General Information

**MUSEUM**
- Daily: 10 am–5:45 pm
  - The Museum is closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- Space Show: Every half hour, 10:30 am–4:30 pm
- Research Library: Tuesday–Thursday, 2–5:30 pm
  - Hours are subject to change.

**ENTRANCES**
During Museum hours, visitors may enter through the subway (lower level), Central Park West at 79th Street (second floor), and the Rose Center/81st Street entrances. The Columbus Avenue entrance is open on weekends and holidays. The 77th Street entrance is open for events and programs.

**TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING**
- **Subway:** B (weekdays) or C to 81st Street; 1 to 79th Street
- **Bus:** M7, M10, M11, or M104 to 79th Street; M79 to Central Park West
- **Parking Garage:** Open daily, 8 am–11 pm; enter from West 81st Street. Members receive a discounted rate of $10 if entering after 4 pm. To receive this rate, you must show your Membership Card or event ticket when exiting the garage. For more information, call 212-313-7275.

**FOOD SERVICE**
- **Museum Food Court:** Daily, 11 am–4:45 pm
  - (lower level)
- **Starlight Café:** Saturday and Sunday, 11 am–4:45 pm
  - (first floor)
- **Café on 4:** Daily, 11 am–4:45 pm
  - (fourth floor)
  - Hours are subject to change.

**MUSEUM SHOPS**
The following Museum Shops are open during regular Museum hours:
- **The Museum Shop** (first and second floors)
- **DinoStore** (fourth floor)
- **The Shop for Earth & Space** (Rose Center, lower level)
- **Cosmic Shop** (Rose Center, second floor)
- **Silk Road Shop** (third floor)
- **Online Shop** (amnhshop.com)

**PHONE NUMBERS**
- Museum Information: 212-769-5100
- Membership Office: 212-769-5606
- Central Reservations: 212-769-5200
- AMNH Expeditions: 800-462-8687
- Communications: 212-769-5800
- Development: 212-769-5700
- Education: 212-769-5500
- Event & Conference Services: 212-769-5550
- Library Services: 212-769-5400
- Member Birthday Parties: 212-769-5606
- Museum Shop: 800-671-7035
- Patrons Circle: 212-769-5550
- Planetarium Information: 212-769-5900
- Planned Giving Office: 212-769-5119
- Volunteer Office: 212-769-5566
- Website: amnh.org

**MUSEUM NEWSLETTER**

**MEMBERS’ NEWSLETTER**

**VOL. 35 NO. 1 JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2010**

**AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY**

The Butterfly Conservatory: Tropical Butterflies Alive in Winter is back for its 12th season at AMNH.
Highway of An Empire:
The Great Inca Road
IMAX Corridor
Free with Museum admission

The Inca Empire owed its reach and power to an extensive network of roads, the subject of this compelling photo exhibition. Highway of An Empire showcases the diversity of this network through more than 35 images of cliff-side passages, suspension bridges, and other road segments set against stunning Andean landscapes.

See story, page 8.

On Feathered Wings
Akeley Gallery, second floor
Free with Museum admission

The majesty of birds in flight is the focus of this striking photography exhibition, which captures the controlled chaos, acrobatic wizardry, and the mysterious aerodynamics of birds including the Bald Eagle, Roseate Spoonbill, and the Great Horned Owl.

The presentation of On Feathered Wings at the American Museum of Natural History is made possible by the generosity of the Arthur Ross Foundation.

HAYDEN PLANETARIUM SHOW
Journey to the Stars
Members’ tickets are $12 adults, $7.50 children.

This spectacular Space Show sends visitors through time and space to experience the life cycle of the stars. Travel 13 billion years into the past to witness brilliant supernovas that sent new kinds of matter coursing through the universe.

Journey to the Stars was developed by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (www.amnh.org), in collaboration with the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco; GOTO INC, Tokyo; Japan; Peabody – Musée du Welte, Mexico City, Mexico; and Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, Washington, D.C.

