

national  
museum  
australia



# Visual story

School visits to the  
National Museum of Australia

A visual story is a guide that  
helps visitors plan their trip.

This visual story tells you what  
to expect when your school visits  
the Museum.

national  
museum  
australia

autism  
spectrum  
AUSTRALIA

# Contents

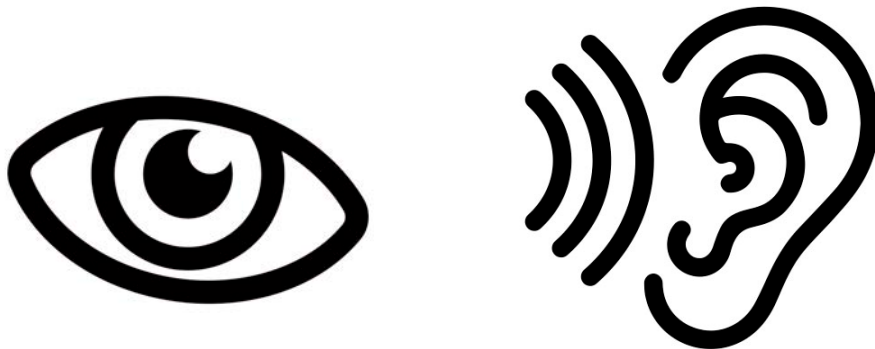
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## Contents

Sensory information .....	3
Things you can bring if you need them .....	4
Arriving.....	5
What to expect on your program .....	7
Rules .....	8
Great Southern Land .....	9
First Australians .....	10
Garden of Australian Dreams .....	11
Education rooms .....	12
If you feel overwhelmed .....	13
Leaving the Museum .....	14
Australia's Defining Moments Digital Classroom.....	15
For more information.....	16

# Sensory information

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The Museum is a big place with lots of different spaces.

The Museum has:

- ▶ bright, colourful projections
- ▶ sudden changes from bright to dark
- ▶ sudden sounds and sound changes
- ▶ soft music and audio with people speaking
- ▶ displays of animals
- ▶ elevators
- ▶ alarms to protect objects
- ▶ other school groups and visitors
- ▶ quiet nooks.

## Things you can bring if you need them

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- ▶ noise-cancelling headphones
- ▶ sensory items like fidget spinners or slinkies
- ▶ sunglasses
- ▶ water bottle
- ▶ mobile phone
- ▶ money for food at the Cafe or to buy something from the Museum Shop
- ▶ food from home

# Arriving



Your group will arrive at the Museum by bus.

You will enter by the main entrance (red wall) into the Gandel Atrium.

More information is available at [nma.gov.au/visit/accessibility](https://nma.gov.au/visit/accessibility)

# Gandel Atrium



When you enter the main doors, you will come into the Gandel Atrium. It is a big space and can be noisy and bright.

When you arrive at the National Museum, you may:

- ▶ use the toilets in the corridor nearby
- ▶ put your bag in a locked tub
- ▶ eat lunch outside
- ▶ ask Museum staff for help.

This will help you be ready to learn when your program starts.

# What to expect on your program



During your program, a Museum educator will:

- ▶ tell stories
- ▶ ask questions
- ▶ show you museum items.

Your group will follow the educator through the galleries:  
Great Southern Land and First Australians.

You can read about our different programs here:

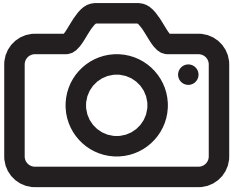
[nma.gov.au/learn/school-programs](https://nma.gov.au/learn/school-programs)

The educator may use clap sticks or shakers to ask you to come back as a group. If you find this sound too loud, you can let your educator or teacher know.

In the galleries there are elevators, lights, sounds and alarms if you accidentally get too close to an object.

# Rules

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- ✔ You can take photos.
- ✔ You can put your hand up to answer or ask a question.
- ✔ You must follow your educator and stay with your group.
- ✘ You cannot have food or drinks in the galleries.



# Great Southern Land

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In the Great Southern Land gallery, you will discover how the Australian continent has transformed over thousands of years.

This gallery has lots of lights, dark spaces and sudden changes in sound. You can wear noise-cancelling headphones or sunglasses in the gallery.

While in Great Southern Land, you may:

- ▶ hear stories about amazing people and animals
- ▶ look at items from the past
- ▶ do an activity which will be explained at the time.

