

My Visit to Morehead Planetarium and Science Center

I am going to visit Morehead Planetarium and Science Center. That's a long name, so I can also just call it "the planetarium."

I am so excited to learn about science at the planetarium!



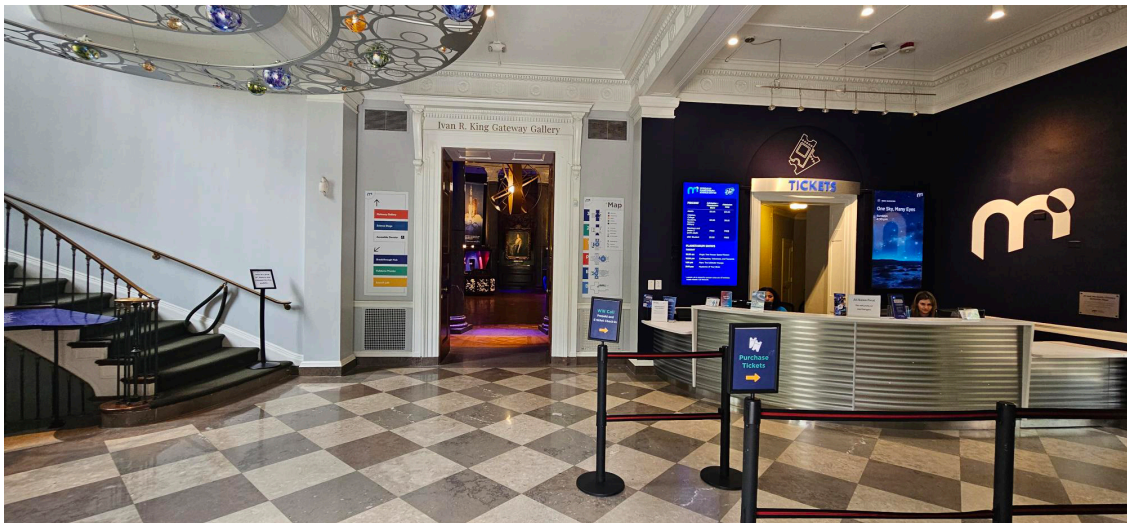
When I arrive, I will see a **large sundial** in the parking lot.





I will walk past the **iguana statue** on my way to the main entrance of the planetarium.

There will be steps going up to the front door. I can also use the ramp on the right side of the steps!



When I go inside the planetarium, I will stop at the **Box Office** and check in at the front desk. **It may be a little noisy, and I may need to briefly wait in line.**

I will receive my **welcome bag**. In my bag, there will be a map, a schedule, checklists, cool-down cards, and a cool-down kit item.

Depending on the group I will be in, my bag have a yellow button (Saturn Group) or blue button (Neptune Group) on it.

People Who Can Help Me at the Planetarium

I will see **Staff Members** who are wearing blue T-shirts with the word “**STAFF**” written on them. Staff members are here to help me have a great day at the planetarium.

Staff members can tell me more about the exhibits and other things I can enjoy. And they can help me find my way around!

In the building, there are also signs that can help me if I don't see a staff member.

Leaving the Planetarium

When I've finished exploring at the planetarium and it's time for me to leave, I can go out through the same front door I used to come in. To get to the front door, I can take the stairs or elevator back to the main floor of the planetarium.

If I am in the Fulldome Theater when it's time for me to leave, staff members will show me how to get to the door on the north side of the planetarium. That door will take me right back to the parking lot and the large sundial!

Gateway Gallery

Just past the **Box Office**, I can go into the **Gateway Gallery**. This room is darker. I may hear sudden noises from the exhibits.



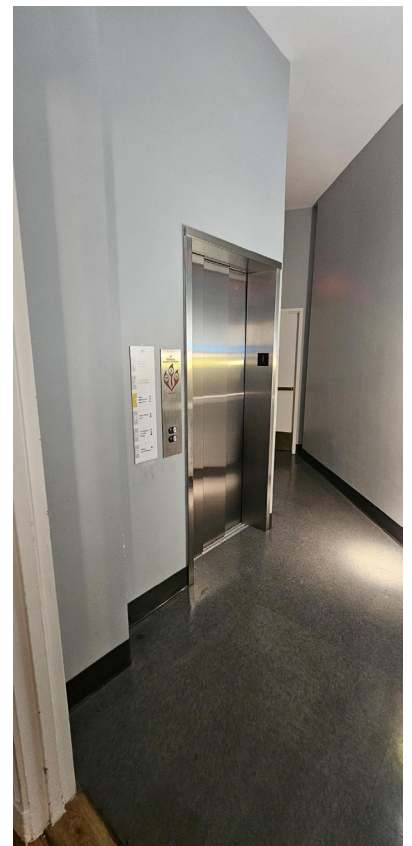
I can see exhibits about the history of the planetarium and about space exploration. Artwork is also on display.

Here, I can also find the entrance to the **Science Stage**. There is an elevator in the hallway to the left. There are two cool-down areas.

