My Day at the Houston Museum of Natural Science at Sugar Land!
Today I am going to visit the Houston Museum of Natural Science at Sugar Land!

I will get to explore the museum, learn amazing things, and have a lot of fun.

Hi! My name is Tom the T. rex. I’m so excited you are visiting the museum today! You’ll see me on a few pages of your Exploration Planner. I’ll give you some fun tips on how to enjoy your visit to HMNS Sugar Land.
When we get to the museum, we will park in the parking lot.

When I walk inside the museum, I will see the Gift Shop and the Box Office where we buy our museum tickets. There may be noises from the air conditioning that I hear.

I may have to wait in line to buy museum tickets. I will wait patiently with my group.
My family and I will make a plan and decide which parts of the museum to see. I can let them know which museum exhibits I would like to see the most.

I understand that I will not have time to see everything. If I do not get to see something that I want to learn about, I can ask my family if we can come to the museum another day.
If I get lost, I will find an adult that works at the museum. I will let them know that I need to find my group. We will go to the ticketing counter, and they can call my group to come and meet me there.

Once I have my ticket, I will show Museum Staff, and then I can explore the museum. When I see someone with a badge that has their name and picture on it, I know that they are an adult that can help me if I have questions.
My group may decide to visit the Museum’s Gift Shop first. The Gift Shop has a lot of fun things to see!

I will do my best to have soft hands and be gentle with anything that I touch with shopping.
Now, we can visit the Museum!

To visit the different parts of the museum, I will need to visit several floors.

I will have to take an elevator or stairs to travel to different floors and exhibits.
On the Main Level, I can visit the **Hall of Technology**.

This exhibit has a lot of things I can touch and interact with, like touchscreens, microscopes, and models.

Before you start exploring this exhibit, you will see a large fossil of a *T. rex*, like me! Don’t worry! He won’t hurt you. He’s there to help you learn about the past.

I can learn about Chemistry, Energy, Geology, and Salt in this exhibit.
If I want to learn more about life science, I can go outside with my group to visit the **Butterfly Garden and Outdoor Learning Center**. I might see butterflies and hummingbirds outside, but if I do not, I can still observe the different plants in the garden.

I can also learn about biology and insects in the **Life Science** exhibit.

I can see multiple vivariums with live insects in them.

If I’d like to run and let out some energy or eat a snack, I can do that in the grassy area or at the tables by the Learning Center!
On the Main Level, I can see the **Augmented Reality screen** where different animals and dinosaurs look like they are standing with me. There is no need for me to worry—they are not real and are just for fun.

I can also visit the **Dig Pit** if my group and I purchased special tickets. In the Dig Pit, I can explore and look for items hidden under the dirt.

I can use buckets and shovels to find fossils. I know I should not throw anything in the Dig Pit, and I will listen to the staff members who work there.
I can take the stairs or elevator to the Second Floor where I can explore the **Discovery Works** exhibit. There are a lot of things I can touch and interact with to learn about physical science. I can turn, pull, spin, and shake the different items in this exhibit! It might be a little loud in this area, but I can walk to another exhibit if it is too loud for me.

You may hear loud noises made from things in this exhibit or from other visitors learning in this exhibit. If you would like ear defenders, ask one of the staff members to use a Sensory Backpack! There are ear defenders in the backpack that can help make things quieter.
Also on the Second Floor, I can visit the **Hall of Paleontology**. This is where I can see the museum’s fossils and models. I can see fossils from animals that lived in the ocean a long time ago. I can also see fossils from dinosaurs. Some are small, and some are very, very big! There may be a staff member in the Paleo Lab. I can ask them my questions!
On the Second Floor of the museum, I can learn about **Space Science**.

I can see panels on the walls that teach me about galaxies, stars, layers of the sun, and more!
I can visit the **Science on a Sphere** exhibit on the Second Floor. This is an exhibit that is hanging from the ceiling! I can see how the Sun, Moon, Earth, and other planets look in this exhibit. The images will change while I am looking. I can even change the images myself at the kiosk if I want to!

This exhibit hangs over a *T. rex*! I can look at this fossil too while I learn about the animated globe.
I can visit the **Collection of History, Mystery, and Wonder** exhibit. This exhibit shows a lot of different things all in one space! I will see things that are old, new, man-made, and natural.

I can learn about how museums started with people’s private collections of things. There are lots of drawers for me to open, and I can discover new things! There are also animals that are real, but they are not alive.
If the museum gets too loud or I feel nervous, I can let my family know. We will find a quiet space in the museum to sit and take a break. I can sit in this spot and take slow, deep breaths until I’m ready to explore again. I can also let my family know if I’m ready to go home for the day.

My favorite quiet spot in the museum is on the Second Level in the back of the Paleontology Hall. There are benches I can sit on, so I can rest until I’m ready.

If I get hungry, we can stop and eat lunch. We may visit the vending machine and eat at the Snack Bar, or we may bring our lunch and eat in the Butterfly Garden.

We can also visit the Museum Gift Shop. There are a lot of toys and items for people to buy. I understand that we may not get to buy something in the Gift Shop during our visit.
At the end of our visit, we will leave the museum. I have so much fun learning and exploring at the **Houston Museum of Natural Science at Sugar Land**!

Thank you so much for visiting me at the Houston Museum of Natural Science at Sugar Land today. I hope you had fun exploring and learning. You can always come back and visit me another day if you didn’t get to see everything you wanted to!