

VISUAL STORY

**My visit to the
Australian Age of
Dinosaurs Museum**



Contents

I will be visiting the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum!	3
About the Museum	4
What can I bring?	5
Rules at the Museum	6
Museum Map	7
When I arrive at the Museum	8
Parking in the car park	9
The Reception Centre	10
Buying a ticket at the front desk	11
Museum Shop	12
Eating and drinking	13
Museum areas: Collection Room	14
Museum areas: Fossil Preparation Laboratory	15
Museum areas: Dinosaur Canyon	16
Museum areas: <i>March of the Titanosaurs</i> exhibition	17
Museum areas: Gondwana Stars Observatory	18
Museum areas: other areas	19
Toilets at the Museum	20
Museum staff	21
The Jump-Up	22
Interesting facts about Winton The Jump-Up	23
Facilities	24
Sensory warnings	25
Now the trip is over... we hope you come back again soon!	26



This visual story is designed for everyone.

We hope that you find it useful for planning your adventure to the Museum!


I will be visiting the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum!



I don't want to be late!
I will try to arrive **15 minutes** before the start of my tour.

This visual story tells me what to expect when I visit the Museum.

- Museum staff can assist me and ensure that I have a positive experience visiting the Museum.
- The Museum is open seven days a week in winter and six days a week in summer (closed on Sundays).
- Tours depart on the hour: 9am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 1pm and 2pm.



It is ok to ask a staff member if I need help.

About the Museum



A Tour Guide will show me around the Museum.
A tour will take 30 minutes at each area.

What I can expect at the Museum.

- I will find the Museum at the top of The Jump-Up in Winton, Queensland. The Jump-Up is a small hill.
- During my visit I will see the Fossil Preparation Laboratory, Collection Room and Dinosaur Canyon.
- The world's largest collection of Australian dinosaur fossils are at the Museum.



What can I bring?

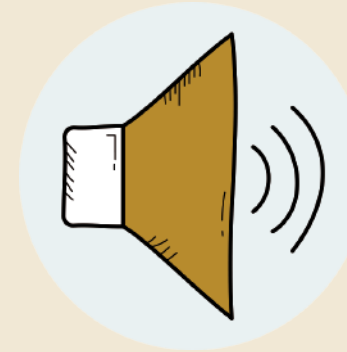
I can bring these things to help me enjoy my experience at the Museum.



My sensory guide

I will see the following symbols in this visual story.

They will help me prepare for spaces that might have bright lights, smells, sounds or things to touch.



Rules at the Museum



I will not take any food or drink into the Laboratory, Collection Room, shuttle bus or *March of the Titanosaurs* exhibition. This will help keep the fossils safe.



It is ok to take photos. I can bring a camera or use my phone to take photos. Some people take photos of dinosaurs and the landscape.



I need to walk carefully so I don't fall over or get hurt. Some of the ground on The Jump-Up is uneven.



I will wear a mask if social distancing is hard to do. If I cannot wear a mask I will present an exemption to Museum staff.



There are some fossils that I can touch. These will have a "please touch" sign. Fossils can feel hard, bumpy and rough.



Sometimes the Museum is busy. I will be patient while I wait. I can use my phone or a sensory item while I wait.



I will keep my hands clean. This will help keep everyone healthy and safe. The Museum has hand sanitising stations and toilets where I can wash my hands.



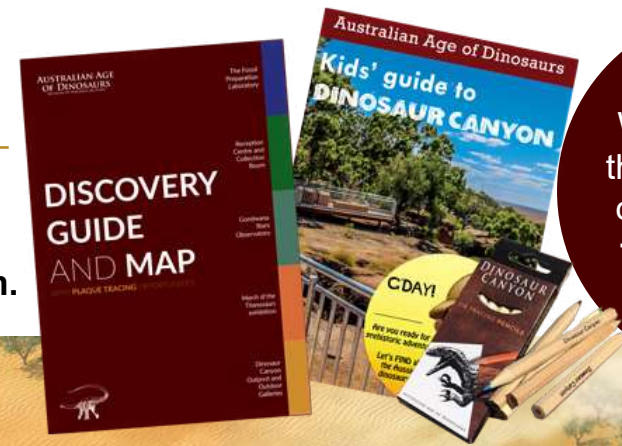
I am not allowed to touch some objects. If there is a "please do not touch" sign, or when objects are behind glass, I will not touch them. This will help keep fragile objects safe.



