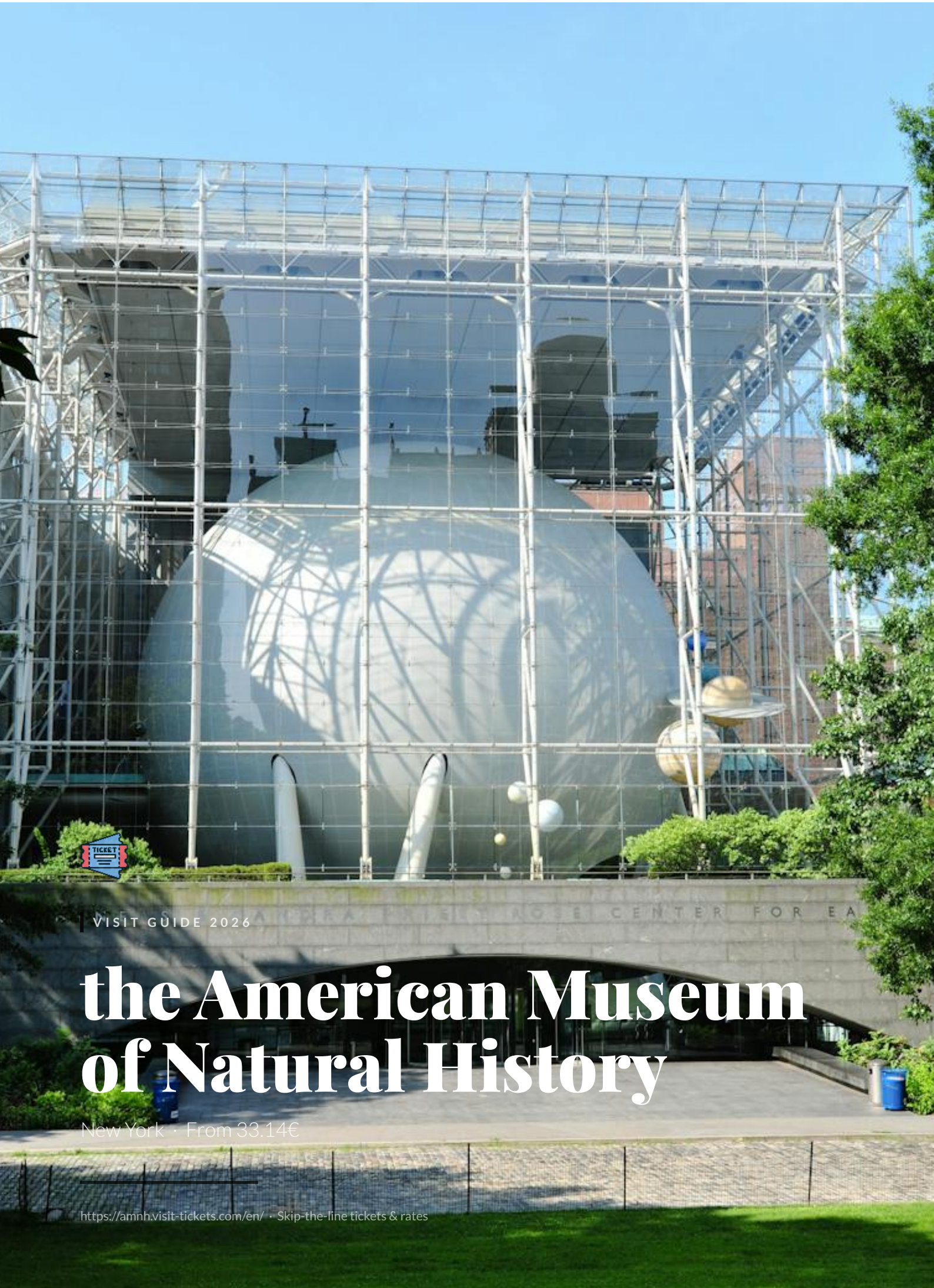


VISIT GUIDE 2026

the American Museum of Natural History

New York · From 33.14€

https://amnh.visit-tickets.com/en/ · Skip-the-line tickets & rates



History & experience

ORIGIN & HISTORY

A Neo-Gothic Monument of Science

GOOGLE 4.6 ★★★★★ 27 219 reviews

TIQETS 4.4 ★★★★☆ 1 951 reviews

Founded in 1869, the American Museum of Natural History is far more than a mere showcase: it is an **active research center** that has shaped our understanding of the world. Initially housed in the Arsenal of Central Park, the institution moved to its current site in the late 1870s. Its construction was a titanic architectural undertaking, blending several styles to reflect the grandeur of its collections.

The original building, designed by Calvert Vaux and Jacob Wrey Mould, features a distinctive **Neo-Gothic** style, evoking medieval cathedrals. This initial phase laid the foundations for a monument destined to become one of the largest museums in the world. The south wing, added later, introduces a Romanesque touch in brown stone, providing an impressive visual solidity that contrasts with the verticality of the Gothic towers.

The face we know today was transformed by the addition of the imposing Roman triumphal arch, completed in 1936 under the direction of John Russell Pope. This monumental entrance opens directly onto Central Park West and creates a dramatic transition between the modern city and the scientific sanctuary. It marks the entry into an interior basilica where time seems suspended.

Since its official opening in December 1877, the museum has continued to grow, accumulating **32 million specimens**. It currently employs over 1,200 people and funds around a hundred scientific expeditions each year. With 45 permanent halls and state-of-the-art laboratories, it remains a global reference in paleontology, zoology, and anthropology, attracting five million visitors annually.

THE EXPERIENCE

As soon as you cross the threshold of the triumphal arch, the atmosphere changes dramatically. Natural light filters through the high windows, illuminating a vast hall where silence is only broken by the murmur of visitors. You are immediately confronted with the raw majesty of nature, embodied by giant skeletons and meticulously reconstructed dioramas.

