Visiting The Durham Museum

A Social Narrative



Things to Do Before You Go

- Make a list of things you need that may include: wallet, phone, medications, mobility aids, communication device, water, etc.
- Make a list of sensory tools that may include: snack, sunglasses, jacket, fidget, headphones, etc.
- Pack your things in a bag or backpack.
- Explore the website to:
  - list exhibits you want to see
  - review hours & admission pricing
  - check to for specials events
- The museum is often busy during holidays and special events.
- Prepare for social interaction when paying admission at the Welcome Desk. If you need, create a script to answer the following questions:
  - What brought you in today?
  - What is your zip code?
  - How did you hear about the museum?
- If you have a service animal, create a script to answer questions about it.
- Communicate with family or friends before your visit.

Sensory Icons

As you read look for these icons near the bottom of the page!


Quiet


Loud


Echo


Bright light


Low light


Natural light


Touch


Movement


Vestibular


Narrow


Smell

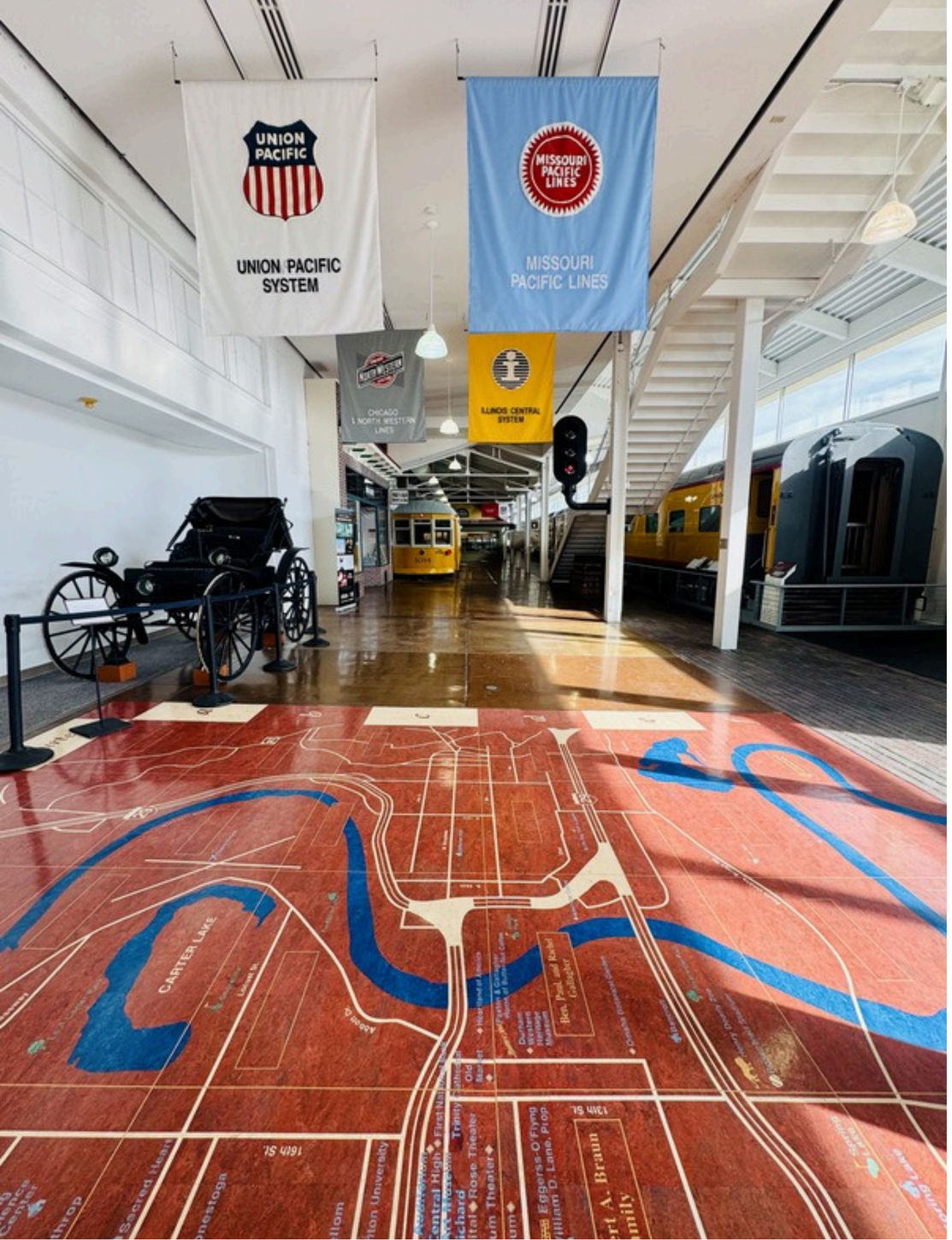

Visual


Crowd


Exit


Eat


Changes



I am going to the Durham Museum! The museum has lots of cool things for me to see and do. I will learn about Nebraska history and culture.





When I arrive at the museum I will see a large historic building. The building is called Union Station, and it used to be a passenger train station!

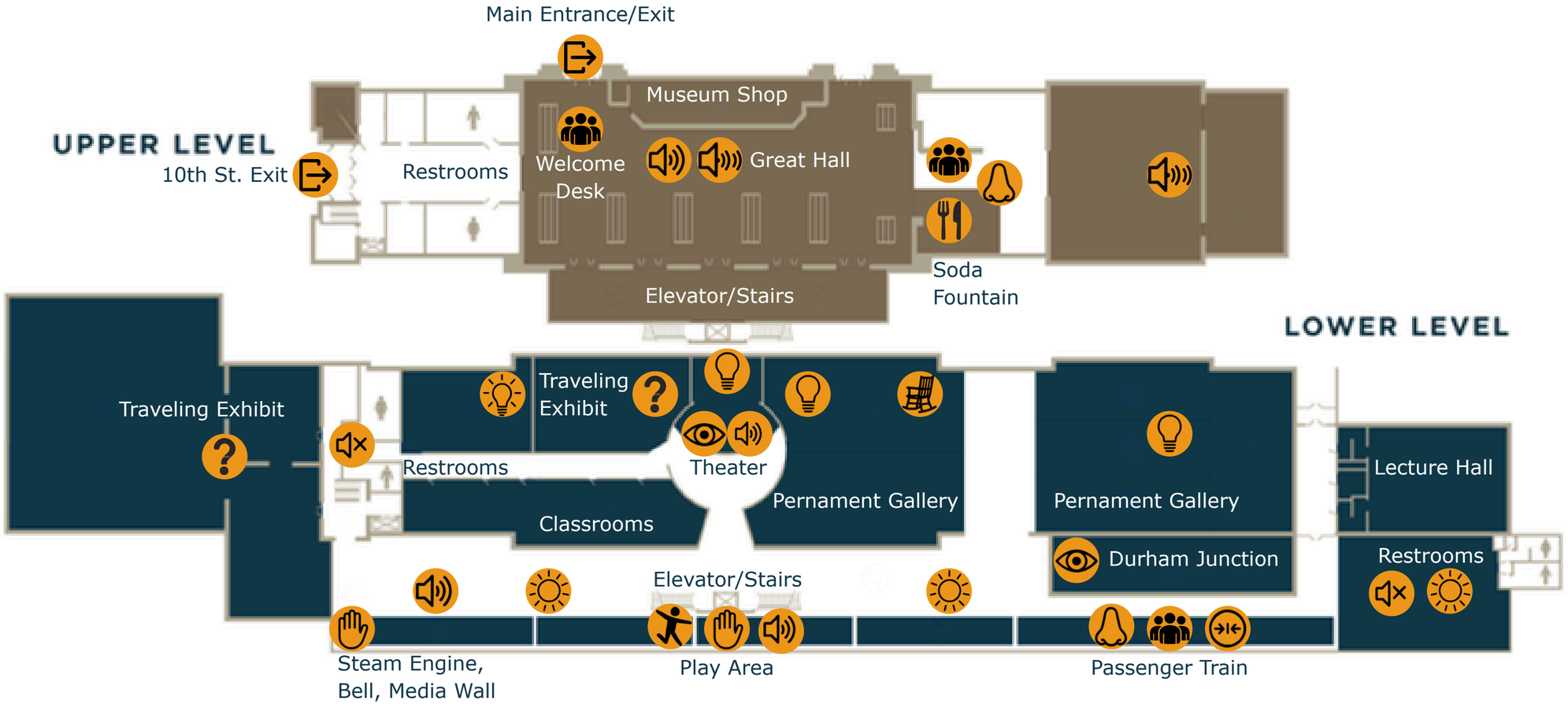
The main entrance is to the right. When I see it, I will wait for the person who came with me before I cross the street and go inside.



