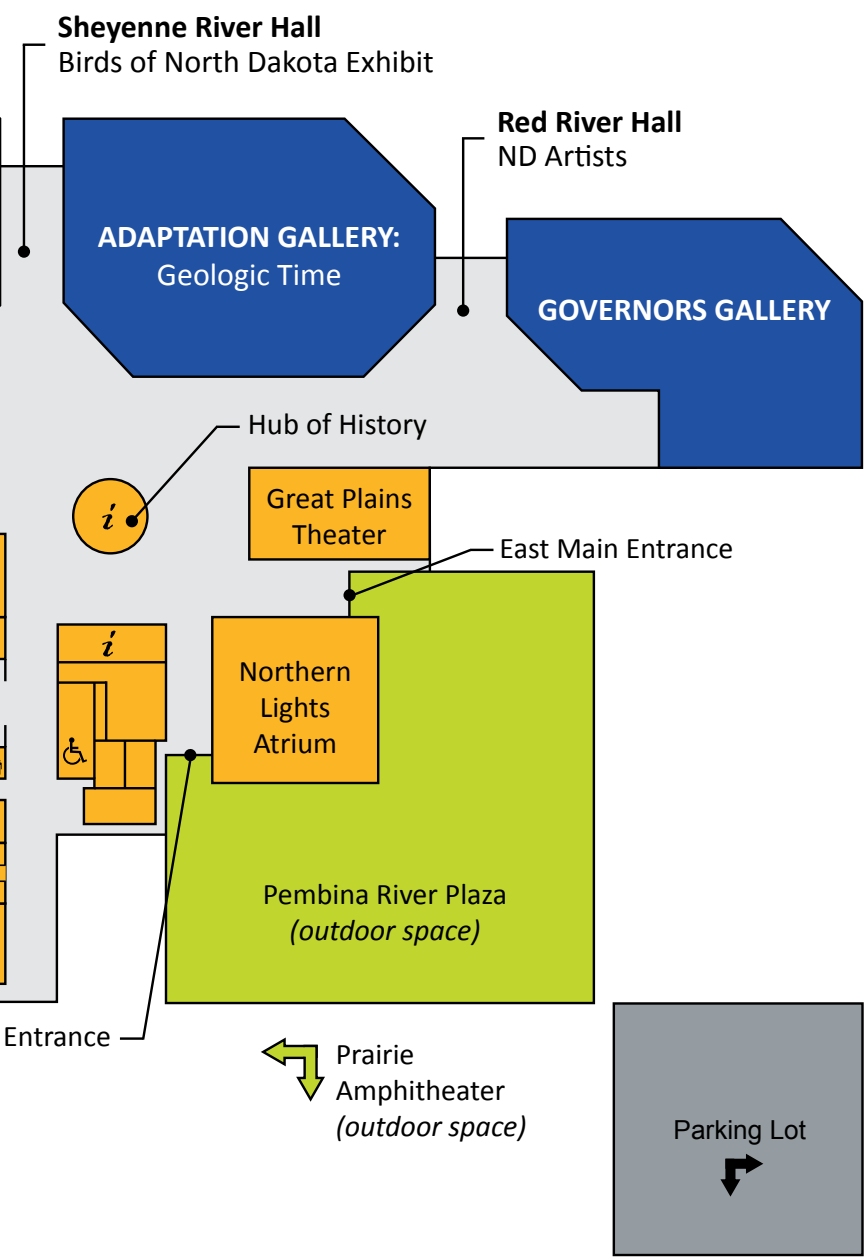


Touch North Dakota's state fossil, *Teredo*-bored petrified wood.

NORTH DAKOTA HERITAGE CENTER *map*



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GOVERNORS GALLERY (TRAVELING EXHIBITS)



ADAPTATION GALLERY: GEOLOGIC TIME



INNOVATION GALLERY: EARLY PEOPLES



INSPIRATION GALLERY: YESTERDAY AND TODAY



Whether you are young or “young at heart,” you’ll find stories connected to your life in the Inspiration Gallery, covering history from the mid-1800s to today. Learn about the past, present, and our state’s promising future.

INNOVATION GALLERY: EARLY PEOPLES

This fascinating gallery, devoted to the earliest peoples of North Dakota, highlights the richness, depth, and diversity of the State Museum's collections.

