My visit to the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum
This visual story is designed for everyone.

We hope that you find it useful for planning your adventure to the Museum!
I will be visiting the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum!

I don't want to be late! I will try to arrive 15 minutes before the start of my tour.

This visual story tells me what to expect when I visit the Museum.

• Museum staff can assist me and ensure that I have a positive experience visiting the Museum.

• The Museum is open seven days a week in winter and six days a week in summer (closed on Sundays).

• Tours depart on the hour: 9am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 1pm and 2pm.
About the Museum

What I can expect at the Museum.

• I will find the Museum at the top of The Jump-Up in Winton, Queensland. The Jump-Up is a small hill.
• During my visit I will see the Fossil Preparation Laboratory, Collection Room and Dinosaur Canyon.
• The world’s largest collection of Australian dinosaur fossils are at the Museum.

A Tour Guide will show me around the Museum. A tour will take 30 minutes at each area.
What can I bring?

I can bring these things to help me enjoy my experience at the Museum.

My sensory guide

I will see the following symbols in this visual story.

They will help me prepare for spaces that might have bright lights, smells, sounds or things to touch.
Rules at the Museum

I will not take any food or drink into the Laboratory, Collection Room, shuttle bus or March of the Titanosaurs exhibition. This will help keep the fossils safe.

It is ok to take photos. I can bring a camera or use my phone to take photos. Some people take photos of dinosaurs and the landscape.

I need to walk carefully so I don't fall over or get hurt. Some of the ground on The Jump-Up is uneven.

I will wear a mask if social distancing is hard to do. If I cannot wear a mask I will present an exemption to Museum staff.

There are some fossils that I can touch. These will have a "please touch" sign. Fossils can feel hard, bumpy and rough.

Sometimes the Museum is busy. I will be patient while I wait. I can use my phone or a sensory item while I wait.

I will keep my hands clean. This will help keep everyone healthy and safe. The Museum has hand sanitising stations and toilets where I can wash my hands.

I am not allowed to touch some objects. If there is a “please do not touch” sign, or when objects are behind glass, I will not touch them. This will help keep fragile objects safe.

I will cover my mouth if I cough or sneeze and I will wash my hands after. This helps keep everyone healthy and safe.
• My family and I can look at the Museum website before I visit.
• I will look at the map and decide what I want to see.
• I can use the map to help me decide what I want to see at the Museum.

When I arrive at the Museum I will collect a map at the front desk.
When I arrive at the Museum

- When I arrive at the Museum I will see a sign welcoming me to the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum of Natural History.

- I will follow the road until I reach the Museum car park.

- I will find a sign with a map of the Museum. This sign will help me find my way around.

- There is another sign listing the different types of tickets I can buy.

- This area is very bright so I may want to wear a hat or sunglasses.

- There are many flies around the Museum. I can bring a fly veil or buy one on site.
Parking in the car park

• It is free to park at the Museum.

• Accessible parking is available in the car park. I will need to have a disability parking permit to use these spaces.

• If I don’t have a disability parking permit I can still park in the Museum car park in one of the spaces that are not marked with the disability sign.

• When I have parked safely I will walk a short distance to the Reception Centre.
The Reception Centre

At the entrance to the Reception Centre I will see a life-sized statue of a dinosaur. **This dinosaur is named Banjo.**

Some people take photos with this dinosaur. I can also take a photo with this dinosaur. The Reception Centre includes the:
- front desk
- Museum Shop
- Cretaceous Café and
- Collection Room.
Buying a ticket at the front desk

When I am ready to enter the Museum I can walk into the Reception Centre.

When I walk into the Reception Centre I will see the front desk.

At the front desk I can:
- buy tickets
- connect to the Museum’s free Wi-Fi
- get information, including maps, and
- ask for help.

- This area can be very bright and crowded so I may want to wear a hat or sunglasses.
- If it gets loud, I can wear my headphones.
- There are coffee and food smells here.
Museum Shop

- I will find the Museum Shop in the middle of the Reception Centre.
- I can buy books, clothing, petrified wood and magnets at the Museum Shop.
- To see what is available to buy, I can visit the online Museum Shop before my visit.

- This area can be very bright and crowded so I may want to wear a hat or sunglasses.
- If it gets loud, I can wear my headphones.
- There are coffee and food smells here.
Eating and drinking

- The café at the Museum is called the Cretaceous café. I can buy food at the cafe or bring my own food with me.
- I can buy hot and cold food, drinks and pre-made food such as sandwiches.
- If I want to, I can eat at the table or order my food to take away.
- When I finish eating I will put my rubbish in the bin.

- This area is very bright so I may want to wear a hat or sunglasses.
- If it gets loud, I can wear my headphones.
- There are coffee and food smells here.
In the Collection Room I will see a video that explains the fossils on display.

A Tour Guide will use a microphone to explain how dinosaurs are studied.

The Collection Room is kept cool and dark to keep the fossils safe. If I am cold I can put on a jumper or jacket.

I will not touch the fossils on display because they are fragile.