Journey to the Stars was created by the American Museum of Natural History, with the major support and partnership of NASA, Science Museum Directnet, and Hypung Division.

Made possible through the generous sponsorship of Lockheed Martin Corporation.

And proudly sponsored by Accenture.

Super-computing resources provided by The Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC) at the University of Texas at Austin through the TeraGrid, a project of the National Science Foundation.

Celebrate Your Birthday at AMNH

Linda Kaye’s PartyMakers will throw an unforgettable bash for kids ages 4 and up. Choose from one of four fun-filled themes: Dinosaur Discoveries; Safari Adventure; Underwater Treasures; and Cosmic Blast-Off, which includes an option to see the new Space Show, Journey to the Stars.

Parties are an exclusive benefit for Contributor and higher-level Members. For more information and to request a date, visit partymakers.com or call 212-228-7112.

The Museum sleeps over includes a flashlight tour of the dinosaur halls.

On Feathered Wings

The Inca Empire owed its reach and power to an extensive network of roads, the subject of this compelling photo exhibition. Highway of An Empire showcases the diversity of this network through more than 35 images of cliff-side passages, suspension bridges, and other road segments set against stunning Andean landscapes.

From the Consulate General of Peru in New York.

The presentation of Highway of An Empire at the American Museum of Natural History is made possible by the generosity of the Arthur Ross Foundation.

Spider Silk Textile
Grand Gallery, first floor
Free with Museum admission

This spectacular and extremely rare textile—the only one of its kind on display anywhere in the world—was woven from golden-colored silk thread produced by one million spiders in Madagascar. The contemporary textile took four years to make using a painstaking technique developed more than 100 years ago. See story, page 8.

A handwoven Spider Silk Textile from the Inca Road. | Courtesy of the Consulate General of Peru in New York.

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The Universe at Your Fingertips

Last fall, 150 middle-school children gathered on the South Lawn of the White House and watched their president peer through a telescope under the direction of his science advisor, physicist John Holdren.

“If you look in there, you will see a double-double-star in the constellation Lyra, 160 light-years away,” Holdren explained. “That means it takes the light from those stars 160 years to get here. So what you are seeing, Mr. President, happened 160 years ago.”

1849. Zachary Taylor was president. The California Gold Rush had just begun. Charles Darwin was still 10 years away from publishing On the Origin of Species. Abraham Lincoln was practicing law in Springfield, Illinois. And a Maryland slave named Harriet Tubman escaped to freedom in Philadelphia.

“Let’s take a look,” said President Barack Obama. “That’s pretty far away... pretty cool.”

Who wouldn’t be excited? To study the stars is to truly travel through time. To look at the day or night sky is to see various points of light sent toward Earth a discernible amount of time in the past. The light from our Moon, for example, was sent out one-and-a-half seconds ago; the Sun, eight minutes. At the other extreme, the Andromeda Galaxy, the farthest object that can be seen with the naked eye, is 2.5 million light-years away; the light we see now having left that galaxy at a time when our relative Homo erectus was migrating out of Africa. Perhaps nothing conveys this mind-bending experience more vividly than a program developed by the American Museum of Natural History that was demonstrated in a portable dome at last fall’s White House event: a three-dimensional, scientifically accurate, free atlas of the known universe called The Digital Universe. (Museum President Ellen V. Futter; Mike Shara, AMNH Curator of Astrophysics; Carter Emmart, Director of Astrovisualization; Suzanne Morris, Associate Manager; Rose Center Public Programs; and Dan Slipher, Senior Director of Government Relations, attended the White House event on behalf of the Museum.)

This extraordinary computer software program—which is downloaded from the Museum’s website by some 30,000 people a year—was developed more than a decade ago under the guidance of Hayden Planetarium Director Neil deGrasse Tyson, with major support from NASA. It is currently curated by Ben Oppenheimer and managed by Brian Abbott, and its educational use is directed by Emmart with curatorial support from Oppenheimer, Shara, and Mordecai-Mark Mac Low, Curator and Chair, Department of Astrophysics, Division of Physical Sciences.