The experience often begins with an emotional shock at the scale of things. Whether facing the suspended blue whale or dinosaurs locked in combat, one instantly grasps the immensity of past and present life. It is a place where science becomes accessible and poetic, inviting each person to contemplate their place in the Earth's ecosystem with humility and wonder.



PREPARE YOUR VISIT

Practical information

ADDRESS
Upper West Side · Metro: 86 St (A, B, C, D) or Central Park West (1, 2, 3), 5 min walk.

OPENING HOURS
Open 7 days a week except Thanksgiving. Hours vary by season; please check the official website before visiting.

FARES
Free child admission based on age (check variants)

VISIT DURATION
Allow at least 3 to 4 hours to cover the main halls without rushing. The full route often exceeds 10 000 steps, so plan for a coffee break.

PHOTOS
Photos are allowed without flash in most rooms. Note sensitive areas such as insects or holograms. Check local signs before taking pictures.

AUDIENCE
Ideal for families with children from 5 years old, science enthusiasts, and curious tourists. Explanations are clear and accessible to all ages.

HOW TO GET THERE

Access & transport

Subway
: 81 St-Museum of Natural History — 2 min à pied
Grand Central Station (14 min) · New York Penn Station (15 min)

Bus
: 81st Street & Central Park West — 2 min à pied
Grand Central Station (21 min) · New York Penn Station (23 min)

Car

Grand Central Station (14 min) · New York Penn Station (16 min)

Citi Bike / Vélo

Grand Central Station (17 min) · New York Penn Station (19 min)

LOCALISATION

Où se trouve the American Museum of Natural History ?



📍 200 Central Park West — NY 10024 New York

🌐 40°46.879′ N, 73°58.439′ O



ORGANIZATION

Navigating the 45 Halls

Ground Floor (Main Hall)

This is where the main entrance and the famous dinosaur hall are located. You will discover the Apatosaurus skeleton and North American mammal dioramas here. It is the logical starting point for understanding the scale of the collections.

