

# Museums

What is the largest museum complex in the world? ➔ page 128

**M**useums collect things of great interest, such as works of art or everyday objects from different times in the past, and show them off to visitors. Some museums teach you all about science and technology.

**The American Museum of Natural History**, in New York City, dates back to 1869, and is the biggest natural science museum in the world. It has huge dinosaur skeletons, lifelike scenes of animals in different environments, and exhibits that show humans as they lived tens of thousands of years ago. The museum's **Rose Center for Earth and Space** (pictured at right) contains interactive exhibits about astronomy and astrophysics, as well as the world's most advanced star projector. Inside the Hayden Planetarium, the projector takes you on a journey through a virtual re-creation of the Milky Way Galaxy.

**WEB SITE** [www.amnh.org](http://www.amnh.org)

**Exploratorium**, in San Francisco, California, is a place to learn about everything from frogs to earthquakes to space weather. Grope through darkness in the Tactile Dome, where the sense of touch is your only guide. There are "hands-on" exhibits in all areas of science, with plenty of things to look at, pick up, and tinker with.

**WEB SITE** [www.exploratorium.com](http://www.exploratorium.com)



**The Smithsonian Institution**, in Washington, DC, is not just one museum, but 18 museums, most of them located along the Mall in Washington. It's the biggest museum complex in the world, holding about 142 million objects, from First Ladies' dresses to the first airplane flown by the Wright Brothers. The Smithsonian includes the National Air and Space Museum, the National Portrait Gallery, and the National Zoo.

**WEB SITE** [www.si.edu](http://www.si.edu)

# MUSEUMS OF ALL KINDS

The **Newseum in Washington, DC**, opened in 2008. This interactive museum allows visitors to explore how and why news is made. The exhibits blend five centuries of news history with modern technology to illustrate the importance of the news. The museum has 14 major galleries, 8 sections of the Berlin Wall, 7 levels, and 2 television studios. **WEB SITE** [www.newseum.org](http://www.newseum.org)

**Jamestown Settlement in Williamsburg, Virginia**. This "living museum" includes re-creations of an Indian village, a fort, and the first permanent English settlement in America. Museum staff wear costumes and show what life was like for colonists 400 years ago.

**WEB SITE** [www.historyisfun.org](http://www.historyisfun.org)



**The International UFO Museum and Research Center in Roswell, New Mexico**, is dedicated to research into UFOs, or "unidentified flying objects" from outer space. Some say that a UFO crashed in the nearby desert back in 1947.

**WEB SITE** [www.iufomrc.com](http://www.iufomrc.com)

The **Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming**, includes five museums and a research library devoted to the American west. The museums include artworks of the American West, Plains Indian art and artifacts, and a natural history museum that provides a multidisciplinary perspective on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, its surrounding area, and human interactions. **WEB SITE** [www.bbhc.org](http://www.bbhc.org)

**National Museum of Health and Medicine in Washington, DC**. Founded during the Civil War as the Army Medical Museum, it holds specimens for research in military medicine and surgery. One of the most popular exhibits has artifacts from President Lincoln's assassination, including the bullet. **WEB SITE** [nmhm.washingtondc.museum](http://nmhm.washingtondc.museum)

**did you know?** *The Temple of Dendur is one of the most popular exhibits at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC. It was built in 15 BC to honor the goddess Isis. The temple was a gift to the United States from Egypt in gratitude for American help in saving monuments from ancient Egypt. It had to be moved because a dam was built near its original location. The building was taken apart and shipped to the US. Engineers used detailed drawings to reconstruct the original temple inside the museum.*