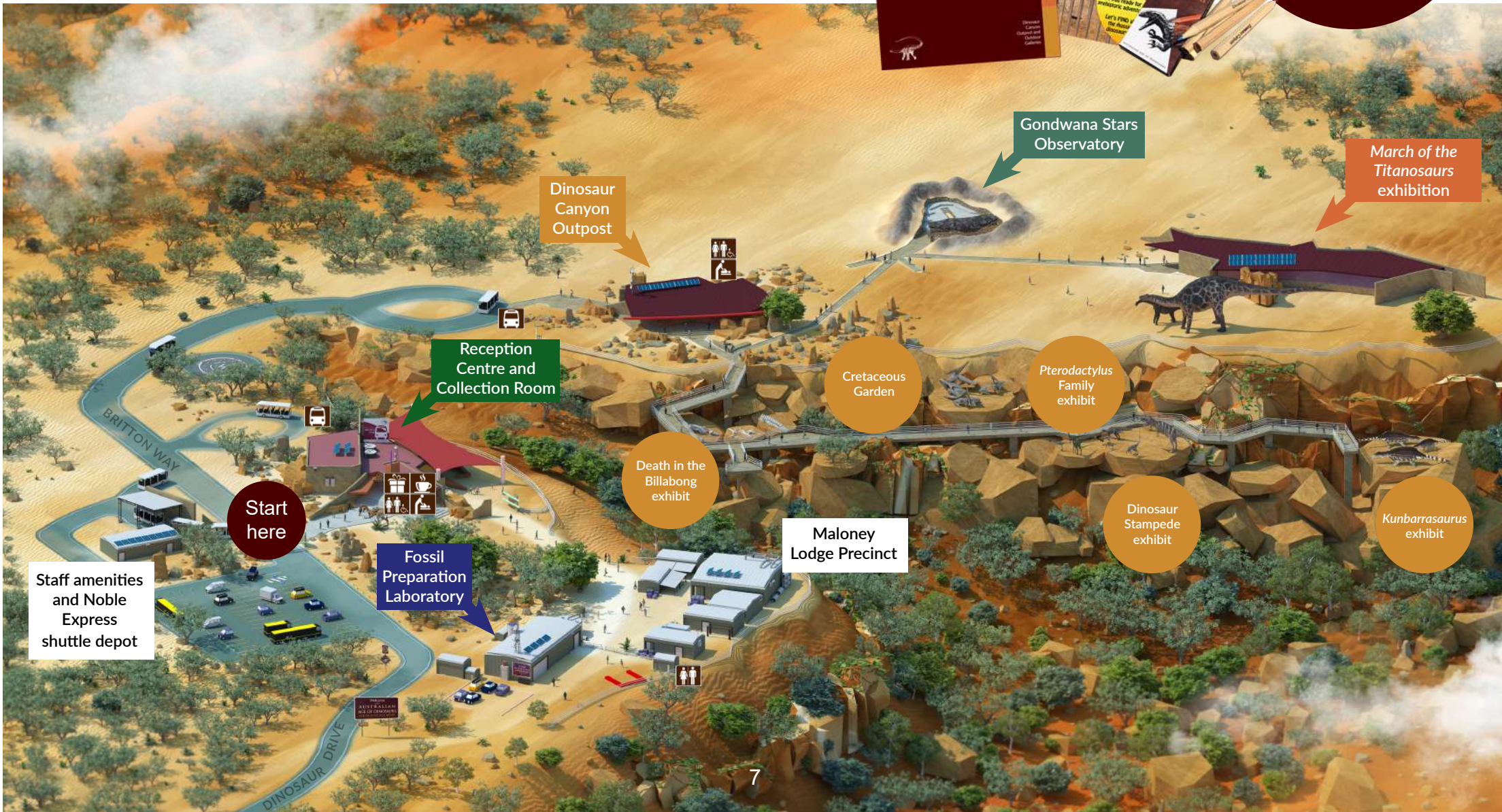
I will cover my mouth if I cough or sneeze and I will wash my hands after. This helps keep everyone healthy and safe.

