

# Our visit to the...



*City of*  
**Tampa**  
*Florida*



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**HENRY B. PLANT**

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**M U S E U M**

# Notes to Caregivers/Teachers:

*The following narrative is intended to be reviewed at home or school prior to your visit to the Museum.*

*It can help individuals with sensory or developmental differences, and/or anxiety, prepare by summarizing the experience and outlining expectations for behavior and etiquette.*

- Soft classical music is usually playing throughout the building.
- There may be shifts from brightly lit to darker areas.
- Several rooms have floor registers for the air conditioning and heating system. The air may be forceful, and you may want to be watchful of children who might find it stimulating.
- If there is a rope across the gift shop, it means there is no one available to staff the shop at that time. You may want to ask prior to beginning the tour if the shop will be open while your group is there, or not.
- If you care for individuals who are fascinated by fire alarms or extinguishers, please note there are several throughout the Museum. The fire alarms have been known to be activated unexpectedly by smoke alarms in other locations. If this happens, the horn and flashers will be very loud and bright. These are usually posted at emergency exit locations.
- On guided tours with multiple groups touring the Museum at the same time, there may be a delay in transitioning from one room to the next. Students may need to wait just a few minutes until the next room is available.
- There is no food or drink permitted in the Museum.
- There are a limited number of sensory-regulating items for check out at the front desk, by request.

# THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA

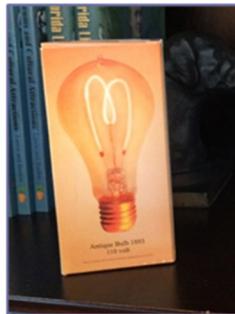
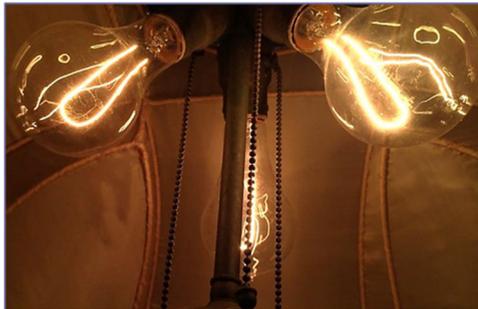


We are going to the Henry B. Plant Museum at the University of Tampa. I may be here with my school for a field trip, or with my family for a visit. After arriving at UT, we will look for the sign for the Museum.

The entrance is up these steps.



There will be a nice person at the desk who will greet us.  
When I walk in I will hear soft classical music throughout the Museum.  
The lights will be dim, with lots of sunlight through the windows.



Why is it so dark in the Museum?

