

Self Guided Museum Tour

1. As you walk in the door, the state shell exhibit is on the left just inside the door.
2. The shells in the long windows on your left are from Texas waters. You may find some of these shells on the beach.
3. The cases across from the windows contain shells in scientific, systematic order.
4. The next window on the left shows the egg cases laid by different types of shells. This should help with the understanding that shells are animals, not rocks.
5. As you look into the windows in the Pecten Room and the other shell exhibit cases, notice the different colors, shapes and textures of the shells. Colors, shapes, spines, etc. help the shell animal protect itself.
6. The last window on the right in the Pecten Room shows land snails. These have some particularly pretty colors and patterns.
7. At the end of the shell cases opposite the green windows is a case of local snakes including several poisonous snakes.
8. A large window on the left near the planetarium shows an underwater scene.
9. Along the back wall are exhibits of local shore birds. Game birds are exhibited along the walls of the wildlife area.
10. The large diorama at the back of the wildlife area shows local animals. Some questions for thought are on the window sill of the diorama.
11. You may want to ask yourself why the Dimetrodon does not belong in the wildlife area.
12. In the archeology hall there are several displays of artifacts from local Indian tribes as well as things found at the Velasco dig on Surfside and Pre-Columbian artifacts.
13. Next is the rock and mineral area which has the black light exhibit which is always a favorite. Different colors, textures, shapes, patterns, etc. are seen in the rock area.
14. Along the wall beside the rock area is the Children's Area which has hands-on activities.
15. The final area of the museum is the paleontology area. On the back wall is the shark jaw. This shark could swallow a small car.
16. Below the jaw is a model of a dinosaur dig with some of the tools fossil hunters use.
17. In the diorama to the right of the jaw are fossils of ancient reptiles, fish and mammals. Information about the fossils is found in the light box in front of the display.
18. Above the windows in the fossil area is a Mosasaur, an ancient aquatic reptile. In the window on the far left is a picture of what the animal may have looked like.
19. In the windows on the right are mammoth fossils.
20. This brings us to Dinosaur Island in the center of the room. On the island are three sets of dinosaur eggs, one of which is in a model of a natural setting. The eggs in the nest were probably from a meat eater. The other larger eggs were from plant eaters.
21. On the island is coprolite – "dinosaur poop." An example of both plant and meat eater coprolite is shown. To distinguish the two think "cow" and "dog."
22. Because of its fame, many children think the large black skeleton is a T-Rex, but it is its smaller relative Allosaurus.