

Let's Go! Museums in "The Big Apple"

From the Experts at Lighthouse International



LIGHTHOUSE
INTERNATIONAL

New York City — “The Big Apple” — where Lighthouse International has been headquartered for over 105 years, is home to some of the world’s most famous cultural institutions, including the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the American Museum of Natural History. They offer a range of accessibility features, making it easier than ever for people with vision loss to enjoy the many vibrant experiences these world-class museums offer. So **let’s go!**

VISION-FRIENDLY FEATURES

Audio Guides

Audio guides facilitate self-guided exhibit tours for everyone. In many museums, they’re free with admission for people who are visually impaired.

Verbal Description/Verbal Imaging

A specially trained museum guide will lead you through selected sections of the museum and provide vividly detailed verbal descriptions of featured pieces. Guides discuss each piece as a whole; as well as specifics, including media, textures, styles, subject matter and techniques. These descriptions augment any remaining vision you may have — and help provide an enriched museum experience for everyone who is partially sighted or blind.

Touch Tours

A touch tour provides you with unique, hands-on experiences few other people get to enjoy. You can feel selected pieces, such as sculptures, artifacts or artistic reproductions to gain a deeper understanding of their size, texture, weight, etc.

Print Access

Some museums have large-print and/or braille decals next to standard-size labels that identify a work of art; and large-print and/or braille exhibit guides, which you can usually request at the visitor's desk. Call or go online in advance to find out what your options are.

We've summarized the accessibility features each museum listed below offers, but we encourage you to contact them directly for details.

WHERE TO GO

- **American Folk Art Museum**

45 West 53rd St (between 5th and 6th Avenues)

New York, NY 10019

Tel: (212) 265-1040, ext. 381

E-mail: grouptours@folkartmuseum.org

Web: www.folkartmuseum.org/accessibility

Museum provides verbal description and touch tours upon request with one month's advance notice.

- **American Museum of Natural History**

79th Street and Central Park West

New York, NY 10024

Tel: (212) 313-7565

Web: www.amnh.org/museum/welcome/accessibility/index.html

Several of the museum's permanent halls have touchable exhibits; for example, the Gottesman Hall of Planet Earth features many touchable rock specimens. The museum has a monthly verbal description and touch tour called "Science Sense," which is free with admission to the museum. Individual tours are also available by appointment.

- **Brooklyn Museum**

200 Eastern Parkway

Brooklyn, NY 11238

Tel: (718) 501-6225

E-mail: access@brooklynmuseum.org

Web: www.brooklynmuseum.org/visit/access.php

You can touch the Rodins here! The museum offers touch tours with verbal description to both individual visitors and groups, by appointment.

- **Cloisters Museums and Gardens**

99 Margaret Corbin Drive

New York NY 10040

Tel: (212) 923-3700

Web: www.metmuseum.org/cloisters/accessibility

A division of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Cloisters focus on the art and architecture of Medieval Europe. The museum provides free audio guides, along with transcripts in regular and large print. Guided touch tours are available by appointment for both individuals and groups.

• **Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, Smithsonian Institute**

2 East 91st Street (at Fifth Avenue)

New York, NY 10128

Tel: (212) 849-8365

Web: www.cooperhewitt.org/access/

Verbal description and touch tours are available by appointment with two-three weeks advance notice. Large-print versions of the exhibition labels are available upon request from the admission desk.

• **The Frick Collection**

1 East 70th St (at 5th Ave)

New York, NY 10021

Tel: (212) 288-0700

Web: www.frick.org/information/access.htm

Museum offers the free "Aucoustiguide Audio Tour," an audio guide that provides up to three hours of recorded information about the pieces on display.

• **Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum**

1071 Fifth Ave (at East 88th Street)

New York, NY 10128

Tel: (212) 360-4355

E-mail: access@guggenheim.org

Web: www.guggenheim.org/new-york/visit/visitors-with-disabilities/minds-eye-tours

The Guggenheim's "Mind's Eye" tour program offers free verbal description and touch tours on a pre-scheduled monthly basis. Tours usually take place on Monday evenings, and require registration via e-mail or phone.

• **Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum**

Pier 86, West 46th Street and 12th Avenue

New York, NY 10036

Tel: (646) 381-5163

E-mail: access@intrepidmuseum.org

Web: www.intrepidmuseum.org/access.aspx

Trained museum educators lead small visitor groups on pre-scheduled verbal description and touch tours through the USS Intrepid, a WW II-era aircraft carrier. You can explore the aircraft collection, and the ways in which sailors adapted to living at sea. Tours are free, but registration is required.

