



Discover the Canadian Museum of Civilization!



A TWO-HOUR SELF-GUIDED EXPLORATION



Designed for the First-Time Visitor



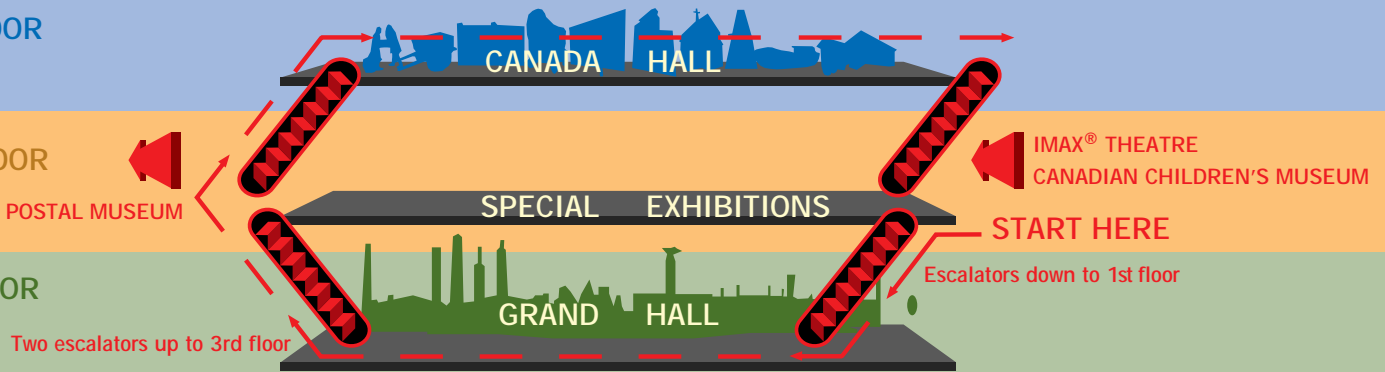
CANADIAN MUSEUM OF CIVILIZATION / MUSÉE CANADIEN DES CIVILISATIONS

EXPERIENCE THE MUSEUM IN TWO HOURS

3rd FLOOR

2nd FLOOR

1st FLOOR

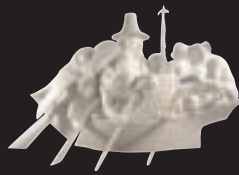


Navigational
We have provided four navigational landmarks to help

Landmarks
you chart your progress through the two main Halls.



1. Cape Mudge House Posts,
British Columbia



2. *The Spirit of
Haida Gwaii*



3. New France Square,
Quebec



4. St. Onuphrius Church,
Alberta

Getting Started

Welcome to Canada's national museum of human history and culture. Twenty-five thousand square metres of exhibition space and countless treasures ensure many hours (even days!) of exploration. But what if you only have a couple of hours? This guide provides a tour of two main exhibition galleries — the Grand Hall and the Canada Hall — with a brief look at several other museum attractions. Your exploration begins at the top of the escalator. Allow about 45 minutes for each Hall. Your remaining 30 minutes? See the Guide's back panel for some tempting suggestions. Questions? Ask a red-vested member of the Museum's hosting staff — they're always happy to help!

The Adventure Begins . . .

From the top of the escalator, enjoy a panoramic view of the Grand Hall, which celebrates Canada's West Coast Native peoples — past and present — and explores their unique relationship to the land and to the sea. Traditional stories tell of Raven, a supernatural being who released light into the world. Raven's image, marked by a long beak and wings, can be found throughout the Hall, from the smallest artifacts to soaring totem poles. The graceful curves on the ceiling represent the outlines of Raven's canoe; the granite floor, the sea.

THE GRAND HALL— A CULTURAL JOURNEY



Raven Bringing Light to the World
by Robert Davidson

The Grand Hall

At the bottom of the escalator, look back and see the golden Haida sculpture of *Raven Bringing Light to the World* on the wall behind you.

Stand beneath the Cape Mudge House Posts (*along the window*) and notice the varied architectural styles of the six houses representing different Aboriginal cultures of the Pacific Coast. (As you move away from the escalators and through the Grand Hall,

you are moving “northward” along the British Columbia coast.)

Before you enter **House #1** (*Coastal Salish*), pass by a tidal pool and see the long kelp tubes which were harvested and used for storing fish oil.

Notice the whaling floats and harpoons in **House #2** (*Nuu-Chah-Nulth*).

Enter **House #3** (*Central Coast*) and explore the history of the potlatch. Learn how Native peoples have held onto their



Central Coast home interior,
1930s

Photo: Hans Blömm

values and traditions in the face of misunderstandings and opposition.

