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Explore Washington, D.C.!



Biggins

I Am Going To The National Museum of the American Indian!

A Step-by-Step Guide On How To Visit The Museum

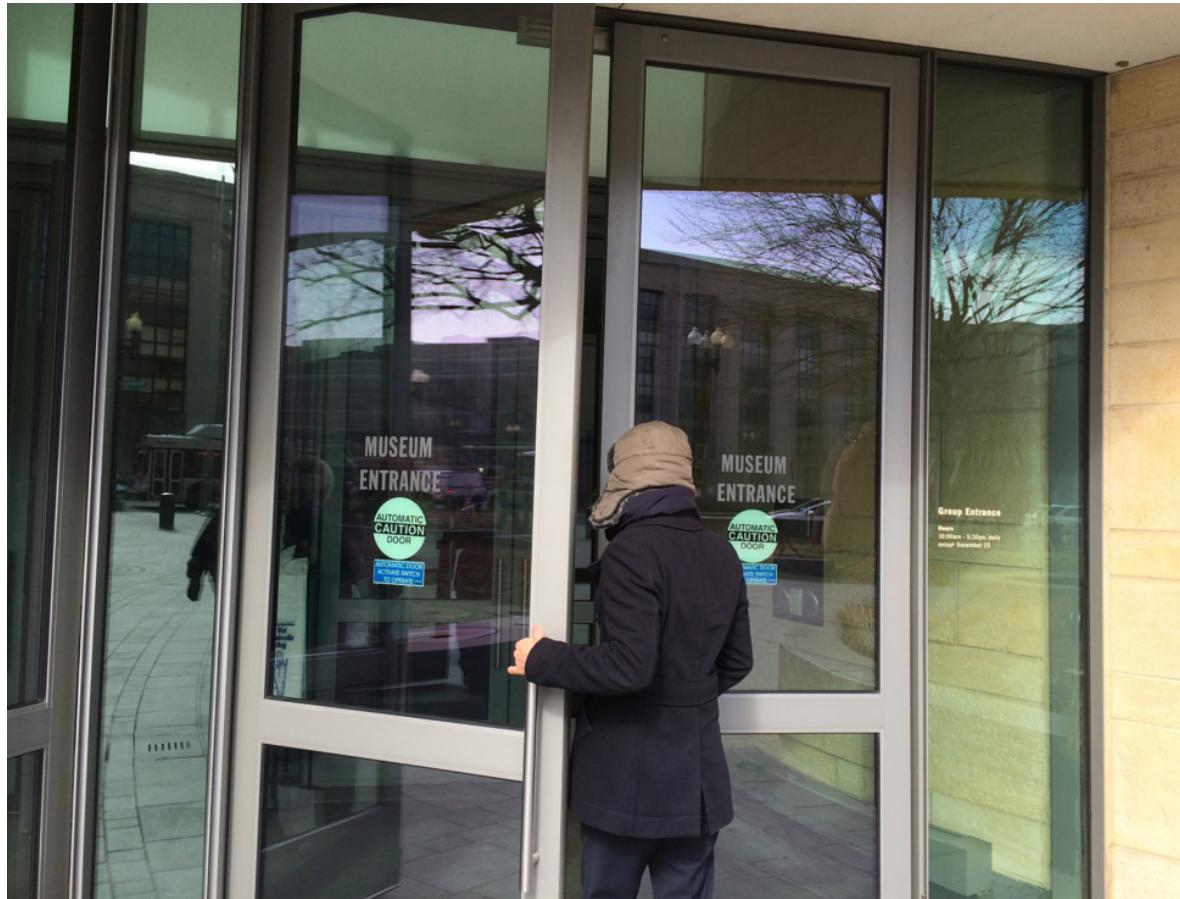
by
Brett Bigham

The National Museum of the American Indian is a famous museum in Washington, D.C.



This is the main door to the museum. This is a fun museum full of history and Native American art. Once we go through these doors we have to use an inside voice.

This girl is very happy to visit the museum. She is going through the doors with no problem.



She knows she has to use an inside voice after she goes through the door. Museums have rules and she is OK with that. She is going to follow all of the rules.

The first thing you have to do in the museum is go through security. It is very easy to go through security. This girl walked through and was very safe. Watch the person in front of you and do what they do.



The nice guard will help you if you get confused. If you feel stressed out, once you go through security there is lots of space and some places to sit.

One of the first things you see is the bathroom. Go to the bathroom now if you need to. Don't forget to wash your hands!



The museum can be busy so stay close to your group!

Now it is time to learn the most important lesson about museums. You can look at the art but don't touch it!



There is art everywhere. This statue is in the lobby. You will walk right by it!

Remember, if you feel stressed out or tired at the museum there are many places to sit down and relax.

On the first floor there is a very large room. It is so big that sometimes Native Americans will come there and dance or play the drums. If you visit on a day with dancing, remember to be a good audience! Drumming can be loud but you are safe!