Drawing from the work of astronomers around the world, the data that informs this journey through the universe is updated at least twice a year. (Soon, visitors to the Museum’s website will find a newer, more user-friendly version, too.) This atlas is also the basis for Hayden Planetarium’s Space Shows, including Journey to the Stars, which is showing now, and for the Virtual Universe programs that use a supercomputer to project the Digital Universe onto the Hayden Planetarium dome on the first Tuesday of every month.

With a simple download to a personal computer, teachers, students, and amateur astronomers everywhere can navigate through a three-dimensional celestial atlas, from the solar neighborhood to the galaxies surrounding the Milky Way, and to the very edge of the known universe.

With a cursor and mouse as their spaceship, users can “fly” to almost any object in the universe—the eight planets in our solar system, star nebulae, galaxies, asteroids—at any given time in the past and to wherever they are projected to be many millions of years in the future.

Users can orbit in real time with the International Space Station. They can see the outer limit of our radio signals, a 70-light-year “bubble” radiating from Earth that includes the nearby stars and extra-solar planets that may just now be hearing The Lone Ranger, Jack Benny, or one of FDR’s fireside chats. People can even pull out so far as to see the cosmic web and hazy remnants of the Big Bang.

Pretty cool, indeed.

Now Showing: Mysteries of the Great Lakes

Like a giant Rorschach ink blot, the Great Lakes spread out across the northern midwest and earn U.S. and its border with Canada. Deep blue and beautiful from the air, these five freshwater lakes hold the key to untold stories—and strange phenomena—explored in an exquisite giant-screen film Mysteries of the Great Lakes, now showing in the Museum’s LeFrak Imax Theater.

A Science North production, narrated by Canadian actor Gordon Pinsent with a soundtrack by Canadian singer-songwriter Gordon Lightfoot, Mysteries of the Great Lakes takes viewers on a dramatic journey through some of the most spectacular scenery on Earth, from the headwaters of Lake Superior to the edge of Lake Ontario. Here, in amazing close-up’s only the IMAX experience can provide, you will see towering cliffs with shaman-painted images of spirits believed by early Native Americans to have special powers. Travel beneath the surface where thousands of shipwrecks—the last major one from close to a century ago—draw the interest of divers to this day. Explore the habitats of sturgeon, caribou, moose, and bald eagles—as well as the importance of the lakes for the 40 million people who live along their more than 10,000 miles of coastline.

In Philadelphia.

Harriet Tubman escaped to freedom in the midwest and earned U.S. and its border with Canada. Deep blue and beautiful from the air, these five freshwater lakes hold the key to untold stories—and strange phenomena—explored in an exquisite giant-screen film Mysteries of the Great Lakes, now showing in the Museum’s LeFrak Imax Theater.

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Looking toward Earth from a vantage point billions of light-years away, this image shows a sprinkling of galaxies. Seen here as points, each of these galaxies likely contains hundreds of billions of stars and trillions of planets. The bow-tie shape formed by the galaxies is merely a function of available data: the “empty” space represents areas that have not yet been observed with telescopes. © AMNH/C. Emmart

This grid, with the Sun at its center, is 5,000 light-years in diameter and is plotted along lines that connect the stars of the constellations as seen from Earth. Multi-colored dots represent clusters of stars. The center of the Milky Way galaxy, 26,000 light-years away, is marked by the yellow orb in the background. © AMNH/C. Emmart

To learn more about the Museum’s Digital Universe Atlas and to download the software, visit haydenplanetarium.org/universe.
**BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOURS**

**Behind the Scenes in Mammalogy**
Tuesday, January 12
6:30 pm MB011210A
7 pm MB011210B
7:30 pm MB011210C
$35

The AMNH mammal collection is among the oldest at the Museum. Today the Department of Mammalogy houses over 275,000 specimens, the third-largest collection of recent mammals in the world. Scientific Assistant Eileen Westwig leads the way to the Whale Room, and Scientific Assistant Ariel Fleming offers a tour of the carnivore collection.