Museum Map

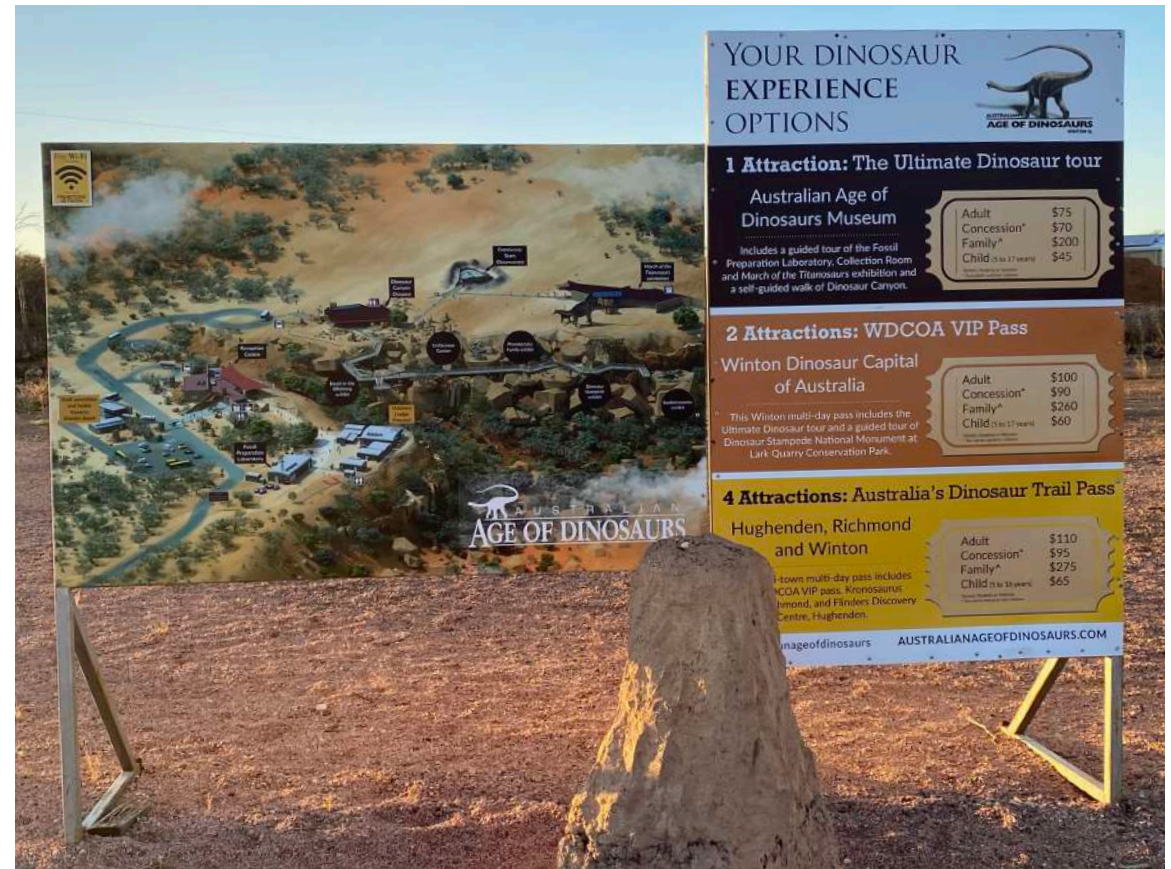
- My family and I can look at the Museum **website** before I visit.
- I will look at the map and **decide** what I want to see.
- I can use the map to help me **decide** what I want to see at the Museum.



