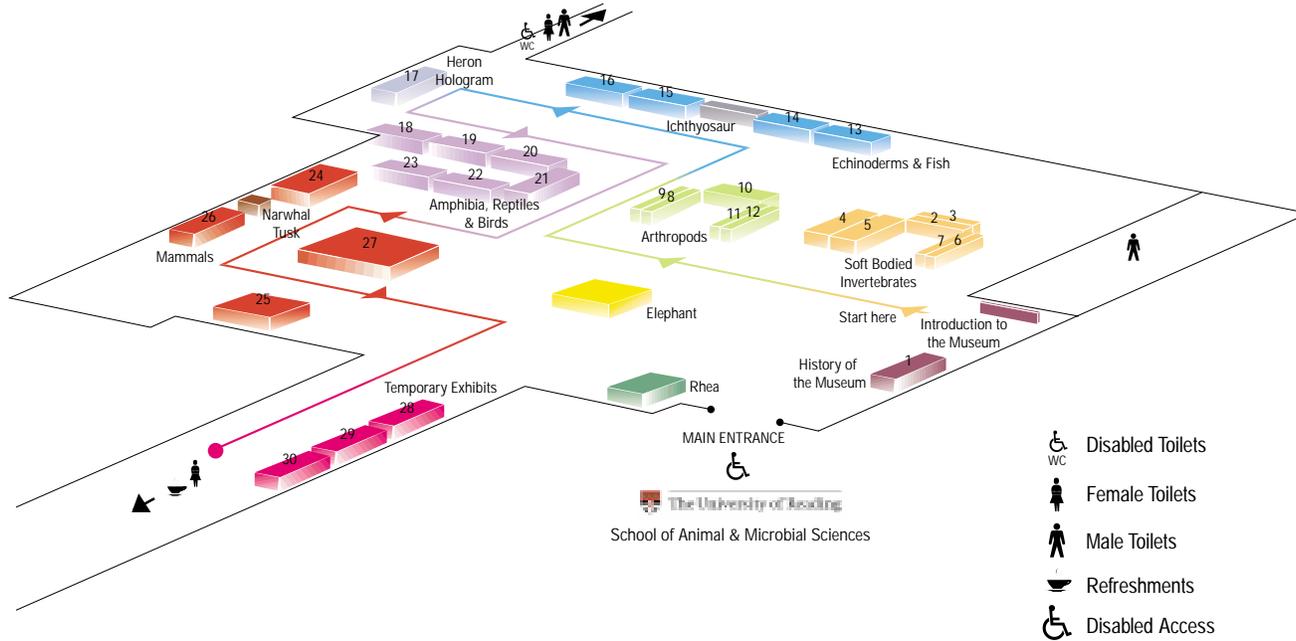


# A Guide to The Cole Museum of Zoology



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## What to see

*This Guide has been created to help you make the most of your visit to the Museum. Use the colour-coded route plan and numbered displays to navigate your way through the Animal Kingdom. On your arrival we suggest that you look at display 1 where we tell you about Professor Francis J Cole, the founder of the Museum, and introduce you to the Diversity of the Animal Kingdom. Start your tour in the orange zone with the soft-bodied invertebrates, including snails, squids, sponges and corals. Move on to the insects and other arthropods in the green zone. The blue zone tells you about echinoderms and fish and how we are related to them, and the purple zone includes a wide variety of amphibians, reptiles and birds. The red zone, containing the mammals, includes a case devoted to the Primates and Man. End your visit by taking a look at the temporary exhibits, a rotating display of highlights of the Collection that space does not permit us to have on permanent display in the main museum.*

# Tour information & highlights

## Soft Bodied Invertebrates

Displays 2-7



Invertebrates, or animals without backbones, are among the simplest forms of life and include worms, sponges, jellyfish, corals and molluscs. There are hundreds of examples here at the Cole Museum and the display includes a 2.5 metre long tapeworm extracted from a human intestine! There are also specimens collected during the famous *Discovery* expeditions of the 1920s including polychaete worms and deep-water jellyfish. Read about Professor Isao Iijima who prepared

some of the rare sponges on display and inadvertently saved many precious specimens by donating them to the Cole Museum before the disastrous earthquake in 1923 that destroyed his laboratory in Tokyo.

