


Self-Guided Museum Tour

Explore big stuff from the Museum's Permanent Collection in this self-guided tour. Download a copy and bring it with you to the Museum for a quick and targeted history lesson.



1
**Space Capsule
 Command Training Module
 Outside, In Front of Museum**

This 10,000 pound capsule, used for Apollo astronaut ocean recovery training, was lost at sea off the coast of England during a 1969 exercise. It was recovered, returned to the US, and in 1976 brought to Grand Rapids. Hundreds of items were placed inside the capsule to commemorate the nation's Bicentennial that year. It is scheduled to be opened in 2076.




5
**City Hall Tower Clock
 3rd Floor**

This clock's impressive eight-foot diameter dial graced the top of the 160 ft. tower at Grand Rapids' first city hall. Back in the day, people throughout the city set their watches by this massive timepiece.



6
**Driggs Skylark Biplane
 3rd Floor Galleria**

The bright yellow plane overhead is one of only twenty-one Driggs Skylark Biplanes ever produced by the Lansing, MI company. It has a 28 ft. wing span.



2
**Fin Whale Skeleton
 1st Floor**

Look up! Above you is a 76-foot long skeleton of a fin whale. Second in length to the blue whale, scientists estimate that fin whales can weigh as much as 90 tons or 180,000 lbs.




4
**Michigan Topographical Map
 3rd Floor stair landing**

This large wooden map depicting Michigan's natural features was hand-carved by unemployed furniture workers during the Great Depression. The men were hired under a federal program called the Works Progress Administration (WPA).




7
**Baldacchino
 3rd Floor Newcomers Exhibit**

This 4,000 lb ornamental canopy was commissioned by immigrants from Sicily and made by a sculptor in Grand Rapids in 1922. Forty men from Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church would carry this elaborate shrine in religious processions through Grand Rapids' Little Italy neighborhood, near Franklin and Division, between 1922 and the early 1960s.



3 — **Steam Engine
 2nd Floor near staircase**

This giant steam engine was large enough to power the entire St. John's Furniture Factory in Cadillac, which claimed to be the largest table-making company in the world in 1905. It is capable of producing more than 400 "horses" of power.



8
**Mastodon
 3rd Floor Kent Scientific Room/
 Habitats Exhibit**

Prehistoric mastodons, which roamed this region millions of years ago, measured between six and nine feet at the shoulder, and weighed up to 16,000 lbs. Similar in size to modern Asian elephants, these colossal beasts had seven to ten foot tusks.