

## Narrated Virtual Tour - Museum Introduction Video Transcript

[00:00:00] Welcome to the National Museum of Natural History's virtual tour.

My name is Kirk Johnson and I am the Sant Director of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History.

Step inside the most visited natural history museum in the world and a leader in the worldwide scientific community.

The Museum opened its doors in 1910, and today more than 6 million children and adults from every corner of the world visit our exhibitions each year.

[00:00:30] Millions more connect with us online at [naturalhistory.si.edu](https://naturalhistory.si.edu), where they find detailed information about our exhibits, events, collections, scientific research and educational programs.

The National Museum of Natural History's mission-understanding the natural world and our place in it-is carried out by our talented staff of scientists, educators, and other professionals.

In this virtual age, the Museum provides a special opportunity to see and interact [00:01:00] with real things.

You can examine stardust as old as the Solar System, get nose-to-nose with some of the largest creatures to walk the Earth, and compare fossils of early humans that came and went long ago.

These treasures belong to the National Collections-an unsurpassed trove of more than 147 million natural and cultural objects that enables both scientists and the public to better understand our world.

The Museum is also an important center for scientific discovery across many fields, [00:01:30] and our scientific research is the foundation of our exhibitions.

The diversity of living animals is on parade in our biology halls, including the award-winning Kenneth E. Behring Family Hall of Mammals, where you can get to know more than 60 of your mammal relatives.

The Sant Ocean Hall features unparalleled collections, state-of-the-art technology, and dramatic displays that work together to communicate a critical message: the ocean is a global ecosystem essential to all life on our planet.

[00:02:00] In the Janet Annenberg Hooker Hall of Geology, Gems, and Minerals, home of the Hope Diamond, you will see how tiny atoms came together to create our vast Solar System.

You can walk through 6 million years of humans' evolutionary history in the David H. Koch Hall of Human Origins and find out how dramatic climate change drove the evolution of the characteristics that make us human.

And the newly opened David H. Koch Hall of Fossils-Deep Time will take you on a journey like no other through the 3.7-billion-year history [00:02:30] of life on Earth, as told through interactive exhibits and over 700 extraordinary fossils-including the Nation's T. rex.

Along the way, you'll discover how Earth's past is connected to the present, and how our actions are shaping our future.

In recent years, the Museum has undergone a number of ambitious, large-scale renovations, resulting in exciting new exhibitions, dining spaces beneath a full-sized, 52 foot long model of the extinct shark known as *Megalodon*, [00:03:00] smaller galleries for temporary exhibitions, and a variety of other educational experiences and events.

In Q?rius, The Coralyn W. Whitney Science Education Center-our interactive space for teens, tweens, and families-young people can talk with researchers and interact with thousands of specimens and objects, increasing their understanding of science.

I hope that you enjoy your visit, and that you come back again and again to experience our latest exhibits and see how the Museum of the future takes shape. [00:03:30]