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Dallas Perot Museum of Nature and Science is a must visit travel destination

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Exhibits are interactive and state of the art with special preservation climates for the delicate fossil remains that grace the 4th floor.

Heather Buen

The exhibits at the Perot Nature and Science Museum begin before you even walk in the door. Outside features frogs, musical things, and a 90 foot long stream that ends in a pond. And once you walk inside there are wonders on every floor.



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In the Beginning

When you enter the museum you are directed to begin at the top floor, the 4th floor. Which is where you start at the beginning in the Expanding Universe Hall. Starting with the Big Bang which you can peer into a well to watch unfold. After the Big Bang you can take an animated journey through the solar system, learn about the breakthroughs discovered by Galileo and Newton, and view images of space from the Hubble Space Telescope.

After studying the universe, you can head to the T. Boone Pickens' Life Then and Now Hall and the Rose Hall of birds, also located on the 4th floor. The Tyrannosaurus Rex and 85-foot Alamosaurus fossil models are massive and impressive. The history of Dallas is covered from when it was underwater, to the Ice Age, and finally to the present day. Plant fossils are displayed along with other animal fossils. There is even a hands on area where you can examine fossil replicas. Up a short flight of stairs from the dinosaurs is where the bird exhibits are. While overlooking the extinct dinosaur models you will learn how birds were able to adapt to the become the ones we see today. A bird simulator allows you to stand in front of a screen, flap your arms, and become a predator bird. Exhibits also include information on flight patterns, mating calls, and various nest and egg specimens.

The third floor at the museum includes the Tom Hunt Energy Hall, Lyda Hill Gems and Minerals Hall, and the Rees-Jones Foundation Dynamic Earth hall. The Energy Hall is all about natural energy sources; oil, natural gas, and alternative energy sources. You'll learn how oil and natural gas are formed and found, as well seeing actual drilling equipment. The most impressive display within the Gems and Minerals Hall is the 5-foot geode. Located behind a glass case this display includes a wheel that visitors can turn to open and close the geode filled with purple crystals. Also fun to see is the display of minerals that change to bright colors under ultraviolet light bulbs. Minerals that were collected all over the world are on display here.

How the world works

Have you ever wondered what an earthquake feels like? Step on the Earthquake Shake immersion experience, located in the Dynamic Earth hall. Afterwards see the displays that explain continental drift, get a chance make weather predictions, and learn about the power of tornadoes.

Moving down to the 2nd floor you will find the Texas Instruments Engineering and Innovation Hall, the Being Human Hall, and the Discovering Life Hall. In the Engineering and Innovation Hall you'll get a chance to practice building a variety of structures and test to see how stable they are. You can even play with robots, either control them yourself or use some of their pre-programmed commands.

You might be surprised how closely related humans are to other animals in the Being Human Hall. You can see the similarities, and differences, between humans and other animals. One interactive exhibits lets you answer lifestyle questions to see how they affect your life expectancy. Other exhibits explain how the brain works, and by standing in front of the thermal camera you can identify the various hot and cool points on your body. Plant and animal life are on display in the Discovering Life Hall, including a wide variety of taxidermy specimens. You can also explore the sights, sounds, and smells of the three Texas ecosystems.

Children 5 and younger will really enjoy the lower level of the museum where the Moody Family Children's Museum is located. This area features common Dallas sites where children, with adult supervision, can play, pretend, and climb. Familiar sites include the Dallas Farmers Market and Margaret Hunt Hill bridge.

Admission and general information

Tickets are \$15 for adults ages 18 to 64, \$12 for students ages 12 to 17 and for senior citizens, and \$10 for kids ages 3 to 11. Kids ages 2 and under are free. Additional admission is required for the theater show and special exhibits. Visit the website for [ticket information](#). They are open Mondays through Saturdays from 10 am to 6 pm and on Sundays from noon to 6 pm.

No matter what your particular area of scientific interest there is plenty to explore at the Perot Nature and Science Museum. For more information please visit: perotmuseum.org/

Guest post bio: Julie is a Mom to three feisty boys. She loves to knit, craft, and eat good food. You can read her daily entries over at [Julie is Coco and Cocoa](#).

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