Levels 2 and 3 (Earth & Ocean Sciences)

Head up to explore the Ocean Hall with its suspended blue whale, as well as the mineralogy and meteorite rooms. These floors offer an immersion into geological forces and deep-sea marine life, featuring visually spectacular exhibits.

Rose Center for Earth and Space

A modern glass-enclosed annex, this center houses the Hayden Planetarium and an interactive globe. Although separate from the main building, it is an essential extension for understanding our solar system and the origin of life.

ACCESSIBILITY

♿ **Disabled Access**

Full accessibility for people with reduced mobility, with elevators and wheelchairs available at the

👨‍👩‍👧 **Families**

Ideal family experience suitable for ages 5 and up, featuring animations and interactive exhibits.

🎧 **Audio guide**

French, English, Spanish



Must-sees

SELECTION

The Museum's Must-See Treasures

01 Hall of Saurischian Dinosaurs

Apatosaurus and Allosaurus Skeleton

This dramatic scene depicts an Apatosaurus defending its young against a predator. It is the museum's iconic image, located just after the main entrance. Observe the sauropod's protective posture and the dynamics of the fight.

> 💡 This display was designed to immediately captivate visitors upon their arrival, creating a strong emotional connection with prehistory.

02 Hall of Ocean Life

Suspended blue whale

A life-sized reconstruction of a blue whale floats above your heads. This monumental installation allows you to concretely visualize the immensity of this cetacean, the largest animal that has ever existed. The contrast between human size and that of the whale is striking.

> 💡 The model is so precise that it even includes internal anatomical details visible through the simulated translucent skin.

03 Morgan Memorial Hall

Star of India

This 182-carat blue sapphire is the largest sapphire in the world. Displayed in a secure case, its intense color draws all eyes. It is a rare gem that testifies to the mineralogical richness of the museum's collections.

> 💡 The name 'Star' comes from the asterism effect visible in the gem, formed by rutile inclusions that reflect light in a star shape.

04 Hall of the North American Indians

Haida War Canoe

Measuring 20 meters in length, this carved and painted canoe is a masterpiece of Indigenous craftsmanship. It illustrates the technical and spiritual mastery of the Pacific Coast peoples. Its scale commands respect and highlights the complexity of Native American cultures.

> 💡 Every detail painted on the hull tells a story or symbolizes a clan, making this piece an open book on Haida culture.

05

Temporary Exhibition / Fossil Hall

Apex Stegosaurus Fossil

This complete Stegosaurus fossil is one of the best-preserved specimens in the world. It offers a detailed view of the bone structure of this armored herbivore. A unique opportunity to observe an intact specimen rather than a reconstruction.

> 💡 Discovered in Wyoming, this specimen allowed paleontologists to correct several misconceptions about stegosaurian anatomy.

06

Rose Center for Earth and Space

Interactive globe

The world's largest interactive globe, 15 meters in diameter. It allows you to navigate through space and time, showing the evolution of the Earth's surface. An immersive experience that contextualizes our geographical knowledge.

> 💡 The globe uses high-resolution laser projections to display real-time data, ranging from climate to tectonic movements.

07

Extinct and Endangered: Insects in Peril

Insects in Danger

This exhibition highlights the insect biodiversity crisis. The specimens are displayed in dark cases to emphasize their fragility. It serves as a poignant reminder of the crucial importance of these small creatures in our ecosystems.

> 💡 Some of the species on display survive only in specific protected areas, making their conservation urgent.

08

Rose Center for Earth and Space

Hayden Planetarium

Although often an add-on, the show 'Encounters in the Milky Way' is a hypnotic experience. Featuring 3D projections on a celestial dome, it tells the story of the cosmos with cinematic narration. A must-see for astronomy enthusiasts.

> 💡 Narrator Liam Neeson brings a unique gravity and emotional depth to complex scientific explanations.

TIPS

Our Tips for a Perfect Visit

TIMING

Be sure to book a morning slot between 9 AM and 11 AM. The main halls, such as the dinosaur hall, become crowded after 11:30 AM, making observation difficult.