When I arrive at the Museum I will collect a **map** at the front desk.



When I arrive at the Museum



- This area is **very bright** so I may want to wear a hat or sunglasses.
- There are many **flies** around the Museum. I can bring a fly veil or buy one on site.

- When I arrive at the Museum I will see a sign welcoming me to the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum of Natural History.
- I will follow the road until I reach the Museum car park.
- I will find a sign with a map of the Museum. This sign will help me find my way around.
- There is another sign listing the different types of tickets I can buy.

Parking in the car park



- It is **free** to park at the Museum.
- Accessible parking is available in the car park. I will need to have a disability parking permit to use these spaces.
- If I don't have a disability parking permit I can still park in the Museum car park in one of the spaces that are not marked with the disability sign.
- When I have parked safely I will walk a short distance to the Reception Centre.

The Reception Centre



- At the entrance to the Reception Centre I will see a life-sized statue of a dinosaur. **This dinosaur is named Banjo.**
- Some people take photos with this dinosaur. I can also take a photo with this dinosaur. The Reception Centre includes the:
 - front desk
 - Museum Shop
 - Cretaceous Café and
 - Collection Room.



Buying a ticket at the front desk



- This area can be **very bright and crowded** so I may want to wear a hat or sunglasses.
- If it gets **loud**, I can wear my headphones.
- There are coffee and food **smells** here.

When I am ready to enter the Museum I can walk into the Reception Centre.

When I walk into the Reception Centre I will see the front desk.

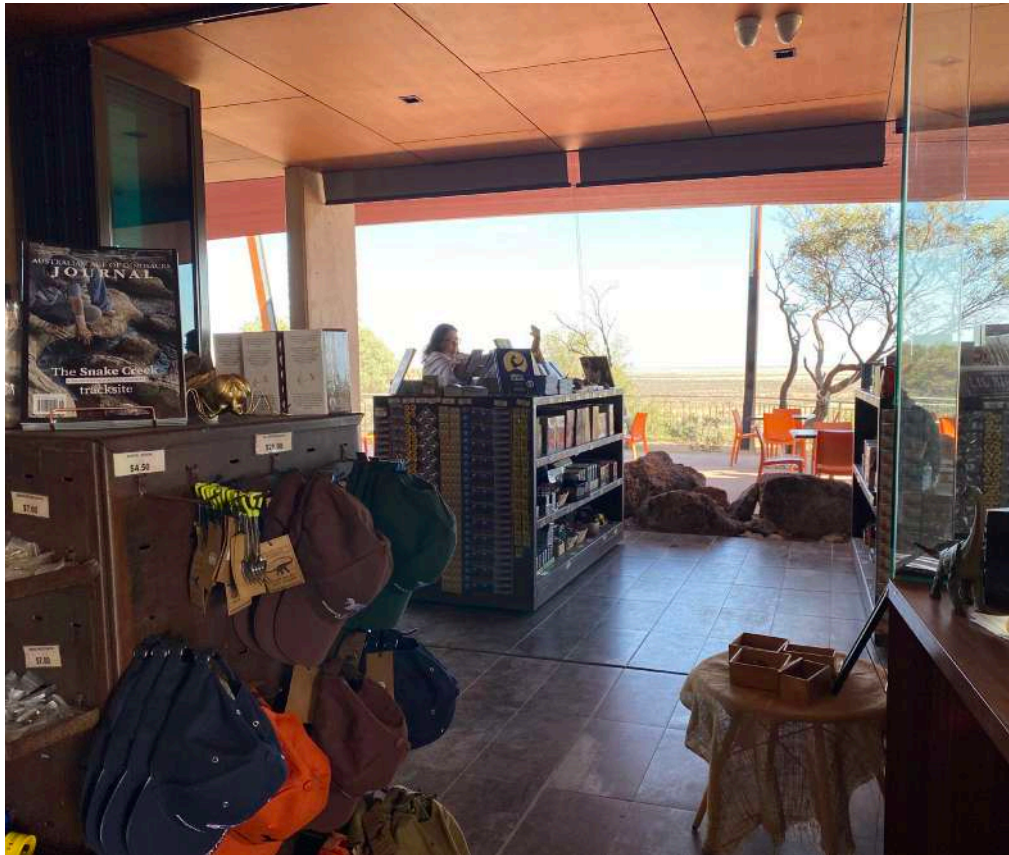
At the front desk I can:

- buy tickets
- connect to the Museum's free Wi-Fi
- get information, including maps, and
- ask for help.



Toilets and a baby-change table are found here.

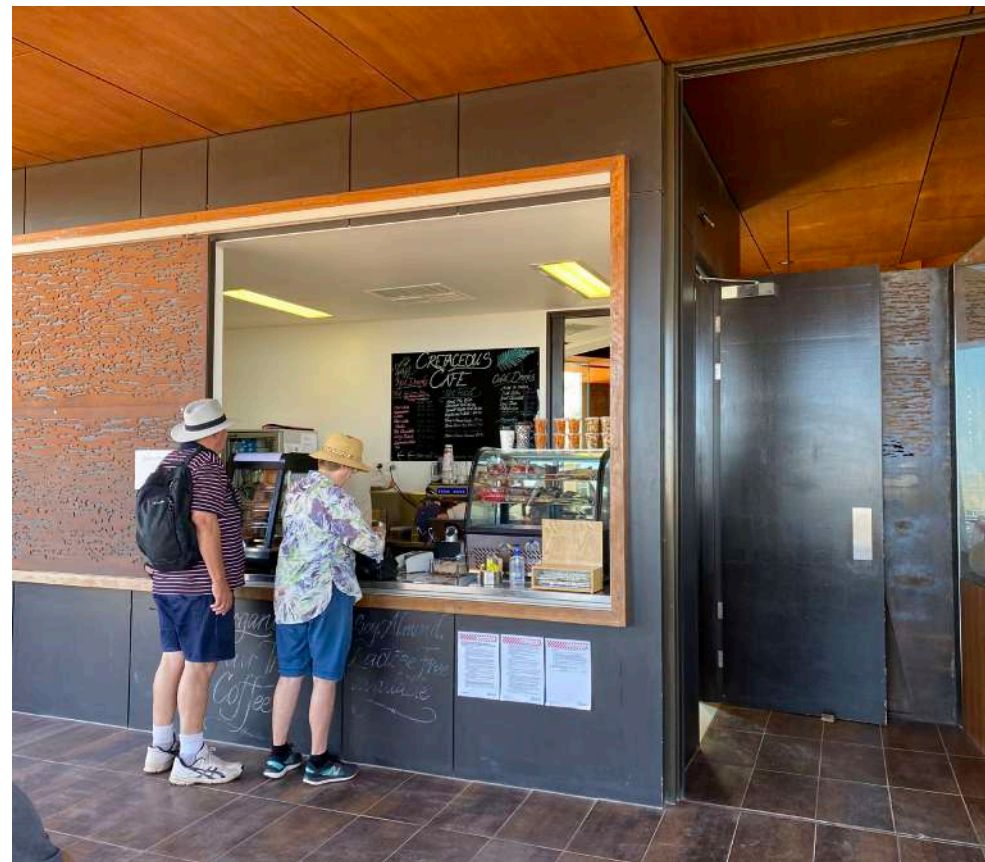
Museum Shop



- This area can be **very bright and crowded** so I may want to wear a hat or sunglasses.
- If it gets **loud**, I can wear my headphones.
- There are coffee and food **smells** here.