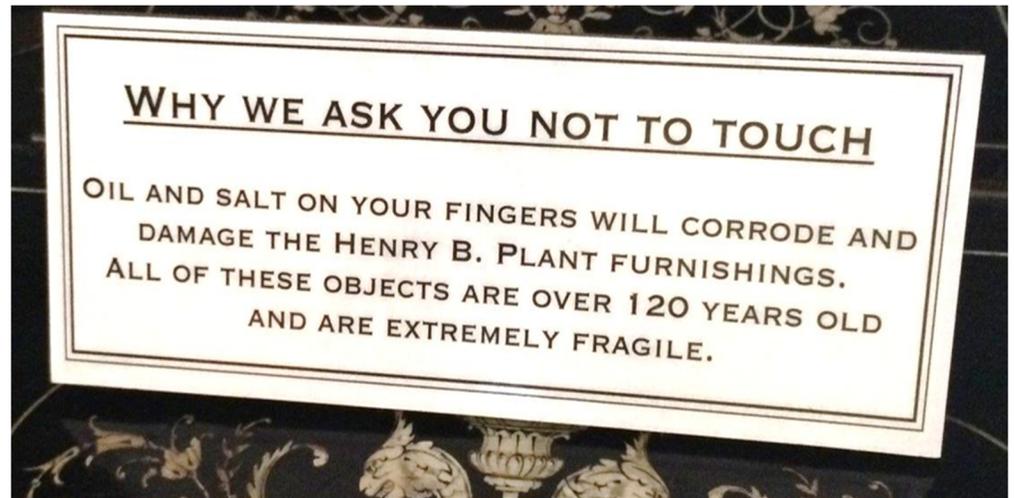
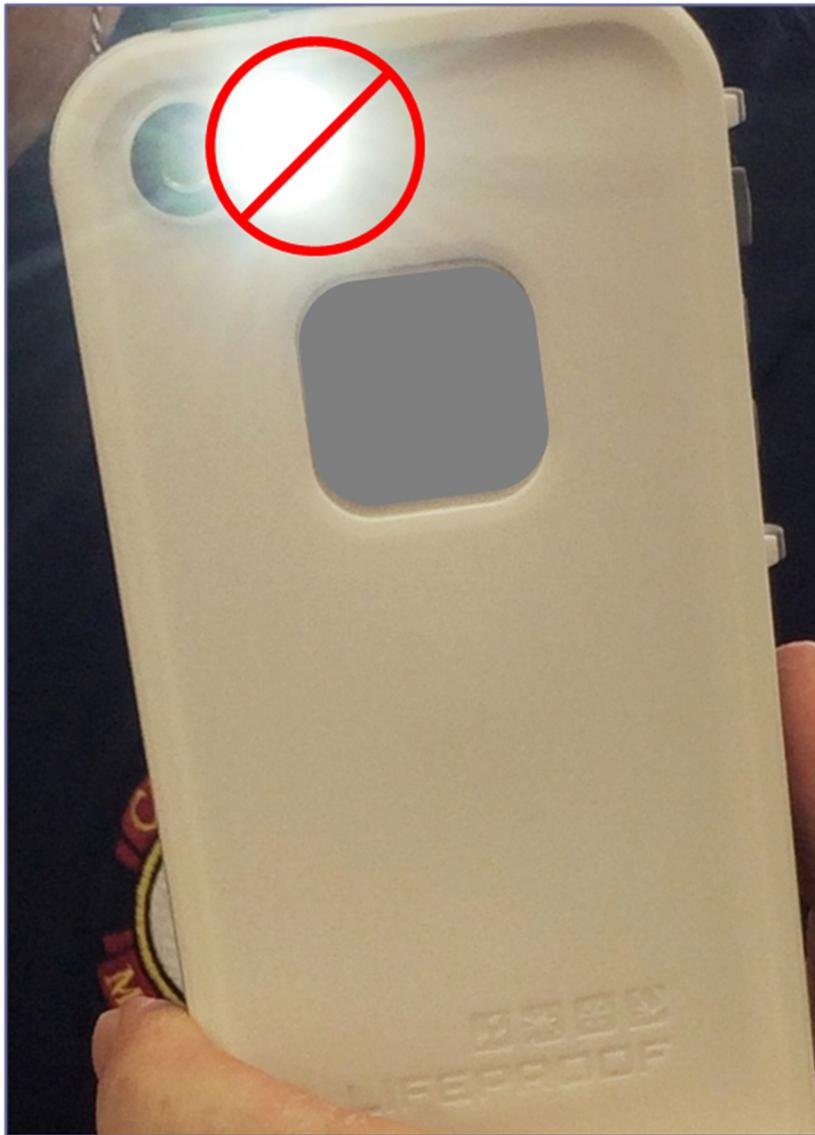
Low lights keep colors bright, and the bulbs are the same kind that were used a very long time ago.



In the lobby there is a bench to sit on if I need to wait a minute or rest. Throughout the Museum, we will see old- fashioned furniture and things. Sometimes we will see chairs that we are NOT allowed to sit on. They will have ropes over the seats to remind us “no sitting here.” But any seats without ropes are OK to sit on.