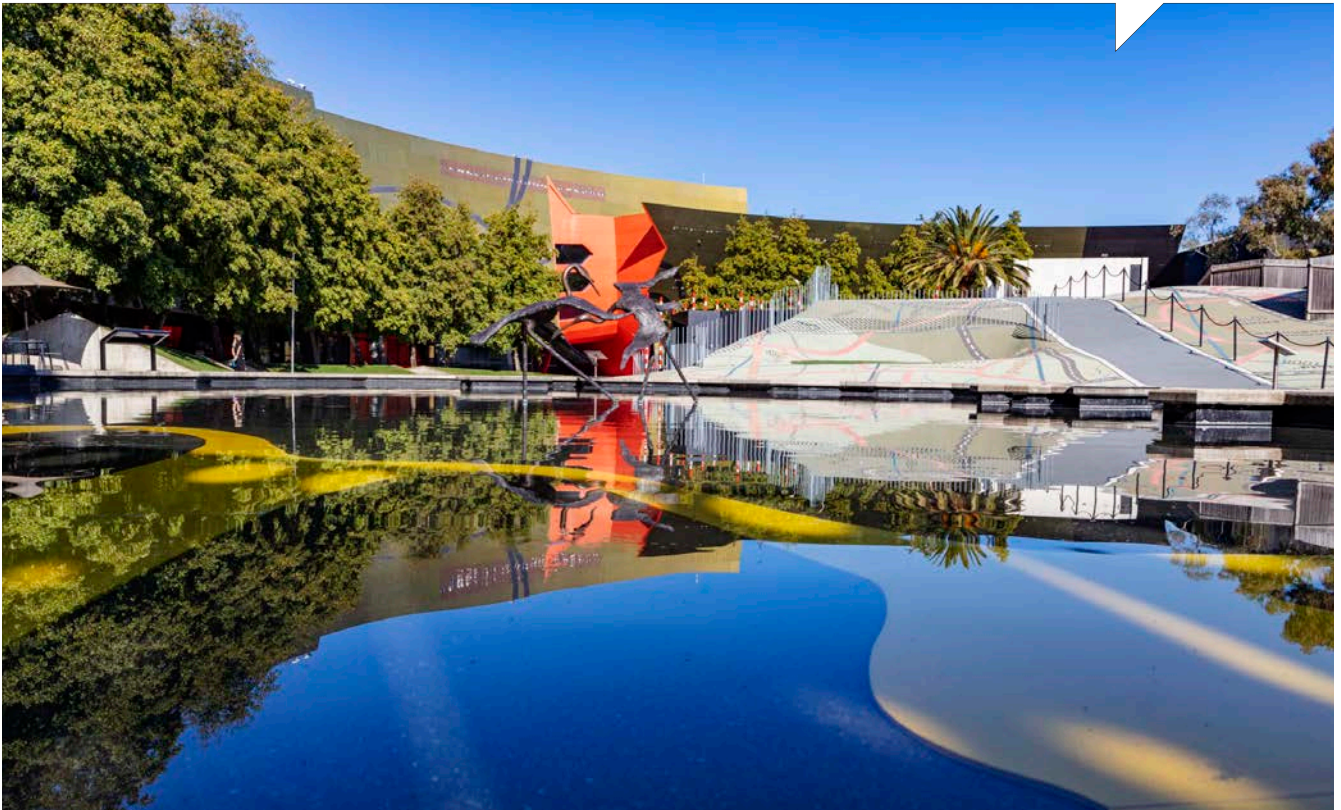
# First Australians



The First Australians gallery is filled with objects and stories from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Some sections of the gallery are dark. There are also videos, audio and large screens.

# Garden of Australian Dreams



The Garden of Australian Dreams is in the centre of the Museum. It explores the importance of home for different people. It has:

- ▶ words
- ▶ symbols
- ▶ a dark tunnel
- ▶ a pool of water.

If my group looks at the tunnel, I can choose to walk through or around it.

Sometimes you can hear music, insects and voices. This is part of a special sound installation called *Breathing Space*.

## Education rooms

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If your program is in one of our education rooms, you will have the opportunity to hold objects from the past.

Your group can carefully examine the objects and pass them around.

The activities are fun but the space can become noisy.

## If you feel overwhelmed

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You can talk to your teacher.

You can talk to your Museum educator.

You can ask other Museum staff for help.

You can ask to find a quiet space and rejoin when you are ready.

# Leaving the Museum



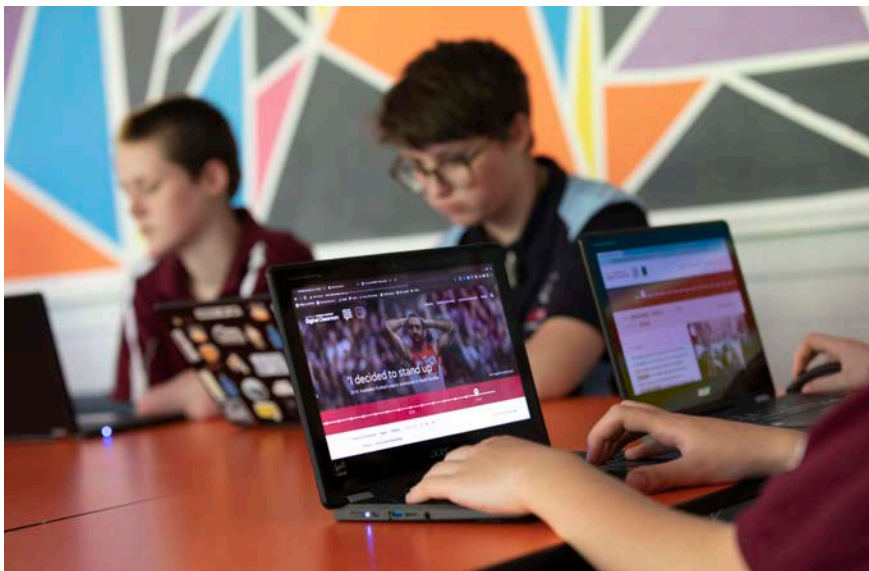
When your program is over, the Museum educator will say goodbye to your group.

Your teacher will tell you what you are doing next.

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## AUSTRALIA'S **DEFINING MOMENTS**

# Digital Classroom



If you want to explore the Museum before or after your visit, you can check out our Digital Classroom:

<https://digital-classroom.nma.gov.au/>

In the Digital Classroom, you can watch videos, play games, take a quiz or explore the Museum virtually!



## For more information

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If you need any more information or you have questions or feedback, please contact us.

Email: [education@nma.gov.au](mailto:education@nma.gov.au)

Phone: +61 2 6208 5000

We look forward to seeing you!

The development of this visual story has been supported by Autism Spectrum Australia.

