

Erth's Shark Dive

Visual Story



Sydney
Festival
2023

What is a Visual Story?

A Visual Story is a visual & written accessible guide to assist you with your visit.

Visual stories are used to prepare a person for and increase the predictability of a new environment or situation. This helps bring familiarity to a process and to reduce anxiety and stress.

This guide provides information on how to access the Happy Meal performance, and what to expect when you arrive and who to ask for assistance.

About Sydney Festival

Erth's Shark Dive is part of Sydney Festival 2023 program. Sydney Festival is a city-wide celebration of culture and creativity. From the streets to the beach, in stately theatres and in secret basements, it animates locations across Greater Sydney with a free and ticketed program of theatre, music, dance, visual art and live performance.

We welcome all visitors to Sydney Festival events and are committed to making the festival a safe and accessible space for everyone.

I can find out more accessibility information about Sydney Festival on the website:

www.sydneyfestival.org.au/accessibility



What to expect

The experience takes me into a metal cage where I will interact with a life-size shark puppet, it takes 20mins to see the whole exhibition.

Some things I will see and hear are:

- Low lighting and theatrical lighting effects
- Audio adventure soundtrack
- Large moving shark puppet – created to be a realist representation of a great white shark.
- Mental cage setting

I will not be permitted into the experience if I miss my booking time. This is a standing performance and is wheelchair accessible. Recommended for ages 5+.

I can learn more by looking at the website: www.sydneymfestival.org.au/events/erths-shark-dive



About Erth's Shark Dive

Come close to the Great White without getting wet at a new shark cage dive experience at the Australian Museum, created by world-renowned puppeteers, Erth.

Plunge into the world of sharks and choose your own audio adventure as you dive below the surface and come face-to-face with these majestic creatures.

The decision is yours. No diving experience needed, but keep your eyes peeled and your mind open.



About the Venue

Erth's Shark Dive will be held at the Australian Museum.

The Australian Museum is a natural science and culture institution focused on Australia and the Pacific.

I can get free general admission that includes entry to all permanent exhibitions.

The Australian Museum provides access to all areas of the Museum for people in wheelchairs and mobility scooters. There are ramps throughout the exhibitions and two lifts to take you between all floors. All doors are automatic.



When is the show on and can I book a Relaxed Session?

I can see Erth's Shark Dive from the 3rd January until the 29th January at the Australian Museum. The session times are from 10:15am until 4:15pm. The experience takes 20mins.

Every day at 4:15 pm there will be a relaxed performance.

Designed for patrons with disability and their families or anyone who may benefit from a more relaxed environment. Relaxed performances usually have slight modifications to sound and lighting, support aids and an open-door policy with a dedicated quiet area.



How to book my ticket

I can book my ticket on the Australian Museum website here: australian.museum/event/erth-shark-dive/

When I book into a session, that means I have a set time allocated to the experience. I must be on time as I can only enter during my session time.

My ticket does not include entry to the Australian Museum's [Sharks](#) exhibition.

Calendar

Select the date of your visit on the calendar below:

< January 2023 >

Day Week Month

January 2023

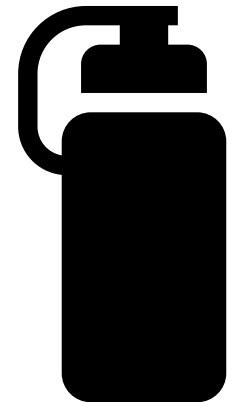
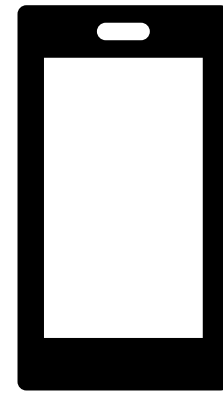
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Erth's Shark Dive	4 Erth's Shark Dive	5 Erth's Shark Dive	6 Erth's Shark Dive	7 Erth's Shark Dive
8 Erth's Shark Dive	9 Erth's Shark Dive	10 Erth's Shark Dive	11 Erth's Shark Dive	12 Erth's Shark Dive	13 Erth's Shark Dive	14 Erth's Shark Dive
15 Erth's Shark Dive	16 Erth's Shark Dive	17 Erth's Shark Dive	18 Erth's Shark Dive	19 Erth's Shark Dive	20 Erth's Shark Dive	21 Erth's Shark Dive
22 Erth's Shark Dive	23 Erth's Shark Dive	24 Erth's Shark Dive	25 Erth's Shark Dive	26 Erth's Shark Dive	27 Erth's Shark Dive	28 Erth's Shark Dive
29 Erth's Shark Dive	30	31	1	2	3	4