- I will find the Museum Shop in the middle of the Reception Centre.
- I can buy books, clothing, petrified wood and magnets at the Museum Shop.
- To see what is available to buy, I can visit the online [Museum Shop](#) before my visit.

Eating and drinking



- This area is **very bright** so I may want to wear a hat or sunglasses.
- If it gets **loud**, I can wear my headphones.
- There are coffee and food **smells** here.

- The café at the Museum is called the Cretaceous café. I can buy food at the cafe or bring my own food with me.
- I can buy hot and cold food, drinks and pre-made food such as sandwiches.
- If I want to, I can eat at the table or order my food to take away.
- When I finish eating I will put my rubbish in the bin.



There are outdoor quiet spaces around here and lots of seating.

Museum areas: Collection Room



- The video has **images** and **sounds**.
- If it is too **loud** or if I feel uncomfortable, I can wear my headphones or leave before the video has finished.

- In the Collection Room I will see a video that explains the fossils on display.
- A Tour Guide will use a microphone to explain how dinosaurs are studied.
- The Collection Room is kept cool and dark to keep the fossils safe. If I am cold I can put on a jumper or jacket.
- I will not touch the fossils on display because they are fragile

Museum areas: Fossil Preparation Laboratory



- This area is **very bright** so I may want to wear a hat or sunglasses.
- There are **loud** noises in the Laboratory. If it gets too loud, I can wear my headphones.

- I can walk or drive the 500m from the Reception Centre to the Laboratory.
- The dirt road to the Laboratory and its car park is bumpy and uneven.
- Inside the Laboratory there is a small waiting room with free cold water.
- I can touch fossils that have a “please touch” sign.
- A Tour Guide will use a microphone to explain how fossils are found.



Long-drop toilets and free cold water are found here.

Museum areas: Dinosaur Canyon



- Dinosaur Canyon can be **very bright** and **hot** and there may be lots of **flies**.
- I can choose to wear a hat, sunglasses or fly veil if I want to.

- I will ride the open-aided Noble Express shuttle bus to get to Dinosaur Canyon.
- Dinosaur Canyon is 2km from the Reception Centre.
- There are five areas I can explore along the pathway at Dinosaur Canyon.
- I can look at the different areas and take as many photos as I like.



Toilets, baby-change tables and free cold water are found here.

Museum areas: *March of the Titanosaurs* exhibition



- The echo in this space can be **loud**.
- If it is too loud or if I feel uncomfortable, I can wear my headphones or leave the tour before it has finished.

- The *March of the Titanosaurs* exhibition is a 100m walk from Dinosaur Canyon.
- When I arrive at the exhibition I will see small and large dinosaur statues. Some people take photos with these dinosaurs. I can also take photos with these dinosaurs!
- Inside the exhibition there is a long tracksite of dinosaur footprints.
- A Tour Guide will explain this tracksite using a microphone.



I can touch many different dinosaur statues here!

Museum areas: Gondwana Stars Observatory



- A **red light** is used to maintain dark adaption for night-time viewing.
- I can **touch** the walls. They are hard, bumpy and smooth.

- The Gondwana Stars Observatory is a 50m walk between Dinosaur Canyon Outpost and the *March of the Titanosaurs* exhibition.
- This building is open throughout the day to look around.
- The Museum hosts night tours here. More details, about these tours, can be found [here](#).



The Observatory is in the shape of a meteorite impact crater.

Museum areas: other areas



- The Museum site is **very bright** outside so I may want to wear a hat and sunglasses.
- I will ask a staff member before I **touch** a fossil that does not have a sign near it.