**Behind the Scenes in Entomology**
Thursday, February 18
6:30 pm MB021810A
7 pm MB021810B
7:30 pm MB021810C
$35

Visit the Department of Entomology to see some of the Museum’s world-class insect collections. Paleontologist Paul Nascimbene will discuss the latest discoveries in ancient amber, explain how amber is prepared, and show specimens from the Museum’s Cretaceous amber collection. Entomological sleuth Lou Sorkin will talk about the bed bug epidemic and introduce his colony of bed bugs. Collections Manager Christine Johnson will show how brilliantly diverse the 16 million-plus specimen collection is and explain the importance of historical collections.

**AFTER-HOURS HALL TOURS**

**Geology and Paleontology of Metro New York**
Thursday, January 14
MH011410
6:30–8 pm
$35

Geologist Sidney Horenstein leads a winter hike to discover the dioramas and other exhibits that display aspects of local geology.

**Once Upon a Fossil**
Thursday, February 25
MH022510
6:30–8 pm
$35

How do you move a 20-ton fossil? From 1994 to 1996, AMNH’s fourth floor Fossil Halls underwent the largest renovation in the Museum’s history as fossils were reorganized according to shared characteristics to tell the story of vertebrate evolution. Join Paleontology Collection Manager Carl Mehlberg for a unique tour that focuses on the hidden stories of these large, heavy, and sometimes fragile specimens as they were reorganized and remounted.

**The Museum, Theodore Roosevelt, and National Parks**
Tuesday, March 23
MH032310
6:30–8 pm
$35

Many national parks are represented among the Museum’s famous dioramas. Sidney Horenstein will discuss the history behind these national treasures on this after-hours tour.

**FREE HALL TOURS**

**Civilization of Ancient Egypt**
Sunday, January 17
MH011710
1–4:30 pm
Free (Registration Required)

Docent Eileen Flood will lead a tour focusing on ancient Egyptian civilization. An optional discussion will take place after the tour.

**Silk Road Journey**
Sunday, February 7
MH020710
3–6:30 pm
Free (Registration Required)

Join docent Eileen Flood on a tour focused on Silk Road cultures and the legendary trade route in the Stout Hall of Asian Peoples. The tour will be followed by a walk-through of the major exhibition Traveling the Silk Road: Ancient Pathway to the Modern World for interested Members.

**FAMILY PROGRAM**

**Field Trip to the Moon**
Thursday, January 7
MP010710
6:30–8 pm
$35

Don’t miss this special Members-only evening performance in the Hayden Planetarium. You’ll feel the ground shake as your rocket launches, see a sunrise in space, and orbit and land on the Moon. Guided by a live presenter, you’ll admire the view from where humans last walked on the Moon and see what awaits us on future missions.

**EXPEDITIONS**

**Montauk Birding Trip**
Saturday, February 27–Sunday, February 28
MO022710
$350 per person, double occupancy
$400 single occupancy

Join ornithologist Paul Sweet on this two-day birding and wildlife expedition to Montauk Point, located at the tip of Long Island’s South Fork and renowned for winter birding. Flocks of sea ducks gather to forage on these rocky shores; Gannets plunge for fish off the point; and other winter visitors include Bonaparte’s Gulls, Loons, and Grebes. Over the last 12 years, the number of seals in Long Island waters has also greatly increased, and Harp Seals have been spotted there in addition to common Harbor and Grey seals. Price includes transportation by private coach, one night at the Born Free Motel (rooms include private bath and kitchenette), and dinner at the Shawang Restaurant on Saturday night.

**Whale Watch Weekend**
Friday, May 21–23
MP052110
$450 per person, double occupancy
$550 single occupancy

Breathe in the fresh salty air of the Atlantic Ocean as you search for sea creatures from aboard Dolphin Fleet. Price includes transportation by private coach, meals at the hotel, two boat excursions, admission, and lodging for two nights at the Provincetown Inn Seaside Resort. Please register before May 1.