TICKET

Online timed booking is strictly required. Check if your ticket covers paid exhibitions such as the Planetarium or 'Invisible Worlds'; otherwise, purchase them in advance to avoid queues.

TOUR

Start on the ground floor (dinosaurs), gradually move up to the higher levels (oceans, minerals) before finishing at the Rose Center. This avoids having to go back down with tired legs.

PHOTO

For the blue whale, position yourself slightly below to capture the high-angle view. Turn off the flash in the insect and hologram rooms to preserve the specimens.

BREAK

The in-house restaurant may be crowded. It is preferable to go out for lunch on 81st Street or near Lincoln Square, then return in the afternoon when the crowds thin out.

CHILDREN

Plan for frequent seated breaks. Children love interactive sections such as the butterfly vivarium; save these for the end of the visit when they are less tired.

AUDIOGUIDE

The French audioguide is available and very useful for understanding the nuances of the anthropological and paleontological exhibits. It is worth the cost for an in-depth visit.

COMFORT

Wear comfortable shoes and expect to take at least 10,000 steps. Avoid large backpacks; use the luggage storage at the entrance to move freely through the narrow halls.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQ

Do you need to book your ticket in advance?

Yes, timed online reservation is strictly mandatory for all visitors. Without a time slot, access to the museum is not guaranteed. We recommend booking as soon as your dates are set.

What exactly does the admission ticket include?

The general ticket grants access to the 45 permanent halls, including the dinosaur hall. It does not cover paid add-ons like the Hayden Planetarium or the 'Invisible Worlds' exhibition. Please verify your ticket before a

Is there a discount for New York residents?

Residents of New York State benefit from a pay-what-you-wish rate. Other visitors pay the standard price. Remember to present a valid ID when purchasing or entering.

Can I cancel or modify my reservation?

This ticket is neither cancellable nor refundable once the reservation is confirmed. Carefully check the date, time slot, and number of participants before paying, as no changes can be made afterwards.

How long does the full visit take?

Allow 3 to 4 hours for a reasonable visit of the highlights. A full immersion in the 45 halls can take an entire day. Opt for a targeted itinerary to avoid excessive physical fatigue.

DID YOU KNOW?

Anecdotes & curiosities

The living museum

Far from being a mere showcase, the museum funds **100 annual expeditions**. Its 47 curators and 200 researchers regularly publish major discoveries. You are not looking at dead objects, but at the fruit of active, ongoing research.

The Hidden Architecture

The current entrance, a Roman triumphal arch, conceals a complex history. Designed by John Russell Pope, it was added in 1936 to modernize the museum's image. Behind it, the original 1877 neo-Gothic architecture remains visible, creating a fascinating dialogue between eras.

The secret library

The museum houses a research library rich in **485,000 volumes**, including original manuscripts by Darwin. This collection is crucial for paleontology and anthropology and is accessible to researchers from around the world.

The cultural impact

The museum's monthly magazine, Natural History, featured columns by the renowned paleontologist Stephen Jay Gould. His influence on scientific popularization in the United States is immense, making the museum an intellectual pillar of New York.

AROUND THE MUSEUM

Located on the Upper West Side, the museum enjoys a strategic location ideal for extending your day. Just behind it, **Central Park** offers a green haven of peace, perfect for a post-visit digestive walk after the physical effort of touring. A few minutes' walk away, you will find the Guggenheim Museum, an icon of modern art, as well as the High Line urban promenade, offering breathtaking views of Manhattan. For lunch, avoid the internal crowds and explore the numerous restaurants around Lincoln Square Shopping, ideally located near public transport. This vibrant neighborhood allows you to combine culture, relaxation, and gastronomy without major logistical effort.



Leaving the museum means carrying with you a renewed perspective on our planet. Between the steps lost in the corridors and the gazes raised toward the skies of the planetarium, this visit leaves a lasting imprint. Come to find not only facts, but a **deep connection** with nature and the universe.