- The Museum site is large, with many areas and there are lots of things to do.
- I can use the Museum Map to make plaque tracings at Dinosaur Canyon.
- I can ride on the Noble Express shuttle bus and see plants, birds and animals.
- I can play in the free dinosaur-excavation sandpit close to the Reception Centre. Concrete seating is also available around this area.



The Noble Express shuttle bus is very quiet and does not exceed 20km/hr.

Toilets at the Museum



- I can look for signs, at the map or ask a staff member if I need help finding a toilet.
- Unisex toilets, baby-change tables are available at the Reception Centre and Dinosaur Canyon.
- Odourless long-drop toilets are available near the Laboratory. These toilets do not flush.

Museum staff



There are people at the Museum who can help me.

I will see Museum staff all around the Museum. Museum staff wear a uniform shirt like this, usually with blue jeans or shorts.

Museum staff are trained to:

- help me find my way
- give me information about displays
- answer my questions
- give me first aid if I need it and
- help me if I feel unsafe.



A dark-blue uniform jacket is often worn by staff in colder weather.

The Jump-Up



The site

The Jump-Up is about 270m above sea level and 75m above the surrounding land. There is fencing around most of the cliff edge. Areas without fencing are clearly marked as “End of safety fence, beware of cliff edges”.

Wildlife

The Jump-Up is a place where birds and animals live. I may see echidnas, kangaroos, lizards and emus on The Jump-Up. I will not touch or go near the animals so that they don't get scared or run away.

Interesting facts about Winton

The Museum is located in Winton. Winton is:

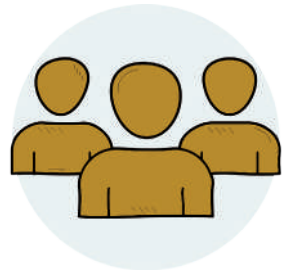
- **177km** north-west of Longreach in Central West Queensland and
- **600km** south-west of Townsville.



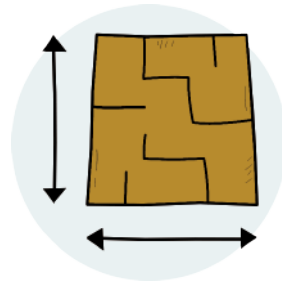
Winton has a high daily temperature ranging from **16°C** in winter to **43°C** in summer.



Winton has an average annual rainfall of **373mm**.



Winton has a population of **1,144** people.



Winton has a land size of **53,813km²**.