• **The Jewish Museum**

1109 Fifth Avenue (at East 92nd Street)

New York NY 10128

Tel: (212) 423-3225

E-mail: access@thejm.org

Web: www.thejewishmuseum.org/AccessPrograms

The museum offers verbal description and touch tours monthly, by appointment. In addition, exhibit information is available in large print binders, as well as in a braille book entitled, **Culture and Continuity: The Jewish Journey**, which showcases the museum's permanent collection.

• **Metropolitan Museum of Art**

1000 Fifth Avenue (at East 82nd Street)

New York, NY 10028

Tel: (212) 650-2010

E-mail: access@metmuseum.org.

Web: www.metmuseum.org/events/visitorsdisabilities/blind

Among the many accessibility features offered are large-print labels, audio guides, self- or professionally-guided touch tours, and verbal

description tours. Call ahead for a private tour or for the dates of upcoming scheduled tours. The museum also has special exhibits for children who are visually impaired. All programs are free.

• **Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden**

421 East 61st Street (between First and York Avenues)

New York, NY 10065

Tel: (212) 838-6878

Web: www.mvhm.org/pages/visit/visit-us.htm

Constructed in 1799, and converted into a hotel in 1826, the Mount Vernon Hotel Museum today is a landmark building with eight period rooms that represent the life of once-rural mid-Manhattan. Verbal description and touch tours are available any time during museum hours; no pre-arrangement is necessary.

• **Museum of the City of New York**

1220 Fifth Avenue (at East 103rd Street)

New York, NY 10029

Tel: (212) 534-1672 ext. 3393

E-mail: info@mcny.org

Web: www.mcny.org/visit-the-museum/

The museum provides verbal description tours, upon request, for both individual visitors and groups, with a minimum of one week's advance notice. Tours are free with museum admission.

• **Museum of Modern Art**

11 West 53rd Street

New York, NY 10019

Tel: (212) 408-6347

E-mail: accessprograms@moma.org

Web: www.moma.org/learn/disabilities/sight

The museum's "Art inSight" program provides verbal description by lecturers monthly, and via audio guides at all times. Touch tours are also available by appointment for both individuals and groups.

• **New York Historical Society**

170 Central Park West (between 76th & 77th St)

New York, NY 10024

Tel: (212) 485-9232

Web: www.nyhistory.org

Groups or individuals can schedule a verbal description tour with advance notice. Exhibition labels in large print are available and can be picked up at the gallery entrance. Select exhibits have audio guides as well.

• **Queens Museum of Art**

New York City Building

Flushing Meadows Corona Park, NY 11368

Tel: (718) 592-9700 ext.136 or 138

E-mail: access@queensmuseum.org

Web: www.queensmuseum.org/events/special-needs

"ArtAccess" programs include verbal description tours of the museum's permanent fixtures, "Panorama of the City of New York" and "The Neustadt Collection of Tiffany Glass." You can also attend Access Open Houses, which feature verbal descriptions and opportunities for touch exploration, and even photography classes for people with vision impairment.

• **Rubin Museum of Art**

150 West 17th Street (between 6th and 7th Avenues)

New York, NY 10011

Tel: (212) 620-5000 ext. 345

E-mail: reservations@rmanyc.org.

Web: www.rmanyc.org/accessibility

The museum offers one-hour verbal description tours for its primary exhibit on the life and culture of the Himalayans, with at least two weeks' advance notice. Touch tours are also regularly scheduled every second Thursday of the month, and by appointment for groups or individuals. Tours are free with museum admission.

• **Tenement Museum**

108 Orchard Street (at Delancey Street)

New York, NY 10002

Tel: (212) 431-0233

E-mail: lestm@tenement.org

Web: www.tenement.org/vizinfo_ada.html

Step back into the life of a 19th-century immigrant living in a tenement on New York's Lower East Side. Groups of five or more can arrange touch and verbal description tours for the "Getting By" and "Piecing It Together" tours. Individual tours are also available by appointment.

• **Whitney Museum of American Art**

945 Madison Ave (at East 75th Street)

New York, NY 10021

Tel: (212) 570-7789

E-mail: accessfeedback@whitney.org

Web: www.whitney.org/Education/Access/BlindServices

The museum's one-hour verbal description tours offer access to its collection of 20th and 21st century American art. Tours must be scheduled three weeks in advance; and participants must be age 15 and older.

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Lighthouse International is dedicated to fighting vision loss through prevention, treatment and empowerment.

For products that make life easier for people with vision loss, visit **shop.lighthouse.org**.

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