

**think**  
**talk**  
**make**

*together.*

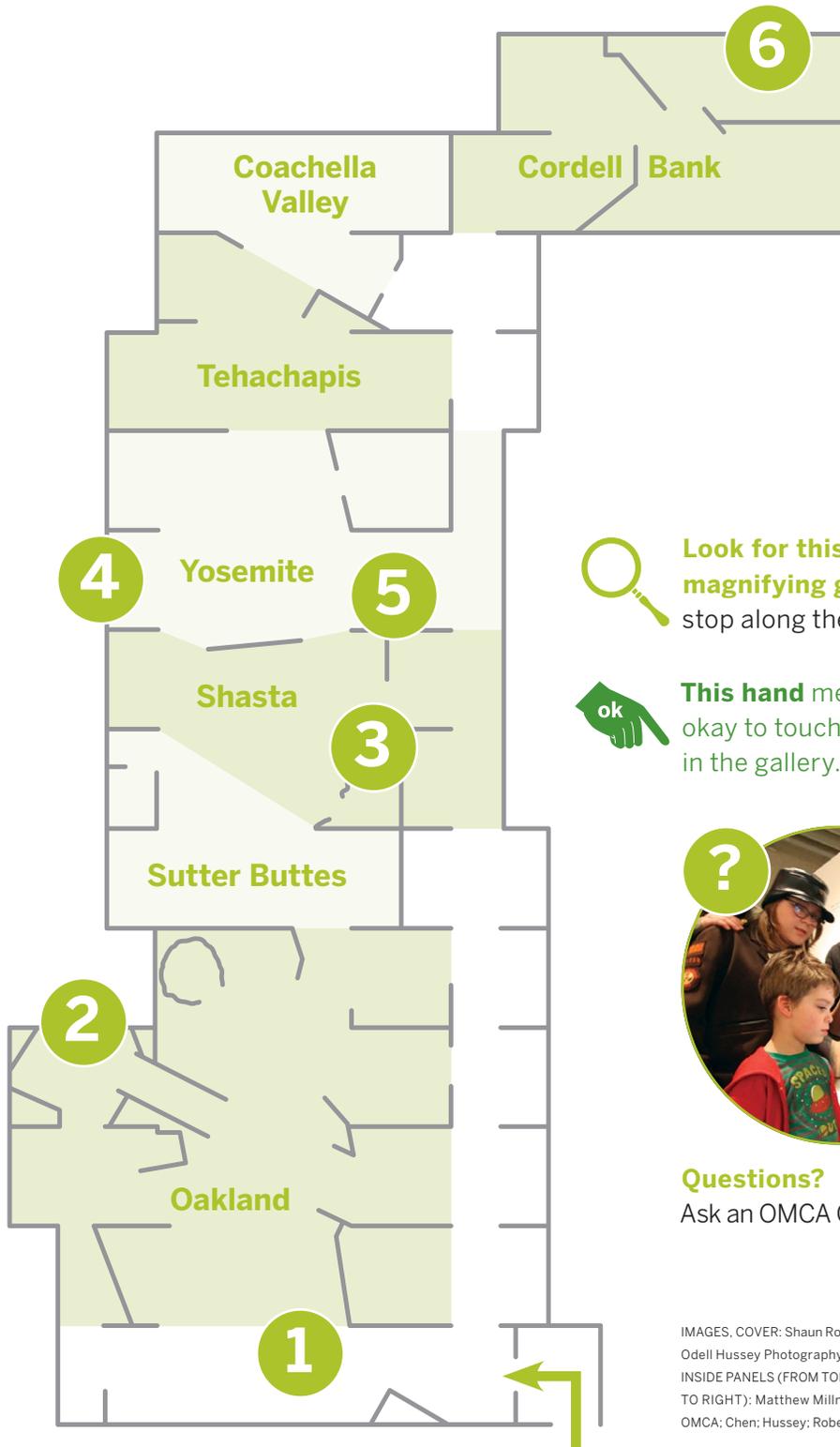


*Ready to explore?*

This guide is your field map to navigate around some of coolest areas of the Gallery of California Natural Sciences. Look closer, think deeper, and get creative—together!

# Natural Sciences





**Look for this special magnifying glass** at each stop along the way.



**This hand** means it is okay to touch something in the gallery.



**Questions?**  
Ask an OMCA Gallery Guide.

IMAGES, COVER: Shaun Roberts. INSIDE COVER: Odell Hussey Photography. BACK COVER: Hussey. INSIDE PANELS (FROM TOP TO BOTTOM, LEFT TO RIGHT): Matthew Millman; Millman; Seng Chen; OMCA; Chen; Hussey; Roberts.



