



EXPLORE  
EXPERIENCE  
EDUCATE  
ENJOY

Welcome School Adventurers!

You are about to embark upon a new journey in the Texas Hill Country that we believe will be an amazing experience. Explore, experience, enjoy and get educated about the wonders of nature and history at the Bandera Natural History Museum.

Inside the Museum, the International Hall has many exciting items, including our icon "Twiga," a 17-foot Masai giraffe. You will also see a life-size triceratops skeletal reproduction that was created by moviemaker 20th Century Fox and used in the film *Night at the Museum*. There is a flying Quetzalcoatlus, a life-size replica of an ice-age reptile, with a 36-foot wingspan. The Museum Collection includes unique art pieces and collections from around the world. There are six hand-painted dioramas in The Trail of Habitats, that help depict the Museum's exhibits in their natural surroundings, which allow guests to get a sense of how these animals live in the wild. Simba's Den is an area used for guest speakers and to show educational films on wildlife, their habitats and conservation.

There is a gift shop with many interesting items to help remember your visit, plus the Twiga Café with drink and snack vending machines along with an outside patio with picnic benches. If your schedule allows, you are welcome to bring food or sack lunches.

Outside there's even more! Sixteen life-size dinosaurs and ice age mammals made by the same company that created the Jurassic Park reproduction are on the grounds. A paved trail around the dinosaurs allows for easy access for wheel chairs and strollers. There are also four areas that encourage additional learning through hands-on activities. Children can search for dinosaur bones in sand pits and piece them together to complete the skeletons.

Our staff is knowledgeable and will enhance your Museum visit. Let us know if there is an area your class is studying that we should emphasize and incorporate into your tour.

To make a reservation and assure your desired date, please contact Dr. Maggie Schumacher, Director of Operations, at (830) 328-5090 or at [mjschumacher@banderanhm.org](mailto:mjschumacher@banderanhm.org).

A VISIT CAN YIELD A LIFETIME OF INTEREST



Located in Bandera, Texas, the museum is renowned for its large array of historical artifacts and nature-related exhibits. Over 100 animals are showcased in several large dioramas depicting the habitats in which they live. Art work from around the world, as well as life-size dinosaur replicas, make this eight-acre destination fun and educational for people of all ages.

# Bandera Natural History Museum

School Information Packet

267 Old San Antonio Hwy  
Bandera, TX 78003  
(830) 328-5090

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Passport to learning:

EXPLORE EXPERIENCE EDUCATE ENJOY



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## MUSEUM HISTORY

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The Bandera Natural History Museum began with Juan Carlos Infante's vision to create a place for all people, regardless of age or special needs, to experience and learn about the world's amazing wildlife. A Board of Directors was formed in 2011 with the mission of establishing and operating a museum for educational and charitable purposes in the name of Bandera Exotic Wildlife Museum. By early 2015, property had been acquired within the city of Bandera and construction began for 14,000 sq. ft. building. In that same year, the Board changed its name from Bandera Exotic Wildlife Museum to Bandera National History Museum to more accurately reflect the broader scope of our display and our education mission. The museum is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes and is a nonprofit business with 501(c)(3) status.

Sixteen life size reproductions of dinosaurs and ice age animals and four educational play stations, made by the same company that made the Jurassic Park reproductions, were placed on the grounds of the Museum. The Texas Hill Country Master Naturalist Chapter has accepted our grounds as an official project and has started planting native plants that will attract butterflies and birds. An International Hall, six dioramas painted by university trained artists from Mexico City, conference room, a multi-purpose room for programs and educational seminars, museum shop and cafe are housed within the building.

The Museum Collection includes: a special collection of full body animal mounts and numerous unique art pieces such as a collection of ceremonial masks from Latin America, a 2,000 pound jade tiger from Taiwan, a 50 ft. Bas Relief wall mural depicting 500 million years of life from the Precambrian period to the present, an Italian Bronze casting and a collection of Isaac Carrasco wood carvings. Music composed for the Museum enhances the experience as visitors move from the International Hall through the dioramas representing six regions of the world. Visitors may access a zoological tour on our webpage to learn details about each animal. We also offer our Sensory Safari Program for sight challenged groups. The facility opened on June 18, 2016.

# MUSEUM GENERAL INFORMATION

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## DAYS AND HOURS OF OPERATION:

The museum is open Wednesday—Saturday 10a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday 12 a.m. – 5 p.m. Please check the website, [www.banderanhm.org](http://www.banderanhm.org) for holiday hours.

## WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THE MUSEUM:

- Dinosaurs (life size) on outside walking trails
- Bone digging play stations to complete dinosaur skeleton
- Pollinator Garden
- International Hall depicting:
  - 17 foot Masai giraffe (Twiga in Swahili) and our icon
  - Isaac Carrasco wood carving collection of wild animals both common and endangered species of many continents
  - Jade tiger—2,000 pounds
  - Latin American masks traditionally and historically used for tribal rituals almost unequivocally represented native animals associated to the specific purpose of the ritual being conducted; each mask in this collection graphically underlines the supernatural bonding between man, spirit and animals
  - Triceratops dinosaur skeleton reproduction from 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox used in movie—*Night at The Museum*
  - Solid ironwood trunk carving by Jabulani Sibandu, Zimbabwe Master Carver, called *Uncertain Outcome*—You must see it to appreciate it.
  - *Leopard and Nyala* by Mario Aguillar Reed, Master Sculptor/Taxidermist from Mexico
  - Various full body mounts of lion, wolf, Grizzly bear, kangaroo, etc.
  - Mural representing an incredible graphical sequence of life on our planet earth by artist Jose Edid covering a span of about 500 million years beginning with the most basic single cell ocean dwellers to Jurassic Period dinosaurs, ice age mammals, and finally contemporary modern mammals
  - Facsimile of art carved elephant tusks through Asian techniques based upon carving of large camel bones utilizing similar techniques to the ones used on carving elephant ivory --See this amazing carving that is very much like the fantastic and very elaborated ivory pieces since immemorial times as symbols of wealth and power African artifact exhibit including weaponry and musical instruments
- Trail of Habitats—Six dioramas used to inspire wonder about wildlife, their habits and their habitats through hand painted backgrounds with flora, fauna and full mounted animals indicative of the area:

<b><i>The Savannah</i></b>	<b><i>Mount Kilimanjaro</i></b>	<b><i>The Swamp</i></b>
<b><i>Sunshine in the Forest</i></b>	<b><i>Arctic Tundra</i></b>	<b><i>Mountains of the World</i></b>
- Sensory Safari for sight-challenged groups with special needs to experience animals through touch, sound, and sight

## GROUP AND SCHOOL FIELD TRIP RATES AND PREFERRED DAYS

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<b>Rates:</b>	<b><u>Regular</u></b>	<b><u>Group</u></b>	<b><u>Student Field Trips</u></b>
Ages 13 & Over	\$10	\$8	*\$5
Ages 4-12	\$6	\$5	*\$5
Under 3	Free	Free	N/A

Group Rates have a minimum of 15 persons and must make prior arrangements by contacting **Maggie Schumacher, Director of Operations, at (830) 328-5090.**

### STUDENT FIELD TRIPS

1. There is a guide provided for inside tour, shelf-guided tour through Dinosaur Park.
2. The Museum offers a SCHOOL GROUP admission price for students – public; private; religious. Daycare and preschool teacher/chaperone ratios will be prearranged.
3. Teachers are free, including bus drivers, and teacher-assigned chaperones. Additional adults and children will be charged the regular admission price.
4. \*Should your public school qualify for FEDERAL TITLE 1 funds of 40% or above, the student rate is \$2 rather than \$5; however, either a letter or the completed, enclosed TITLE 1 Form on school letterhead, signed by a school administrator, must be presented with the appropriate payment.
5. Payment may be made with a school credit card or school/school district check. Payment can be made prior to students entering the Museum as long as there is a firm count of attendees two days in advance to assure adequate guides.
6. The Museum provides an interactive tour through your mobile device.

### PREFERRED DAYS FOR FIELD TRIPS

Wednesday through Friday                      10am – 1pm

## SINGLE OR MULTIPLE CLASSES OF SAME GRADE GUIDELINES

- A 2-hour maximum visit is typical. The Director of Operations will advise regarding proper length of time for your students.
- 10 minutes typically allows to gather groups, review rules and bathroom breaks.
- 50-minute guided tour.
- SHOULD YOU TOUR DIGITALLY: You can use the Zoological Tour in which you may touch the particular animal on the screen for additional information.
- 1-hour of free time to wander the grounds, explore the dinosaurs, and have lunch, if appropriate.
- Should you have special circumstances, multiple classes, or a larger group attending at one time, please discuss this with Director of Operations, **Maggie Schumacher, (830) 328-5090**.

## RULES

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APPLICABLE RULES FOR ALL ATTENDEES: IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT TEACHERS AND OTHER ADULTS INVOLVED PLEASE ADDRESS THESE RULES BEFORE ARRIVING AT THE MUSEUM.

1. Children under 12 years old must be accompanied by an adult at all times.
2. NO RUNNING OR SHOUTING. Please enter the Museum building with an attitude of education, enjoyment, and respect.
3. Silence cell phones.
4. No flash when picture taking in the International Hall and Trail of Habitats.
5. Please do not touch animals, any part of the dioramas, exhibits, sculptures, or collections. Hand oils will damage the exhibits.
6. Do not lean, hang, swing on, or go under railings that protect the exhibits.
7. The Twiga Café provides vending machines for coffee, hot chocolate, drinks and snacks. At this time, there is no provision for lunches; however, school groups will be allowed to bring in lunches, ice chests or coolers for their classes attending the museum during lunchtime. Use the Twiga Café and the outdoor deck just outside the Café.
8. No food or drink is allowed in the Museum building, except for the Twiga Café. Please dispose of food items before entering the Hall and Trail of Habitats.
9. Strollers and wheelchairs are welcome both on the grounds and in the building.
10. Visitors will walk through the Gift Shop when going to the International Hall and restrooms. It is suggested that if a school group is attending, there be no shopping or make sure everyone has some money. We have items priced minimally and above.
11. The Museum complies with all Federal and State laws concerning service animals. Emotional and companion animals are allowed outside as long as they are on a leash.
12. Please check large bags and backpacks with the staff at the cashier.
13. If parents who are not a designated chaperone attend, please allow you child to be with the student group so they may hear the guide's information.

# TITLE 1 FORM FOR DISCOUNTED RATE

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Please copy this onto official letterhead

Dear Bandera Natural History Museum Director,

Our \_\_\_\_\_ Independent School District  
(School District/Campus Name)

is currently recognized and funded by federal Title 1 statute and we want to be so classified to obtain your Title 1, \$2 student rate as described in the Packet, Rules of 40% or above for \_\_\_\_\_ current school year.  
(Year Period i.e. 2018-2019)

Following are specific percentage rates per overall and specific grade level:

Pre-K and Elementary percentage \_\_\_\_\_  
Middle School percentage \_\_\_\_\_  
High School percentage \_\_\_\_\_

If we have multiple schools (i.e. elementary) that have a specific different percentage, attached is a list of those appropriate schools so that our teachers can plan the field trip without hassle.

I understand that as a business office administrator, a check, credit card or EFT will accompany this form.

Respectfully,

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature) Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed Name & Title)