The story of the Early Peoples began more than 13,000 years ago. This gallery features archaeological artifacts from prehistoric cultures, the international story of the fur trade, oral histories, a handpainted cyclorama, and more treasures spanning through the 1860s.



A hand-painted mural of a Mandan Indian village (Double Ditch Indian Village State Historic Site) at A.D. 1550.

INSPIRATION GALLERY: YESTERDAY & TODAY

This gallery tells the contemporary story of our state and its people through a variety of themes that continue to shape history: agricultural innovation; industry and energy; settlement, immigration and migration; conflict and war; our communities; and cultural expressions. Captivating stories illustrate North Dakota's unique character.

GOVERNORS GALLERY

This gallery hosts temporary and traveling exhibits. Tour our free current exhibit - the *Green Revolution*! Explore how you and your family can be more eco-friendly with a new Smithsonian eco-zibit, made from recycled and repurposed materials. *Green Revolution* focuses on important environmental issues such as alternative energy sources, green building, recycling, and waste management.



This version of "Green Revolution" is based on an exhibition originally created by the Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, and its Black Creativity Council and is made available by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service.

Check out today's activities in the Learning Labs of the galleries! Please ask our gallery guides questions as you explore.

MERLAN E. PAAVERUD, JR. GALLERY

This gallery features temporary small exhibits from the Society's collections and honors former SHSND Director Merl Paaverud, who retired in November 2014.

JAMES E. SPERRY GALLERY

Enjoy changing exhibits created by the State Archives of North Dakota.

THE TREEHOUSE

This fun-filled exhibit provides young visitors with their very own museum space. Young children can explore North Dakota's history with entertaining hands-on exhibits. Children must be supervised by an adult at all times.

Use these kiosks to find info about ND tourist destinations.



VISITOR INFORMATION

Check the information desk and our Hub of History kiosks at the museum entrance for information about what you'll find at the North Dakota Heritage Center and additional tourist destinations throughout the state.

ACCESSIBILITY

The North Dakota Heritage Center is wheelchair accessible. Elevators are located near the entrances and near the Russell Reid Auditorium. Wheelchairs and scooters are available at the information desk.

COAT ROOM

A self-check coat room is near the entrance.

DINING

The James River Café offers specialty coffees, snacks, and meals.

GALLERY GUIDELINES

Please enjoy our exhibits and help us protect them for others to enjoy. Eating and drinking are not permitted in the museum galleries. Tobacco products are not permitted in the building. Please limit the use of cellular phones in the galleries as a courtesy to our visitors. Refrain from climbing on display areas and from touching artifacts. Oils from fingers may damage fabric and surfaces.

LOST AND FOUND/FIRST AID

Please inquire at the information desk or ask a security officer or gallery guide for assistance.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographs and video for personal use are permitted in the museum. Some temporary exhibits may not be photographed due to copyright restrictions. All photography for commercial use must be approved in advance by the Communications & Education Division. Call 701.328.2666.

RESTROOMS

Restrooms are located near the museum entrances and outside the Russell Reid Auditorium. Family restrooms and baby-changing stations are available.

SECURITY

Bags, packages, and laptops may be inspected for security reasons. No weapons are allowed in the building.

SHOPPING

The Museum Store is open during regular museum hours. State Historical Society of North Dakota Foundation members receive a 15 percent discount. Shop online at history.nd.gov.

SPECIAL EVENT RENTALS/CORPORATE ENTERTAINING

Many public spaces are available for rent. For rental information, call 701.328.4187 or find out more at statemuseum.nd.gov.

WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS

Free Wi-Fi is available in most public areas.

VOLUNTEER

Interested in becoming a volunteer? Visit the information desk or history.nd.gov for information.

FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP

To become a Foundation member or to make a donation, please visit the information desk or find us online at statehistoricalfoundation.com.

MUSEUM HOURS

Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday – Sunday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Closed New Year's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day
701.328.2666

Follow us!     

THE MUSEUM STORE

handcrafted pottery

jewelry

pine needle baskets

regional books

gift baskets



SHOP FOR UNIQUE HANDCRAFTED ITEMS BY REGIONAL ARTISTS!

8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday-Friday; Saturday & Sunday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Shop online at statemuseum.nd.gov/store

701.328.2822