Elevator

There are different places for me to visit when I am in the planetarium. These places are on two floors of the building. I can use the stairs or the elevator to go between the two floors.

The elevator makes sounds when the doors close and when it is moving up or down. These sounds are not loud. When the elevator stops, I may feel it “bump” a little bit.



Science Stage

Here, I will get to watch **live science experiments**. It will be a fun and exciting experience where I can see science in action.

When I arrive at the Science Stage, I will find seats where I can sit comfortably. The seats are different colors. If I need help finding a seat, I can ask one of the staff members to help me.

The area will be well-lit, but not too bright. The volume of the speakers will be lower than usual to make it more comfortable for me.



DURING THE SHOW

The science experiments will be performed on a stage. I will see a presenter who will explain what they are doing. Sometimes, the presenter may ask questions or make jokes to keep things fun.

I might see bright colors, smoke, or other interesting visual effects. There will also be visuals before loud sounds happen. There will be some other sounds, but they will not be too loud.

I can cover my ears if I feel uncomfortable. I can also wear noise-canceling headphones.

If I need a break at any time, I can step away to a cool down area nearby to relax. I can come back when I feel ready.

AT THE END OF THE SHOW

At the end of the show, the presenter will say goodbye and thank everyone for watching.

Remember

It's okay to feel excited or nervous.

I can ask questions if I am curious about something. The staff members are here to help me.

I can use noise-canceling headphones if I would like to.

If I need a break, it's okay for me to take one.

Breakthrough Hub

Here, I can play science games or explore science interactives and look at exhibits about different scientific research at UNC.



This room has different flashing lights and sudden loud noises. Sometimes, it is crowded when people are looking at different exhibits or lining up to see a show.

If I need to go to the bathroom, **public restrooms** are located on this floor.

Remember

I can take breaks whenever I need to.

I can ask for help if I need it. The staff members are here to support me.

Launch Lab

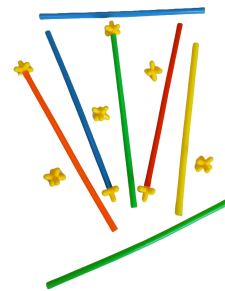
Here, I will get to use colorful plastic pieces to build things. It will be a fun and hands-on experience.

When I arrive at the Launch Lab, friendly staff members will greet me and guide me to the area where I can build things. There will be tables with the colorful plastic straws and yellow pieces on them.

The yellow pieces let me connect the straws together.

I can use them to create anything I imagine.

The room will be well-lit, and there will be plenty of space where I can move around and work on my project.



Staff members will help me if I have any questions or need assistance. Instructions will be available if I need ideas about what to build.

If I need a break, there will be a quiet area nearby where I can relax and take a moment to myself before returning to my project.

AFTER I HAVE FINISHED

When I've finished building, I can choose to share my creation with other people, or I can take a picture of it to keep as a memory.

Before I leave, I will put the building materials back where I found them. Staff members will help me put the building materials away.

Remember

The room might be a bit noisy with people talking and building. But if it gets too loud, I can use noise-canceling headphones or take a break in the quiet area.

It's okay to feel excited, creative, or even a little overwhelmed.

If I feel overwhelmed, there will be cool down kits available, with things like fidget toys, to help me feel more comfortable.

Fulldome Theater

Here, I can watch an animated show that is projected onto the ceiling. The ceiling in the Fulldome Theater is not flat, like most ceilings. It is a dome, which means it is curved. It will let me see the show above me and around me!



I will watch a show called ***Magic Tree House® Space Mission***. I will see a tree house and watch Jack and Annie go on an exciting adventure.

It will be an immersive and exciting experience.

BEFORE THE SHOW BEGINS

When I arrive at the Fulldome Theater, friendly staff members will help guide me to my seat. The seating is arranged so I can look up comfortably at the ceiling.

I will find a seat that feels comfortable. I can let a staff member know if I need help or if I would like to sit near an exit.

The theater will be dimly lit to make it easier for me to see the animation. The volume will be lower than usual to make it more comfortable for everyone.

DURING THE SHOW

The show will start when everyone is settled in their seats. I might hear some soft music or sounds before the show begins.

The animation will be shown all around me on the dome ceiling. I will see colors and movements that can be very engaging. The sounds will be part of the story, but they will not be too loud.

It's okay to feel excited, happy, or even a little overwhelmed.

If I need a break, I can cover my ears, close my eyes, or step outside for a moment. There will be a cool down area nearby where I can relax.

I can watch the show quietly. After the show, I can ask any questions I have.



AFTER THE SHOW

When the show ends, the lights will gradually come back on. The presenter will thank everyone for watching.

I can leave the theater at my own pace. If I have any questions or if I need help, the staff members will be there to assist me.

Remember

It's okay to feel different emotions.

I can take a break anytime I need to.

I can ask for help if I need it. The staff members are here to help me have a great experience at the planetarium.

If I Have Other Questions

I can contact the Planetarium with any other questions I have!

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