

The Museum of Zoology

The Museum houses one of the largest and most important natural history collections in the UK, with an extraordinarily rich history dating back to 1814.

The Museum today displays thousands of incredible specimens and offers visitors an insight into the wonders of animal life. The Museum is part of the University's Department of Zoology.

Dementia Compass

This guide has been created through the Portals to the World programme, a partnership between the University of Cambridge Museums and Dementia Compass.

Dementia Compass is a social venture with over a decade of experience supporting individuals with Alzheimer's or other dementias and their families.

Dementia Compass builds and provides resources that reduce the impacts of dementia and to help people stay connected with who and what matters.

For more information visit
Dementia Compass Website:
www.dementiacompass.com
Phone
07876 350 638
Email
hello@dementiacompass.com



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Why a museum walk?



Visiting a museum is a great opportunity to meet friends and have some gentle exercise as you explore the exhibits.

How long will it take?



With time to stop and look the walk should take you approximately 40 minutes.



How far is it?

It's approximately 200 steps.



Are there places to sit?

Yes, there are benches in the museum..

What access support is there?



The museum can be accessed by a ramp or stairs at the front entrance.

There are public from street level and lifts inside the museum to reach most of the museum levels.

A wheelchair is available to borrow at the main entrance, this can be pre-booked by phone or email (see below).

Accessible toilets are located past the reception desk on the right.

Assistance dogs are welcome.

Contact us

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Museum Walk

Animal Headgear

antlers, horns, tusks and crests



Reindeer skull and antlers

Southern White Rhinoceros

Ceratotherium simum simum

1

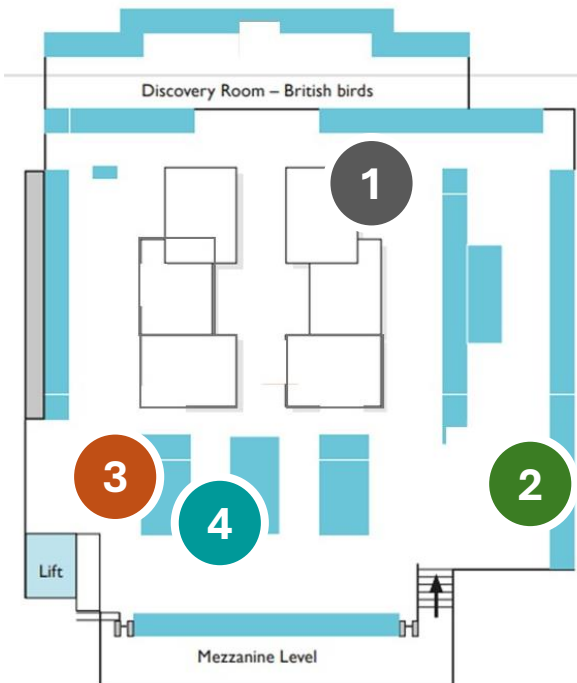
The name rhinoceros means “nose horn”. Rhinos use their horns to defend their home territory and calves. They also use their horns to dig or break branches when foraging for food.

The two horns on this rhino skull are fake. This is because even today, rhinos are hunted for their horns, which are sold illegally as powerful traditional medicine.

The fake rhino horns are made of resin, but real rhino horns are made of keratin – the same protein that makes our hair and fingernails.



Museum of Zoology
Lower gallery



Okapi

Okapia johnstoni

3

This is a female okapi. Okapi are large, shy animals from the rainforests of central Africa.

Male okapis have small, bony lumps on their heads. These are called “ossicones”. Females, like the one you see here, do not have them. Male okapis may use their ossicones to bump heads with other males. This helps them show who is stronger.

The okapi looks like a cross between a large deer and a zebra, with white stripes on its back legs. Although it may resemble a zebra, the okapi is the closest living relative to the giraffe.



Gorilla

Gorilla gorilla

2

Male gorillas, unlike females, have a bony bump on top of their heads called a crest. These crests mainly help support their large, powerful chewing muscles that they need for grinding tough plants.



The crest also helps male gorillas in other ways. It shows which males are in charge or dominant, attracts a mate, and helps them protect their family and home territory from danger (including other male gorillas).

Reindeer

Rangifer tarandus

4

Reindeer have impressive antlers. Antlers are made out of bone, and are grown, shed and regrown every year.

In most species of deer, antlers are only seen in males and are used to fight for access to females. In reindeer, however, females can also have antlers, using them to get access to and defend food when food is hard to find.

