Smithsonian Institution
Pre-Visit Stories

KEEPING PEOPLE IN THE RIGHT PLACE

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I am going to a museum soon. There are many ways to keep people in the right place at a museum. In a museum, a ‘right place’ is any area that is safe for people, exhibits, and items on display. When visiting a museum, it’s important to know how to stay in the right place.
Barriers

Museums use barriers to keep people in the right place. Sometimes, a barrier is a railing. In this photo the bus is on one side of the railing, and the girl is on the other. She’s standing in the right place.
A barrier may be a rail, or a rail with sign. This sign in this photo says, “Please Do Not Touch”. Actually, it’s ok if someone touches the sign. The sign really means, “Please do not touch this car”. And the rail means, “Stay where you are, away from the car.” The sign and rail are there to keep people in the right place.
A barrier may be an object. Or, it may be an object, a rail, or signs, too. They all mean, “Please stay on the right side of this display.”
People try to **look** around for barriers. They **look** for signs, rails, and objects. This helps them **stay in the right place**. They look for other barriers, too. This helps them so know what to do.
Stay in the Right Place

When I visit a Smithsonian museum, I will try to find the barriers and stay in the right place. This will help me stay safe. It will help others stay in the right place, too.