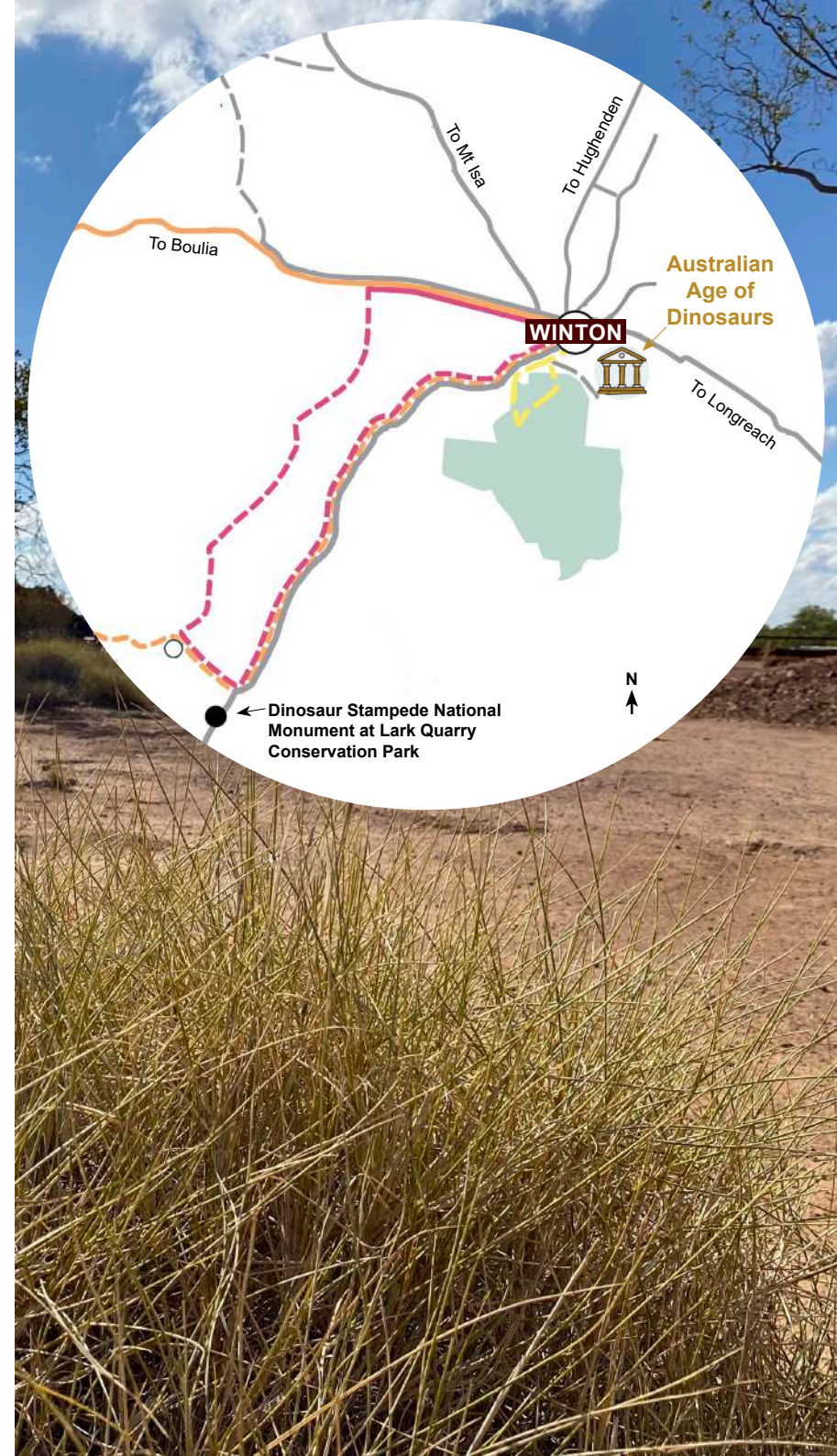
Winton has free **Wi-Fi** in the main street.

Telstra mobile providers work in most areas.



Winton is **177km** from the nearest town.

Always fill up your car with fuel before leaving town.



Facilities



Quiet spaces

- There are many outdoor quiet spaces around the Museum and lots of seating.

Accessibility

- The Reception Centre and Dinosaur Canyon are accessible by wheelchair and fitted with ramp access.
- The Fossil Preparation Laboratory is all level and accessible.
- The Museum walking track is flat and gravelled but could prove difficult to move over without assistance. Driving between the Reception Centre and the Laboratory is recommended. I can ask for help if I need too.

Sensory warnings



Construction

The Museum sometimes has tradespeople on site working on different projects, eg construction of a new building or upgrading existing facilities. This can involve loud noises.



Fossil Preparation Laboratory

There are pieces of equipment that make noise in the Laboratory.



I can use the following strategies to help me feel comfortable if it is too noisy:

- move to a quieter area
- use noise-cancelling headphones
- take a break and
- ask for help

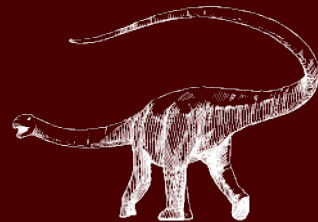
Now the trip is over... we hope you come back again soon!



My notes

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**We hope you enjoy your visit to
the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum!**



This Visual Story was developed
in partnership with **Aspect's Autism Friendly team.**



Aspect
Autism Friendly