Things that I can bring

I can bring some things that help me feel calm and safe.

These might include:

- Noise cancelling headphones
- Sensory items
- Water bottle
- Mobile Phone/iPad

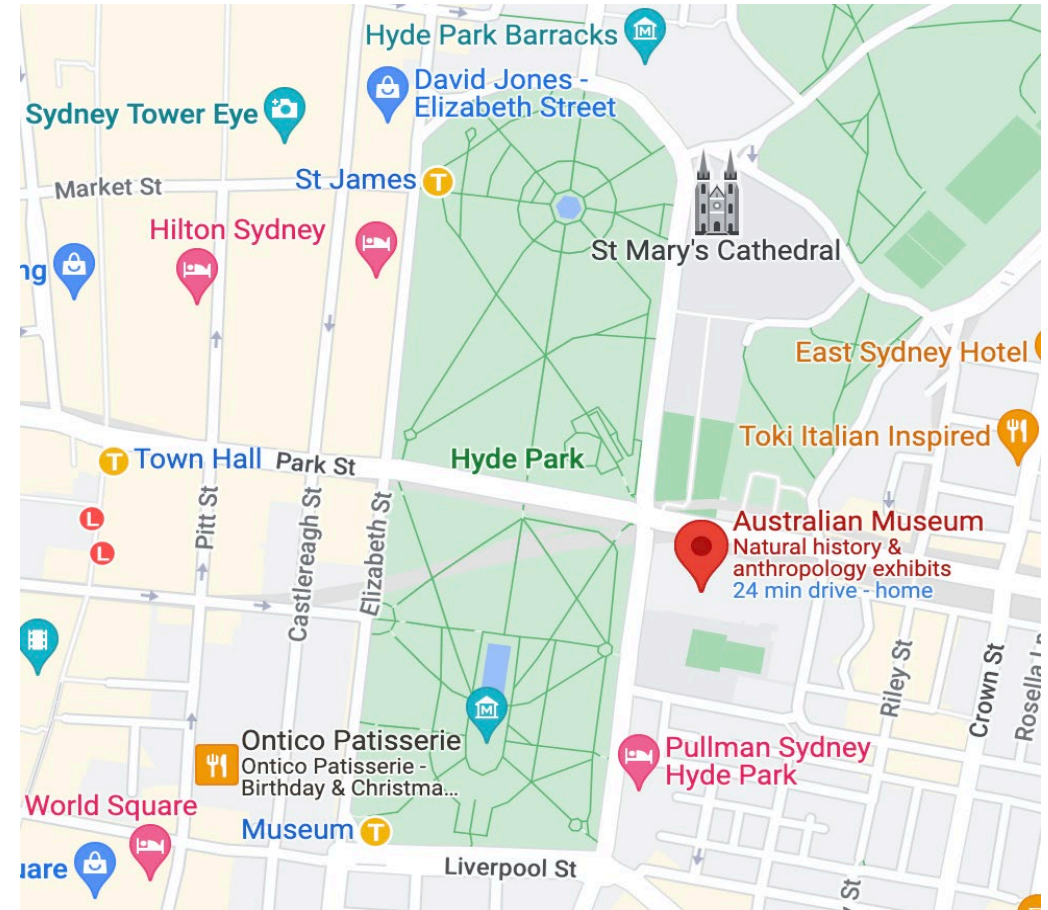


Getting there

The Australian Museum is located on the corner of College Street and William Street in central Sydney, just across the road from Hyde Park and opposite St Mary's Cathedral.