This is the large room on a day it was quiet.



The large room has a totem pole that goes all the way up to the ceiling. This room has a lot of seats. It is a very good place to take a break.

There is also a restaurant where you can buy food or get a drink. It is very busy and full of people. Be ready for lots of noise!

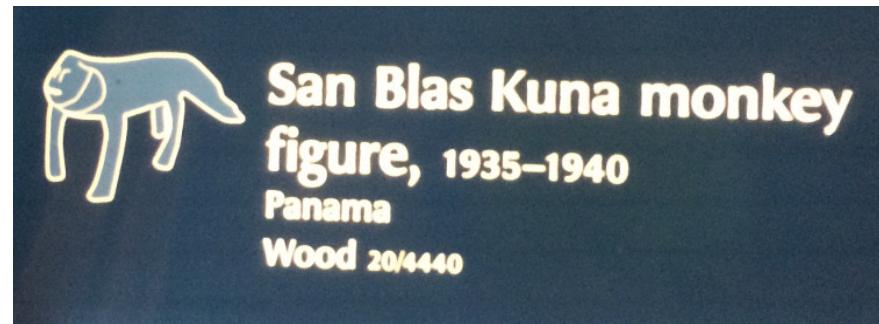
Stay with your group and don't eat anything until you pay for it!

Walk up the big ramp or take the elevator to the second floor. There is much more art on the second floor.



These are some of the toys in the collection. Some of them are 100 years old! What do you think the animal on the right is?

The museum has signs to tell you all about the collection.



Did you guess it was a monkey?



What about this animal? It's a llama from Peru!

The collection changes all the time. The museum gets new art or artifacts or will have a show. Here are some things I saw at the museum.



This is Inca Pottery. It is from Peru and is several hundred years old. These pots all have faces or animals on them. One has a snake!

There were things made of gold and silver!



**Tiwanaku pendant with
image of Tiqzi Wiracocha,
ca. 800–1100
Peru**



**Inka chicha jar with
human face and corn feet.
ca. 1450-1532
Rio Casma Valley, Peru**

These are called khipu. They are strings and ropes with knots tied in them. The Inca used the knots to keep track of numbers. Each type of knot means a different amount.



This nice lady is counting the khipu knots. She read the signs and knows it is OK to touch this display. The museum makes some displays that you can touch. Especially at the "imagiNations" area on the third floor.



This is the "imagiNations" area. This part of the museum is an area to explore and touch things. This area is fun! Just remember that you are still in the museum. We walk in the museum and use our inside voice.



These are some of the activities in the imagiNation area.



This little boy is weaving strips of plastic to make a giant basket. Then he sat down and rested while he played a game.





This boy is trying out the "From Surf to Street" machine. It feels like you are riding a skateboard!

Hey! That looks like an iglu! Some Inuit people lived in iglus made out of blocks of snow. You can go inside this iglu. Remember, you have to use your inside iglu voice!



Stay close to your group at the museum. There are lots of corners and displays and you don't want to get separated.



You can go in the tipi if you are following the rules. The imagiNation area is a lot of fun but you still have to walk and be on your best behavior.

This man is doing a great job at the museum. He is looking at a display and learning about American Indians and Native Americans.



At one point he was a little overwhelmed by all the noise and people so he found a quiet area. The museum has benches and seats all over. Sit down and take a break if you need one.

Have a great time at the museum!

Things to know about the National Museum of the American Indian:

The museum restaurant is very noisy. There is a round central area where you get a tray and make your food choices. From there you pay and move out into the seating area. The foods served are American Indian dishes. You will see familiar items like tacos and sandwiches. This restaurant is highly regarded will give you the chance to try something new! If you are a really picky eater you can bring your own lunch.

The museum gift shop is large and has a variety of items and post cards.

The museum is free.

The following is from their website: <http://nmai.si.edu>

Museum Location

The National Museum of the American Indian is located on the National Mall at 4th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W., in Washington, D.C. The school group entrance is on Maryland Avenue near 4th Street.

Hours and Admission

The museum is open every day, except December 25, from 10 AM to 5:30 PM.

Accessibility

The museum is accessible to people with disabilities. All tours and programs can be adapted to accommodate visitors with special needs. To arrange a tour for a special-needs group, contact the Reservations Office at 202-633-6644 (TTY 202-633-6751) at least four weeks in advance.

Check the museum website for a map.

Ability Guidebooks are step-by-step instructions on how to access community destinations. For many people with autism new situations can cause stress and discomfort. Ability Guidebooks help to prepare people for new experiences.

This book will also help teachers prepare their students on how to visit the museum for field trips.

Brett Bigham is the 2014 Oregon State Teacher of the Year and is a 2015 National Education Association Educator of Excellence from Oregon. Bigham is the first Special Education teacher to win these awards. Visit MrBsClassroom.com for more Ability Guidebooks.

Special Thanks

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