In **House #4** (*Nuxalk*), see how the masks are used in ceremonial dances.

In **House #5** (*Haida*), enjoy the art and tradition of carving. Don't forget to glance up at the smokehole for an additional carving.

By the back corridor, enter **House #6** (*North Coast*) and examine examples of “bentwood” boxes.



Bentwood box



The Spirit of Haida Gwaii by Bill Reid

Exit House #6 (*turn right*) to explore the replica of an archaeological dig.

Finally, enjoy Bill Reid's imposing sculpture, *The Spirit of Haida Gwaii*.

Now proceed up two escalators to the third floor, while viewing the spectacular copper-roofed *Parliament buildings* outside and Alex Janvier's magnificent painting, *Morning Star*, above you.

THE CANADA HALL — A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME (A.D. 1000 to 2000)

ENTER THE
CANADA HALL
HERE



TOUR ENDS HERE

Canada Hall — Getting Started

For the next 45 minutes, you will move across Canada from east to west and forward through 1,000 years of history! Experience how the dream of Canada expanded westward, and how we have marshalled our country's vast natural resources to build our homeland. Witness the flourishing of the Canadian cultural mosaic as we trek from the East Coast towards British Columbia and the North.

Whaling Station



New France Square

Watch for costumed "characters" who may emerge from an exhibit and start to chat. Ask them questions!

Our adventure begins in A.D. 1000. Step onto the rocky shores of Newfoundland with the **Vikings**. Walk into the darkness of the New World and emerge at a sixteenth-century **whaling station**, where you will learn how great hunks of blubber were transformed into oil worth a small fortune on the European market.

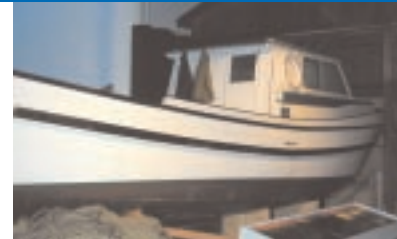
Enter **New France** and an eighteenth-century town square.

Rest at the Inn and on the table outside examine what people were eating in the 1700s.

Pass through a nineteenth-century Ottawa Valley **lumber camp** and learn about the rough lives of the Scots, Irish and Frenchmen who felled the massive trees which were used to build great ships of commerce and war.

Stroll into **Ontario Street** and observe what Canadians were buying in the late 1800s. Tea at the merchant's house?

Ontario Street



Nishga Girl fishing boat

(You are now halfway through the Hall.)

Roll into the twentieth century by rail. Explore a Saskatchewan **grain elevator** and relive the 1939 Royal Visit. Walk through **multicultural Winnipeg, Manitoba** with its book and music store, print shop, union hall and Chinese laundry. Look skyward and scan the horizon for an **oil derrick**.

Keep moving forward, and when you spy the **Nishga Girl fishing boat** in coastal British Columbia, the tour is almost over. Take a load off your feet at the Northwest Territories' **Wildcat Café**.



Canadian Children's Museum



Canadian Postal Museum

With your remaining 30 minutes

Select from among the following according to your interests:

Canadian Children's Museum:

Especially for families or the young at heart. Experience an interactive intercultural adventure — beginning with a ride on a fancifully-decorated Pakistani bus!

Canadian Postal Museum

Learn how our postal heritage has mirrored the development of Canada.

Special Exhibitions (*main Level*)

Ask at the Information Desk about our continually-changing temporary exhibitions

Outdoors

During the summer, cool off near the fountains cascading outside the Grand Hall, or stroll through the Japanese Zen Garden.

Have an extra hour?

Treat yourself to a film projected onto a giant 23-metre screen in our IMAX® Theatre. (*There is a 15-minute wait for tickets and shows last about 45 minutes. Separate admission fee.*)



Main Entrance

About the Canadian Museum of Civilization

Envisioned as a bridge linking our cultural past, present and future, the Canadian Museum of Civilization opened in 1989. The stunning design is a reflection of the Native-Canadian ancestry of its architect Douglas Cardinal, who sought to symbolically re-create the geological birth of Canada. The sweeping white curves of Alberta limestone represent Cardinal's vision of the Canadian Shield — the swath of ancient rock extending from the Arctic to the Great Lakes, worn smooth by the elements. There are even fossils to find in the limestone blocks! As you walk away from the main entrance, can you see the eyes and mouth of the great stone mask you have just stepped through?

Photography: Canadian Museum of Civilization, Steven Darby, Harry Foster



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