The main entrance from College Street, near the corner of William Street, is wheelchair accessible.

I can call [+61 2 93206000](tel:+61293206000) or email visit@australian.museum for more information.



Public transport/Walking/Car

Trains

The closest train stations I can walk from is St James, Museum and Town Hall. Each are of equal distance to the Australian Museum about a 7 minute walk. Wheelchair access is available at the St Mary's Cathedral pedestrian crossing if coming from St James Station, and at the corner of College and Liverpool Streets if coming from Museum Station.

Buses

I can catch a bus that arrives in the city centre close to Hyde Park or Town Hall and walk east along Park Street towards Kings Cross - a 7 to 10 minute walk.

[Sydney Trip Planner](#) helps with planning my journey to the Museum using public transport.

Car

There is currently no accessible parking available at the Australian Museum. I can park nearby in a car park or metered parking in the surrounding streets. Enacon Parking on Cathedral Street has 11 accessible spots and is a 3 minute walk to the Australian Museum. This route has no steps.

I can find more information about where to park [here](#).

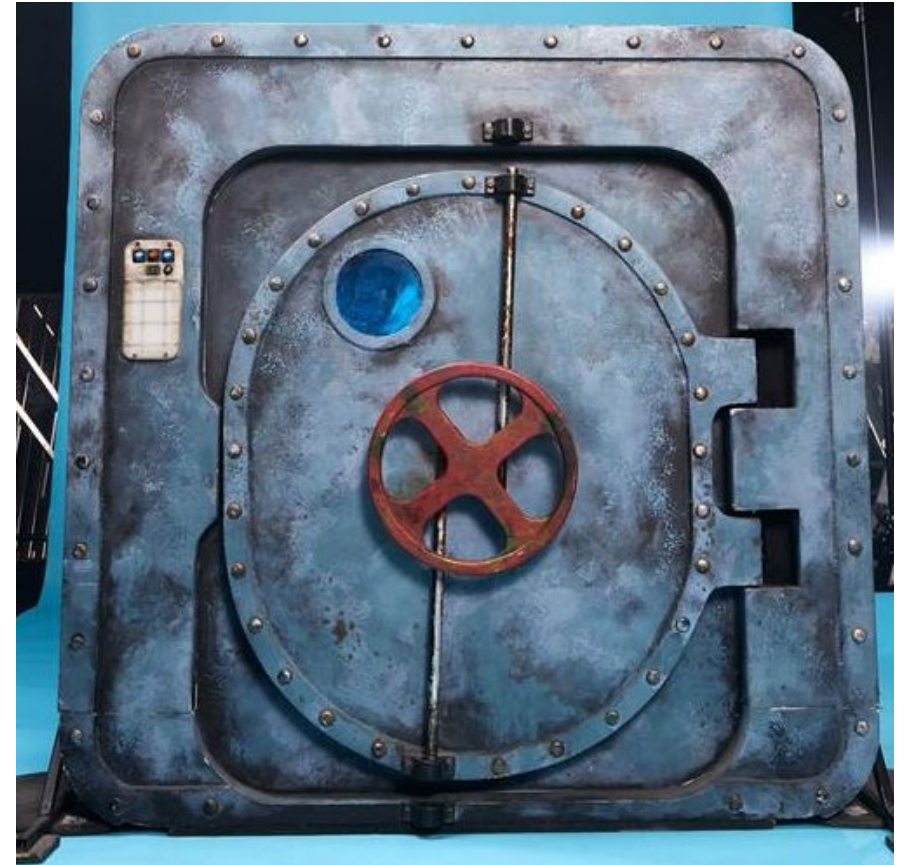
Entering the Erth Shark Dive

When it is my session time, I can line up to go in and the volunteers or museum staff can help me if I am unsure where to go.

To enter the experience, I need to go through the decompression chamber. The door to this looks like an old submarine door. The door will be opened by a performer, they will then direct me on how to enter.