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many scientists will tell you their passion for their field of interest began in their youth. Take Carl Mehling, the Museum’s Collections Manager for Fossil Amphibians, Reptiles, and Birds, who oversees the largest collection of dinosaur fossils in the world. He traces his interest in paleontology back to his early childhood.

“Something primal is triggered, often in our youth, when we’re introduced to concepts that amaze us,” says Mehling. “I’m convinced that it happened to me around age five.”

This July and August, Mehling will lead two-week-long family expeditions to Grand Junction, Colorado, where 13 youth will experience fossil hunting for themselves.

On Digging for Dinosaurs: A Colorado Family Adventure (July 24–30 or July 31–August 6), travelers will dig for dinosaur remains in the Mygatt-Moore quarry this summer. Biologists Carol Simon and Howard Topoff return to lead their sixth family expedition, Family Journey to Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands (June 30 – July 14), to the archipelago that inspired Charles Darwin.

“The Galápagos combine a wonderful family vacation with a ‘Classroom’ for first-hand appreciation for the fascinating process of evolution,” say Simon and Topoff. “After our first outing, you’ll agree that visiting the Galápagos is like stepping back in time.”

This active expedition combines visits to Ecuador’s Andean sierras with a seven-night cruise through the Galápagos Islands, with the option to add a visit to Machu Picchu.

To learn more about these family expeditions, visit amnhexpeditions.org or call 1-800-462-8687.

Space is limited; $500 reduction in fare for children ages 7 to 17.

The painstaking process of gathering fossil materials and preparing them for display at the American Museum of Natural History is the result of the hard work and ingenuity of over 600 people. These individuals, the Museum’s fossil preparators, have been responsible for the ultimate preservation of important biological specimens and the setting of standards for the professional field of paleontology.

The American Museum of Natural History needs your support.

Your gift will help support the scientific and educational mission of the Museum and will bring joy to millions of Museum visitors for generations to come.

To make a gift to our Annual Fund, call (212) 769-5330 or donate online at amnh.org/donate.

See Spain’s Prehistoric Caves and Atapuerca

Amnh Expeditions Spark Lifelong Interest

AMNH Expeditions Spark Lifelong Interest

Spider Silk: Sensation On and Off the Web

The New York Times article about it quickly became one of the top five stories emailed around the country. As word spread, hundreds of people “tweeted” about it online, and within a month of its unveiling, nearly 16,000 people had viewed a YouTube video starring the top five stories emailed around the country. As word spread, hundreds of people “tweeted” about it online, and within a month of its unveiling, nearly 16,000 people had viewed a YouTube video starring the fabled Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao and the new Altamira Museum with its fabulous re-creation of the legendary Ice Age cave. We will finish with a specially-guided visit to the incredible sites of the Atapuerca Hills, which have yielded the earliest fossil evidence of human relatives on the European peninsula. Join us—Ian Tattersall, Curator, Division of Anthropology

Visit amnhexpeditions.org or call 1-800-462-8687 for more details.

The extraordinary cave of Altamira, to the archipelago of Covalanas, the spiders must be kept away from the web. (The spiders bite humans too but the bites are not deemed dangerous.) Each spider species produces about 150 feet of silk filament, and for this textile, it took a minimum of 96 filaments, twisted together, to make a single usable thread. After being “ situación, the spiders are released back into the wild.

On loan from creators Simon Peers, a fashion designer, the 4-by-11-foot textile can be viewed in the Grand Gallery. According to Ian Tattersall, Curator, Division of Anthropology, the only other known spider-silk textile of note was exhibited at the Exposition Universelle in Paris in 1900 but was subsequently lost.” So,” says Tattersall, “this is unique in the world.”