When I go inside, I will be in a huge room with a very tall ceiling. This room can have an echo and be loud. The ceiling has beautiful architecture that looks like art and even has real gold! This room is called the Great Hall.



Before I can explore the museum, I check-in at the Welcome Desk to pay for my ticket. I may need to wait in line, but that’s okay! It’s good to wait my turn so everyone can enjoy the museum. The people at the desk are nice and can answer my questions.



I can ask staff at the Welcome Desk for a regular map or a sensory-friendly map of the museum. I can use the sensory-friendly map to find areas of the museum I want to go or avoid. As I explore the museum, I will stay with the person who came with me.



In the Great Hall I might see some statues of people. They are not real and will not move. They represent train station passengers. The statues have recorded voices, so I may hear people talking.



Hitchcock Museum Shop is also in the Great Hall. We might look around and buy something, or we might leave and visit the shop another day.



If I get hungry while I’m at the museum, I can go to the Soda Fountain to buy a snack.

When I’m ready, I can go downstairs to explore the rest of the museum. I can take the stairs or the elevator. The stairs are on either side of the elevator. The elevator is glass and I can look outside at the train tracks as I go down! I may need to wait my turn to get on the elevator, but that’s okay.





If I need to use the restroom while I’m downstairs, I can go to either end of the museum to find one. The restrooms have multiple stalls and there is no private family restroom. Near the restrooms, there are water fountains if I need a drink.



The areas outside of the restrooms are typically quiet spaces. If I need to take a break to regulate, these are good places to go!





When I get downstairs, there are lots of areas to explore! I can even get on a passenger train! To get on the train I'll walk to the very end of the hall and climb the steps to get onboard. The trains are narrow and sometimes very busy. I may need to wait for others as I walk through them. I might also notice new smells as I walk through the different sections of the train.



There is an area near the elevator where I can play with toys and move my body. I can also look out the windows to see the railroad tracks. I might even see a train pass by! Sometimes, the railroad tracks are loud, especially if a train is close to the musuem.

Across from the elevator are the permanent galleries. The first thing I'll see is a giant buffalo! Behind the buffalo is a dark theater where I can watch a short movie. If it gets too loud, I can put on headphones or leave at any time.







In the permanent galleries, I can see exhibits about Nebraska history and culture from different time periods. I can see an earth lodge, teepee, covered wagon, coins, furniture, and so much more!



In the gallery spaces I will see many objects behind railings and glass. It’s important that I look with my eyes but not touch with my hands. When historic objects get touched, the oil and dirt from our hands damages the objects over time.