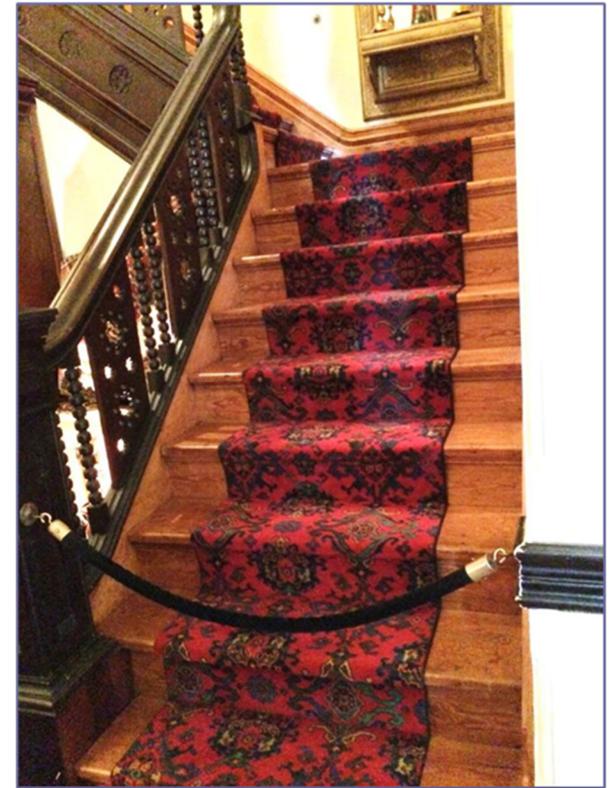
In museums, the people who guide groups through the displays are called “docents”. If our group has a docent, he or she will show us where to go, and explain what we will see in each room. If we want to walk around on our own, we may use a smartphone with a camera to scan the QR code outside the Museum front doors, or inside the Museum lobby. An audio tour will load on the phone. When we see small square signs with red numbers around the Museum, we can use the audio tour menu to hear information about the items on display.



Taking pictures is OK, but I need to turn off the flash. The light from flash fades colors in fabrics and paintings. I will also not touch anything unless the docent tells me that it is allowed. We want to do our best to protect the delicate objects in the Museum!



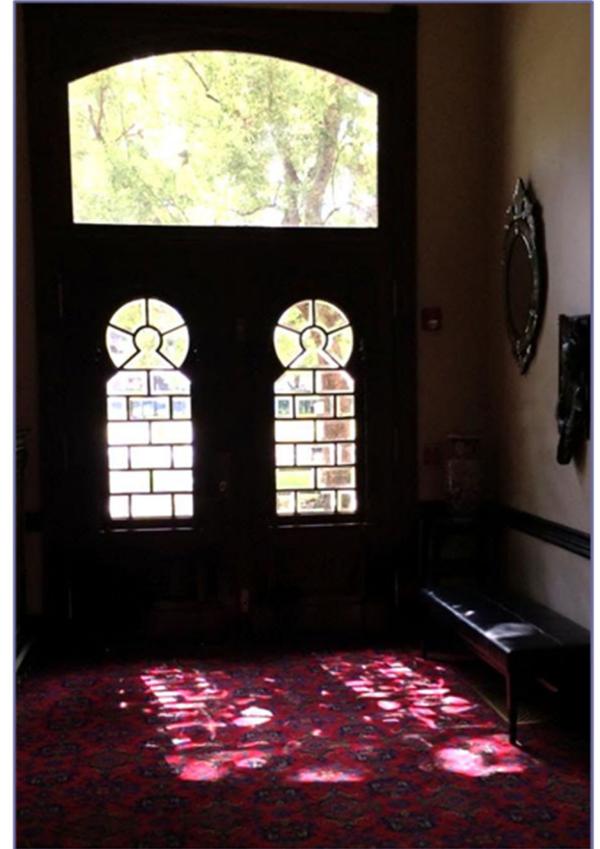
These areas are OK to touch. I can hold the old-fashioned telephone up to my ear, and I will hear popular music from the time when the Museum was a hotel!  
I can also flip through this old photo book.



Some rooms are blocked off by ropes to keep them protected. Other rooms are used for offices by people who work at the Museum. I will stay in areas that are part of the Museum exhibits, and keep my hands on my side of the ropes.



One room has stuffed animals on the walls. There is a stuffed bobcat on a chair.  
The animals are not alive and they will not move.



We will enter and exit the Museum only through the lobby, except in an emergency. We will not open any of these doors unless we are given instructions to open them.



When we are all through with our visit to the Henry B. Plant Museum, it will be time to go.

If the gift shop is open, we might stop by on our way out. There are items for sale in here that are fragile and can break, so I will be careful in the gift shop. Or, we might skip the gift shop today.

We will say goodbye and thank you to the nice people at the Museum.

I will follow instructions for going outside to the bus or car.

I learned a lot about life in Tampa many years ago!



THE UNIVERSITY  
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