Golden orb spiders’ webs can span single-lane roads. | Courtesy of Simon Peers and Nicholas Godley

Alloisaurus is the best known of the decorated Spanish Stone Age sites. | © Matthias Kabel

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Almost everyone has heard about the Ice Age cave art of southern and southwestern France that provides the spectacular evidence for early human creativity. Fewer people know that the archeological tradition of the European hunters of about 35,000 years ago also flourished widely in northern Spain, furnishing us with some of the most delicate and expressive of the images bequeathed us by those long-vanished ancestors.

The extraordinary cave of Altamira, which introduced ice age art to the world in 1879, is the best known of the decorated Spanish Stone Age sites. But my personal favorite is Covalanas, a small cave in the Cantabria region that is perched high on the side of a deep valley in the foothills of the picture-perfect Picos d’Europa mountains. Twenty thousand years ago, as the last Ice Age neared its coldest point, the valley it overlooks enjoyed an ideal microclimate for Paleolithic hunters. The ancient people who decorated Covalanas...
GLOBAL WEEKENDS

Living in America: Voices of the Silk Road
Saturday and Sunday, January 16 and 17, 2-5 pm
Kaufmann and Linder Theaters
Free with Museum admission
In conjunction with the exhibition Traveling the Silk Road, this weekend program will explore Silk Road cultures through performances, workshops, and conversations.
Living in America: Voices of the Silk Road is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.
Support for Global Weekends is made possible, in part, by the May and Samuel Rudin Family Foundation, Inc., the Tolan Family, and the family of Frederick H. Leonhardt.

SILK ROAD TALKS

Curry Economics: Food as a Driving Force of Economic Development
Thursday, January 14
6:30 pm
Kinder Theater, first floor
Enter at 77th Street
$15 ($13.50 Members, students, seniors)
Tom Standage, author of An Edible History of Humanity, Cornell University history professor Eric Tagliacozzo, and culinary expert Julie Sahni will discuss food and economics;
Sasha Issenberg, author of The Sushi Economy, will moderate.
The Looting of the Iraq Museum: An Evening with Dr. Donny George Youkhanna
Wednesday, February 24
6:30 pm
Kinder Theater, first floor
Enter at 77th Street
$15 ($13.50 Members, students, seniors)
Dr. Youkhanna, former director of the Iraq National Museum in Baghdad, will discuss current archeological and museum conditions in Iraq.

SILK ROAD TASTINGS

Aromatics Along the Silk Road
Wednesday, January 20
6:30 pm
Kinder Theater, first floor
Enter at 77th Street
$20
Performer Mandy Aftel will awaken your senses to the amazing world of aromatics and discuss their fascinating history.

Wines with Ancient Lineage
Wednesday, February 17
6:30 pm
Kinder Theater, first floor
Enter at 77th Street
$20
Mollie Battenhouse, wine director of Maslow 6 of New York City, and grape geneticist Peter Cousins of Cornell University will discuss early viticulture. Tasting included.

WILD, WILD WORLD

Wolves
Saturday, January 23
11 am-12 pm, 1-2 pm
Kaufmann Theater
$10 adults, $8 children
Meet Atka, an Arctic gray wolf from the Wolf Conservation Center, and learn about this highly endangered species.

Awake at Night
Saturday, February 20
11 am-12 pm, 1-2 pm
$10 adults, $8 children
Get a close look at nocturnal animals with Rob Miles of the Organization for Bat Conservation.

TUESDAYS IN THE DOME

6:30 pm
Hayden Planetarium Space Theater
$15.50 Members, students, seniors
What could be more romantic than champagne under the stars? Enjoy a cocktail hour, then join an astronomer with the James Webb Space Telescope to learn about this highly anticipated observational space observatory.

LECTURE

James Webb Space Telescope with Jon Arenberg
Monday, February 8
7:30 pm
Kinder Theater, first floor
Enter at 77th Street
$10 adults, $8 children
Dr. Nebula’s Laboratory

Dr. Nebula’s Planetary Vacation
Sunday, February 7
2 pm
Kaufmann Theater
$10 adults, $8 children
Dr. Nebula is lost in space! Help Scooter find Dr. Nebula by creating a three-dimensional model of the solar system.

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