WELCOME TO THE SMITHSONIAN

When you visit any of the Smithsonian’s 19 museums and galleries or the National Zoo, you’re entering the world’s largest museum complex. The Smithsonian holds approximately 138 million artifacts and specimens and is the steward for the collections that tell the story of our nation’s history and culture. The Smithsonian is established in 1846 with a mandate from Congress “to increase and diffuse knowledge.”

Eleven Smithsonian museums and galleries are located on the National Mall between the Washington Monument and the U.S. Capitol. Six other museums and the National Zoo are in nearby metropolitan areas, and some Smithsonian museums are located in New York City. The Arts and Industries Building and the Renwick Gallery in Washington, D.C. are also open.

SMITHSONIAN INFORMATION

Admission Free, unless otherwise noted. 
Plan Your Visit at the Smithsonian Website in the Castle, open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Visit our museums and galleries. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily; Thursdays, open until 8 p.m. Extended hours, except December 25, most from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Extended hours in spring/summer. Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery and Smithsonian American Art Museum are open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Extended hours in spring/summer. Smithsonian Castle Information: open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Phone Call Smithsonian Information: 202-633-1000 (voice/TTY) or 202-633-1111 (recording). 
Web-Log onto www.si.edu for information on all Smithsonian museums and galleries.

Send E-mail to info@si.edu.

Wayfinding Information kiosks are located around all Smithsonian museums and the National Zoo. They provide audio information in English, French, Spanish, and Chinese.

Free Publications General information brochures are available at all Smithsonian museums and galleries. English-language pamphlets are available at the exits of the Smithsonian Castle, visitors center, and information desk.

FUTURE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

The construction of the National Museum of African American History and Culture is already changing the national conversation about race and identity. By presenting the story of African Americans in all its complexity, the museum is building on the National Mall a four-acre (1.6-hectare) urban park where visitors can imagine and learn. In the meantime, visitors can visit the museum’s Welcome Center at 1544 Constitution Ave., N.W., and its exhibition gallery at the American History Museum.

NATIONAL PROGRAMS

Across the Country An ＆ A is an exhibition highlighting the Smithsonian’s vast collection of art and artifacts. The Smithsonian presents a variety of programs that have cultural and educational value.

Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SMITHSONIAN INFORMATION)

The Smithsonian offers a range of programs and resources for schools and families. For information or ask at any museum information desk.

RESEARCH CENTERS

The Smithsonian is the nation’s largest network of museums, research centers in science, the arts, and humanities. Basic research carried out in each of the museums, and a number of special facilities:

Archives of American Art preserves primary source material about the visual and performing arts in the United States, National Zoological Park, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Smithsonian Meteorological Observatory, and the National Air and Space Museum. As a result, Smithsonian facilities, research centers, and scholarship in art, science, technology, history, and culture. The Smithsonian was established in 1846 with a mandate from Congress “to increase and diffuse knowledge.”

The only museum in the nation devoted exclusively to American art is the National Gallery of Art, located on the National Mall.

Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service produces traveling exhibitions that present cultural traditions from around the world; Smithsonian Center for Folklore produces audio recordings and educational programs about history, science, and the arts; Smithsonian Environmental Research Center provides in-depth educational travel and programs year-round, including Saturday art activities and tours. About the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Service at the information desk.

National Postal Museum In the William H. Gross Gallery children can learn about the fun and science behind the process, create a virtual stamp collection, and design their own stamp. Smithsonia National Zoo looks at essential environmental studies. Events include meeting a small mammal or watching fishes being fed. Don’t miss the exhibits on the panda bear and the lemurs.

Freer Gallery and Sackler Gallery Each gallery includes children’s educational programs and performances. Highlights from the Smithsonian Collection offer revealing understandings of modern and contemporary art in text and images. Information in this brochure is subject to change. Please contact by Smithsonian Information.

National Museum of the American Indian

A SAMPLING OF ACTIVITIES

Children’s Quest in the National Zoo Children can learn about the fun and science behind the process, create a virtual stamp collection, and design their own stamp. smithsonian.org

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