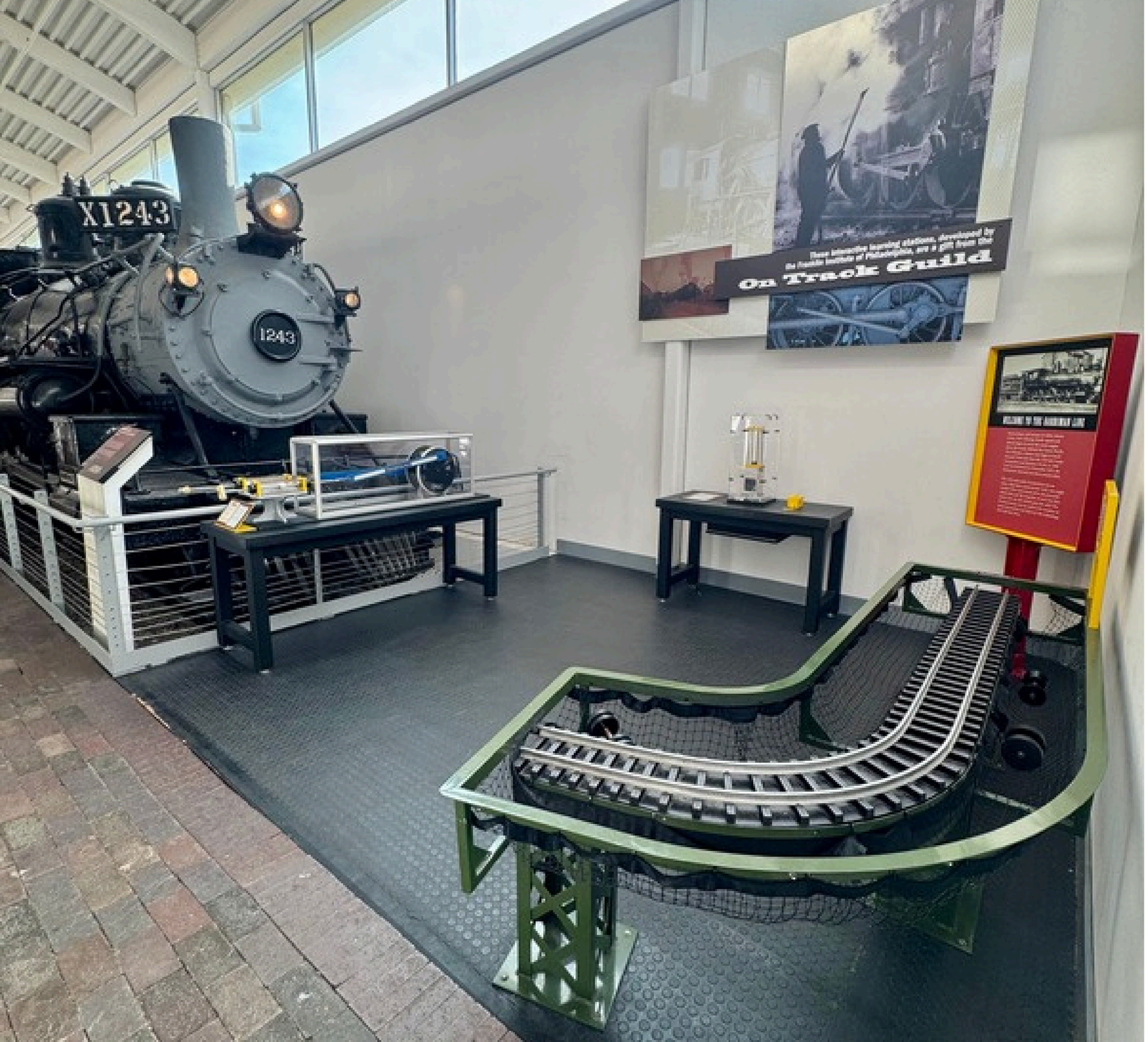


Outside of the permanent galleries is Durham Junction. Durham Junction is a mini town with model trains. I can see the trains moving, look super close to see what the town’s people are doing, and listen to a drive-in movie!





On the other end of the museum, I can see a steam engine. I can not get on this train, but it’s cool to look at. Next to the steam engine is a bell that use to be on a train. I can ring the bell, but it is **very loud**. If it’s too loud I can put on headphones or walk away.



In front of the steam engine, I can try out three fun stations that help me learn how trains work. This is a good area to move my body and learn with my hands.

On this end of the museum I will also see the Media Wall. Depending on what is playing, this area can get loud.





The area next to the media wall is home to the traveling exhibits meaning that this space changes a couple times a year. If I’m not sure what to expect in this space, I can always ask a volunteer or staff member. Sometimes this space is closed, but that’s okay! I can come back to see it another time.

THE DURHAM™ MUSEUM

When I’m ready to leave, I will go upstairs to the Great Hall and exit through the same doors that I came in. If I didn’t see everything at the museum before I leave, that’s okay. I can always come back another time!