The video has **images** and **sounds**.

If it is too **loud** or if I feel uncomfortable, I can wear my headphones or leave before the video has finished.
Museum areas: Fossil Preparation Laboratory

- I can walk or drive the 500m from the Reception Centre to the Laboratory.
- The dirt road to the Laboratory and its car park is bumpy and uneven.
- Inside the Laboratory there is a small waiting room with free cold water.
- I can touch fossils that have a “please touch” sign.
- A Tour Guide will use a microphone to explain how fossils are found.

- This area is very bright so I may want to wear a hat or sunglasses.
- There are loud noises in the Laboratory. If it gets too loud, I can wear my headphones.
Museum areas: Dinosaur Canyon

- I will ride the open-air Noble Express shuttle bus to get to Dinosaur Canyon.
- Dinosaur Canyon is 2km from the Reception Centre.
- There are five areas I can explore along the pathway at Dinosaur Canyon.
- I can look at the different areas and take as many photos as I like.

- Dinosaur Canyon can be very bright and hot and there may be lots of flies.
- I can choose to wear a hat, sunglasses or fly veil if I want to.
Museum areas: *March of the Titanosaurs* exhibition

- The *March of the Titanosaurs* exhibition is a 100m walk from Dinosaur Canyon.
- When I arrive at the exhibition I will see small and large dinosaur statues. Some people take photos with these dinosaurs. I can also take photos with these dinosaurs!
- Inside the exhibition there is a long tracksite of dinosaur footprints.
- A Tour Guide will explain this tracksite using a microphone.

The echo in this space can be **loud**.
- If it is too loud or if I feel uncomfortable, I can wear my headphones or leave the tour before it has finished.
The Gondwana Stars Observatory is a 50m walk between Dinosaur Canyon Outpost and the March of the Titanosaurs exhibition.

This building is open throughout the day to look around.

The Museum hosts night tours here. More details, about these tours, can be found here.

- A red light is used to maintain dark adaption for night-time viewing.
- I can touch the walls. They are hard, bumpy and smooth.
The Museum site is very bright outside so I may want to wear a hat and sunglasses.

I will ask a staff member before I touch a fossil that does not have a sign near it.

The Museum site is large, with many areas and there are lots of things to do.

I can use the Museum Map to make plaque tracings at Dinosaur Canyon.

I can ride on the Noble Express shuttle bus and see plants, birds and animals.

I can play in the free dinosaur-excavation sandpit close to the Reception Centre. Concrete seating is also available around this area.
Toilets at the Museum

- I can look for signs, at the map or ask a staff member if I need help finding a toilet.

- Unisex toilets, baby-change tables are available at the Reception Centre and Dinosaur Canyon.

- Odourless long-drop toilets are available near the Laboratory. These toilets do not flush.
There are people at the Museum who can help me.
I will see Museum staff all around the Museum. Museum staff wear a uniform shirt like this, usually with blue jeans or shorts.

Museum staff are trained to:
• help me find my way
• give me information about displays
• answer my questions
• give me first aid if I need it and
• help me if I feel unsafe.
The Jump-Up

The site
The Jump-Up is about 270m above sea level and 75m above the surrounding land. There is fencing around most of the cliff edge. Areas without fencing are clearly marked as “End of safety fence, beware of cliff edges”.

Wildlife
The Jump-Up is a place where birds and animals live. I may see echidnas, kangaroos, lizards and emus on The Jump-Up. I will not touch or go near the animals so that they don’t get scared or run away.
The Museum is located in Winton. Winton is:

- **177km** north-west of Longreach in Central West Queensland and
- **600km** south-west of Townsville.

Winton has a high daily temperature ranging from **16°C** in winter to **43°C** in summer.

Winton has a population of **1,144** people.

Winton has an average annual rainfall of **373mm**.

Winton has a land size of **53,813km²**.

Winton has free **Wi-Fi** in the main street.

Telstra mobile providers work in most areas.

Winton is **177km** from the nearest town.

Always fill up your car with fuel before leaving town.
Facilities

Quiet spaces
- There are many outdoor quiet spaces around the Museum and lots of seating.

Accessibility
- The Reception Centre and Dinosaur Canyon are accessible by wheelchair and fitted with ramp access.
- The Fossil Preparation Laboratory is all level and accessible.
- The Museum walking track is flat and gravelled but could prove difficult to move over without assistance. Driving between the Reception Centre and the Laboratory is recommended. I can ask for help if I need too.
Sensory warnings

Construction
The Museum sometimes has tradespeople on site working on different projects, eg construction of a new building or upgrading existing facilities. This can involve loud noises.

Fossil Preparation Laboratory
There are pieces of equipment that make noise in the Laboratory.

I can use the following strategies to help me feel comfortable if it is too noisy:
• move to a quieter area
• use noise-cancelling headphones
• take a break and
• ask for help
Now the trip is over... we hope you come back again soon!
We hope you enjoy your visit to the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum!

This Visual Story was developed in partnership with Aspect's Autism Friendly team.