1

## Take a Paws

**Walk like a bear.** Move your right hand and your left foot at the same time, and then move your left hand and right foot at the same time.

**Stand tall.** California grizzly bears could stand up to eight feet tall. Stretch your arms up and reach like a bear. How tall can you make yourself?

**FUN FACT** Bears and humans are the only mammals that place the full length of their foot on the ground, heel to toe, when walking. This adaptation helps with balance and allows bears to stand briefly to see and hear.



2

## Secret Places

**Look closely.** How many different fish can you identify? How are they different or similar from one another?

**Shh... Listen.** What do you hear? What can you discover about underground creeks in Oakland?

**FUN FACT** Before the creeks were paved over, they sustained plants, fish, birds, and other animals. Kids were even able to swim and play in these creeks.



3

## Totally Tubular

**Crawl through the tube.** How does it feel? Not everyone can fit inside this small, secret space. Share with others in your group how it felt inside.

**Touch the walls.** Lava tubes form when lava keeps flowing beneath a hardened surface. Can you imagine living inside a place like this?

**FUN FACT** During the winter, pallid bats hibernate in lava tubes, enjoying the stable temperatures and protection from harsh weather. When they are not hibernating, they hunt at night and eat half their weight every day.



4

## *Eating is Hard Work*

**See what's moving.** Can you find the termite insects in this slice of pinewood? Do they look busy?

**Use your detective skills.** The tiny, round, brown things are called frass. What do you think these are? Does the evidence in the exhibit support your guess?

**FUN FACT** Although tiny termites do big damage to houses made of wood, they also create new homes for other animals.



5

## *Bears, Oh My!*

**Peek inside.** Investigate why bears are trapped. How might humans negatively impact wild animals? Discuss with others in your group.

**Take a long nap.** If you were a bear preparing for hibernation, how many hamburgers would you need to eat per day? Compare your answer to the exhibit.

**FUN FACT** Bear biologists at Yosemite track black bears with GPS collars to help scientists answer questions about their dens, diets, hibernation patterns, and travels.



6

## *Suspended in Water*

**Pretend to swim.** Imagine that you are an ocean animal—move, crawl, or float around the room in the manner of your animal.

**Flop on the floor.** Take a moment to enjoy the “living wallpaper.” What would you expect to see on a reef under the ocean’s surface?

**FUN FACT** Plankton, tiny drifting plants and animals, are the foundation of a hugely diverse web of life at Cordell Bank. These nutrient-rich ocean waters draw many types of animals to feed there, including endangered humpback and blue whales.

## *Don't Worry!*

Pace yourself—it can be hard to see everything in one trip. A museum visit is exciting, but doesn't need to be overwhelming. Use the map to plan out a few stops, and then just let your adventure unfold organically.

## *Relax*

**See the comfy seating in our galleries?**

That's for you! **Need to refuel?** Blue Oak café has you covered. You can also enjoy your snacks from home in our gardens. **Energy to burn?** Let yourself run free on the lawn, where there is ample open space, sculptures, and wildlife galore.

## *The Essentials*

**Gotta go?** Restrooms are located outside the galleries on every level. All restrooms are wheelchair accessible and feature baby changing stations. **Tired feet?** Look for lounges in every gallery, or venture into the gardens for outdoor seating and fresh air. **Too much stuff?** Unload in our free lockers located on every floor.

## *Get Around*

Feel free to cruise around the galleries with your stroller. Wheelchairs are available to check out at the ticketing desk. An elevator provides easy access to all three floors, and can be found down the hallway to the left of each gallery entrance.



## *Books & Blankets*

Sometimes you just need to lie down in the grass. We get it. Enter Books & Blankets! Check out this cozy offering at our ticketing desk, and you'll get the best of both worlds—engaging, age-appropriate reading material and a soft blanket to sprawl out on and relax.

## *Take It Home with You*

Okay, not the snakes and lizards, but the next best thing—something from the OMCA Store! From small figurines to stuffed animals, educational books to mind-bending games, and toys to unique gifts, you'll make your kid's day with this move.

## *Make It Count*

**Didn't see it all?** Here's an easy way to come back again: apply the price of your admission to an OMCA Membership. A Family Membership is only \$95, and pays for itself in just two visits.

## *Share the Fun*

If a tree falls in the forest... well, you know the saying. Spread your love for OMCA on social and tag it **#MuseumOfUs**.



The museum of us.