## Arthropods

Displays 8-12

Arthropods are animals with segmented bodies, jointed limbs and an outer exoskeleton. Insects, spiders and crustaceans are all arthropods and this display houses a variety of beautiful examples. Look out for the Giant African Millipede found in 1937 by an employee of the Zoology Department here at the University of Reading and read his fascinating story. There are also many crustacean specimens including 'lice' and barnacles that live on the skin of whales. Perhaps most exciting (and scary!) of all is the fossil replica of the largest spider that ever lived, alongside the largest one alive today – the Goliath Bird-eating Spider.



- Disabled Toilets
- Female Toilets
- Male Toilets
- Refreshments
- Disabled Access

## Echinoderms & Fish

Displays 13-16

Echinoderms are marine invertebrates and include starfish and sea urchins of which you can see many fine specimens here. They have amazing powers of regeneration. Look for the starfish growing new arms, probably following an attack by a predator. Chordates comprise all vertebrates and other animals that possess a *notochord* – find out more in display 14.



Be sure to see the Sawfish's 'saw', the Scorpion Fish and the Stargazer that hides in sand with only its eyes exposed, waiting to catch passing prey. Between displays 14 and 15, take a look at the beautifully preserved fossil from the Jurassic Period, a marine reptile known as an Ichthyosaur.

## Amphibia, Reptiles & Birds

Displays 17-23

Amphibians live both on land and in water and include frogs, toads and salamanders. Look out for the Midwife Toad, the male of which, after egg laying by the female, carries the eggs around until they hatch. Reptiles are represented, among others, by the skulls and skeletons of crocodiles and snakes, and evidence is presented for the now widely held view that birds evolved from dinosaurs millions of years ago. A recent acquisition is a dinosaur egg from the Cretaceous Period. The young crocodile, green turtle and cobra were given to the Museum after confiscation at Heathrow Airport from illegal shipments of internationally protected species.



## Mammals

Displays 24-27

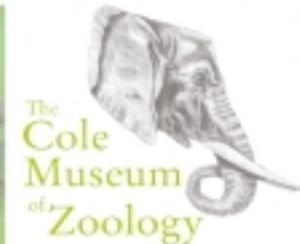
Mammals are characterised by several common features that are defined in display 24. The monotremes and marsupials are found mostly in Australasia and South America. Look for the Flying Phalanger which can glide for more than 100 metres, and an extremely rare skull of the extinct Tasmanian Wolf. The Cetaceans display includes a skull and skeleton of a dolphin and a porpoise, and a baleen plate from a Minke Whale. The main display in this section focuses on the Primates. What makes a Primate? Learn about key adaptations that enabled the emergence of Man and how we may be responsible for the sixth major global extinction event.



## Other highlights

As you tour look out for other highlights including skeletons of an Indian Elephant, a Killer Whale, a Reticulated Python with more than 400 vertebrae and the Rhea, a flightless bird from South America. Also on display is a pair of Japanese Spider Crabs, the largest living arthropods.

**The Cole Museum of Zoology is located in the foyer of the AMS building on the Whiteknights Campus of the University of Reading. The Museum is open from 9.00am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday (closed Bank Holidays) and admission is free. For further details of opening hours phone us on 0118 378 7024, email [colemuseum@rdg.ac.uk](mailto:colemuseum@rdg.ac.uk) or visit our website at [www.ams.rdg.ac.uk/zoology/colemuseum](http://www.ams.rdg.ac.uk/zoology/colemuseum)**



## Museum Guide

See the whole Animal Kingdom in an hour!