The next room is a dark space that has bench seating on either side. I can sit down, and the performers will give me instructions on what to do next.

If I need an accessible entrance into the experience, I can ask one of the performers to help me.



Headphone colours

When I am in the decompression chamber, I can choose my own experience by selecting from the different coloured headphones.

If I choose the purple headphones, I can hear a more intense experience. The audio in the experience is more suspenseful and informs me about the dangerous nature of sharks.

If I choose the green headphones, I can hear a more relaxed version of the experience. The audio is softer and not as suspenseful. I can still learn about sharks from this option.

Once I have the headphones on, I will be given a cold and wet washcloth to touch to my face. This helps me to feel like I am underwater with the sharks.



Inside the experience

Before I'm ready to go into the next room, the performers will teach me some hand signals to use during the experience.

These include:

- Are you okay
- I need help
- Shark
- Sting ray

I can then walk into the cage which is large and square with metal bars. There will be other people in the cage with me, I can move around to view the sharks from different angles. I must keep my arms inside the cage, and I cannot touch the shark or other sea creatures I encounter.



Shark Puppet

During the shark dive I will be able to see different sea creatures swim around the cage. As these sea creatures are puppets, I may also see the puppeteers.

A puppeteer is a performer to who wears black clothing and controls the movements of the puppets.

The shark is suspended from wires that are connected to a device which is controlled by five different puppeteers. The shark will move around the sides of the cage as well as swimming over the top.



Exiting the experience

While the experience is on, I am not allowed to take photos. I can exit the experience if I feel unsafe by signalling the performers using the hand gestures I was taught.

Once the experience is finished, I will be let out of the cage and directed where to exit.

I will need to return my headphones to the volunteers in the green t-shirts.



Food & Drink

Billabong Waterhole 10am-4pm weekdays or 11am-4pm weekends (Level 2)

Family friendly kiosk where I can buy pre-made food like sandwiches, salads and drinks. This kiosk can't cater for dietary requirements but I can bring my own food and eat it here.

This area is very bright so I may want to wear a hat or sunglasses here. If it gets loud, I can wear my noise cancelling headphones.

No.1 William [Summer] 11.30am-2.30pm (Level 4)

The restaurant menu can be accessed [here](#). The menu features hot and cold food, such as hot chips, with table service. No BYO.

There are noises, smells and large windows with a view, it can be bright. I can look out and see the water.



Toilets

I can look for signs, the map, or ask a staff member if I need help finding a toilet.

The closest toilet to the entrance of the Australian Museum is on the ramp, behind the shop on Level G.
This is an accessible toilet.

There are toilets on every level of the Australian Museum, including a [Changing Places](#) accessible adult change facility on Level 2. I will need to ask staff to access this room.



Who will I see, and who can help me?

If I need help, I can ask an Australian Museum staff member who will be working throughout the exhibition. They will be able to provide me with information, help me if I get lost or if I need first aid.

Staff members wear a black uniform and have a name badge. I can collect a map of the Australian Museum to help me navigate and explore.

I can also read the Australian Museums Visual Story [here](#) to help me navigate the exhibitions beyond Earth's Shark Dive.



Quiet Times

The Museum opens at 9am which is generally when the Museum is at its quietest. School holidays and rainy days can be very busy.

The Australian Museum also runs a series of Early Birds Access Mornings to provide a reduced-sensory, relaxed and supportive environment. I can go along with my family and friends, and I can explore the Australian Museum before it opens to the general public at my own pace and without all the noise, crowds and other high sensory aspects of visiting a museum. I can find out more information [here](#).



Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Lanyard

Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Lanyard

- The Sunflower is a globally recognised symbol for Hidden Disabilities.
- The lanyard is a way that people with Hidden Disabilities can indicate to staff that they may need extra support, time and understanding.
- If I have a Sunflower lanyard I can bring it with me, and the Australian Museum staff are trained to recognise it.
- It is OK if I don't have a lanyard, I can still get help if I need.



Thank you for visiting



We hope you enjoy your visit to
Erth's Shark Dive as part of Sydney Festival