



Information sheet for tour guides and tourism frontline staff

The Canadian Museum of History is Canada's largest and most popular museum.

When did it open? Inaugurated on June 29, 1989, as the Canadian Museum of Civilization, the Museum was renamed the Canadian Museum of History in December 2013.

What is the Museum's mandate? The Canadian Museum of History provides Canadians with a national museum that tells their story and shares their treasures with the world.

Who designed it? Douglas Cardinal, from Red Deer, Alberta, who is of Métis ancestry (his grandmother was a Blackfoot Native), was the design architect.

He collaborated with Michel Languedoc of the Montréal architectural firm Tétrault, Parent, Languedoc et Associés Inc.

What are some of its architectural details? Located on the banks of the Ottawa River, the Museum boasts a breathtaking view of Parliament Hill. The exterior design speaks of the emergence of this continent, its forms sculpted by winds, rivers and glaciers. Four natural features are thus represented, in the abstract, in the Museum's form: the Canadian Shield, the glaciers, the streams formed by the melting glacial ice, and the Great Plains that stretched before the receding glaciers.

What is it made of? Construction materials came from different parts of Canada. The shiny Caledonia granite seen throughout the Museum's interior comes from Rivière-à-Pierre, Quebec, while the Tyndall limestone on the exterior comes from the Garson Quarry, northeast of Winnipeg, Manitoba. Embedded in the stone are fossils from the Ordovician period, which predates the first dinosaurs by some 250 million years.

What's inside?

The Grand Hall: The spectacular Grand Hall offers an introduction to the history, cultures and beliefs of the First Peoples of Canada's Pacific Coast. With its curving, six-storey window wall and unrivalled view of Parliament Hill, the Grand Hall is the Museum's architectural centrepiece and one of the country's most impressive indoor public spaces.

The First Peoples Hall: The First Peoples Hall celebrates the history, diversity, creativity, resourcefulness and endurance of Canada's First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples.

The new Canadian History Hall: The Canadian History Hall is the largest exhibition project the Museum has ever undertaken. Interactive, engaging and inclusive, this new permanent exhibition will be both transparent and courageous as it tells the story of Canada, from the end of the last Ice Age to the present day. Highlighting important events, experiences, people and artifacts, the Canada History Hall will be the most comprehensive exhibition ever developed on the history of Canada. It will open on July 1, 2017, marking the 150th anniversary of Confederation.

Canadian Children's Museum: Here, with their passports in hand, young visitors discover one incredible destination after another. Whether on a visit to the International Village, a trek to a desert pyramid, a jaunt to the Port of Entry to help unload a cargo ship or a stroll through the bustling Market Bazaar, they encounter endless ways to learn about the world and one another.

IMAX® Theatre: The Canadian Museum of History houses an IMAX® 3D screen and the only Dome Theatre in North America! A unique journey through history, culture, adventure and nature awaits thanks to stunning films that will touch and inspire you.

Interesting facts

- The total floor space of the Museum is approximately 100,000 square metres (over one million square feet).
- The Museum holds over 4.2 million artifacts in its vaults. From this number, only 1 to 3% is displayed in the Museum's exhibitions.
- The Museum is an ideal venue for special events. Distinguished guests who have visited the Museum include U.S. Presidents G. W. Bush and Bill Clinton; Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II; His Excellency the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, as well as the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

Services: cafeteria • bistro • café • dairy bar • Beaver Tails™ • boutique • cloakroom • parking • group entrance • guided tours • meeting spaces • picnic areas

Hours of operation: Monday to Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursdays until 8 p.m.

Directions: From Parliament Hill, head east on Wellington Street, turn left onto Sussex Drive and left again to cross the Alexandra Bridge to Gatineau, Quebec. Turn left on Laurier Street. The Museum is on your left-hand side.