

Museum of Archaeology – English Self-Guided Tour Guide

● Exhibition Highlights (60-Minute Tour)

(1) Entrance – The Time Corridor (Suggested Visit Time: 6 minutes)

- **Installation Art: *Encounter***

Across different time periods, people have left their marks on this land. Here, the ceramic collage of the prehistoric dwellers, metallic forms representing futuristic ideology, and ourselves—people of the present—come together to tell a story that transcends time and space.

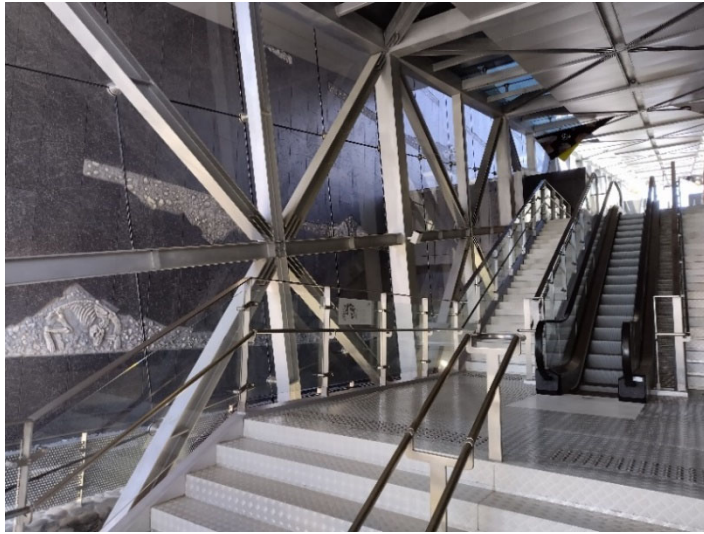
Archaeology seeks not only to understand the lives of past peoples but also the stories of the lands where they once reside



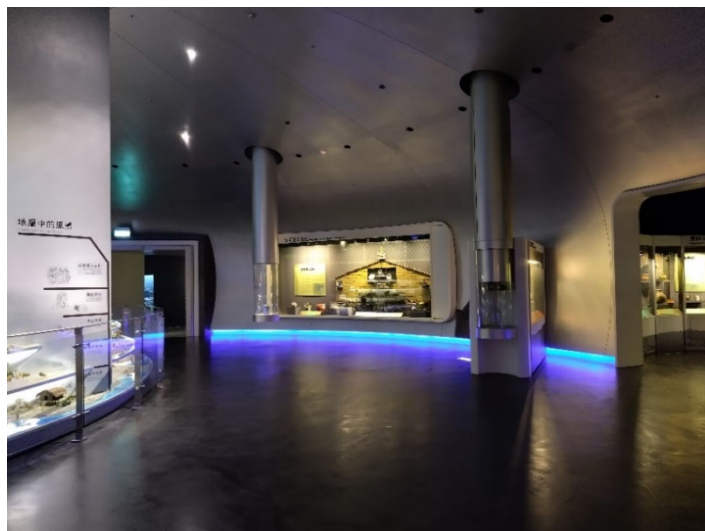
- **The Time Corridor: Relief art installations**

The walls flanking the corridor simulate stratified layers of earth. As you ascend the glass passage, you symbolically journey from the ancient past into the present day.

- **Right wall:** Fossil species discovered in the Tainan area.
- **Left wall:** Stratigraphy of cultural deposits unearthed in the Tainan Science Park, highlighting key archaeological discoveries from each era.



(2) Gallery 1: 5,000 Years of Nanke (Suggested Visit Time: 10 minutes)



- Human Face Ceramic Figurine

Archaeological finds from the Niaosong Culture—part of the Metal Age—often feature human facial motifs on artifacts like pottery vessels and bone tools. This particularly delicate face reveals both artistic skill and a nuanced understanding of human features. Can you guess whose face this is? Perhaps a self-portrait of a Niaosong person—or the likeness of an unfamiliar visitor?



- The Dapenkeng Culture

The Dapenkeng Culture, dating back about 5,000 years, marks the earliest known human presence in the Science Park area. This coastal settlement's material culture is rich in marine elements. Stone tools made from olivine basalt—provenanced from the Penghu Islands—suggest that these early people may have had seafaring capabilities.



- Jar Burials

Large earthenware jars used to bury deceased under the age of two have been found from only two periods in this area: the Niuchuozi and Dahu Cultures. Look closely—what differences can you spot in shape or color between the burial jars from these two times?



- Deer Antler Knife Handle

Intricately carved with four smiling faces, this knife handle is a product of the Niaosong Culture. Ethnographic comparisons suggest the blade was about as long as the handle. Due to its refined decoration, it was likely not used for everyday tasks but may have served as a symbol of identity or played a role in ritual activities.



- Black vs. Red Pottery

The main difference between the black and reddish-orange pottery lies in the firing method—whether oxygen was present during the process. During the Dahu Cultural period, black pottery became more common. Was it due to a shift in firing technology? A matter of aesthetic preference? Or perhaps the arrival of new cultural groups?



- The Siraya Culture

Imported porcelain and agate beads point to increased interaction with overseas communities during the Siraya period. Animal remains from this era often bear finely etched geometric patterns, offering insights into both artistic practices and cultural exchanges.



- Bone Dice

Only four bone dice have been discovered at the site so far, crafted from animal bones or antlers. Each surface is marked with dots arranged like those on modern dice. Due to their rarity, it's unlikely they were toys or used for leisure; they may have held symbolic or ritual significance.



(3) Gallery 2: Prehistoric Lifeways (Suggested Visit Time: 7 minutes)

- Farming



Step into the world of early agriculture and discover how prehistoric communities cultivated land, harvested crops, and planned for grain storages. These artifacts are more than utilitarian tools; they are enduring testimonies to the shift from mobility to settlement, and to people's growing ability to shape

their surroundings.

🔍 Highlights: Stone knives, axe or hoe shaped tools, granary model

- **Decoration**



From bone ornaments and jade objects to glassware and metalwork, these finely crafted pieces not only highlight the aesthetic and technical achievements of the ancient peoples, but serve as evidence of regional and cross-cultural interaction.

🔍 Highlights: Jade ornaments, animal bone ornaments, agate and glass beads, bronze bell with a human face relief

- Visitor Tip: Rest seating is available in this gallery. If you're visiting with children or elder family members, feel free to take a short break here.

(4) Gallery 3: Scientific Archaeology (Suggested Visit Time: 10 minutes)

- **File Room of Human Skeleton & Physical Anthropology**

Bones do more than support our movement—they quietly record the lived experiences of an individual. Through the lens of physical anthropology, archaeologists can uncover a wealth of personal details: sex, age, health conditions, and even signs of trauma or disease. Advances in technology also

allow researchers to reconstruct facial features, bringing us face-to-face with prehistoric people.

This section highlights the multi-disciplinary collaboration of archaeology and physical anthropology, revealing how science breathes life into ancient remains.

🔍 Highlights: human osteology (topic changes rotationally), facial reconstruction models



- **Archaeobotany**

Explore the earliest evidence of rice and millet cultivation in Taiwan. By examining carbonized seeds and changes in grain size, archaeologists gain insight into early agricultural practices—and the possibility that ancient communities were already selecting and cultivating crops with strategies.

🔍 Highlights: Carbonized plant remains from various periods

- Visitor Tip: Restrooms are located in this area. It's a good time to pause and refresh before continuing your visit.

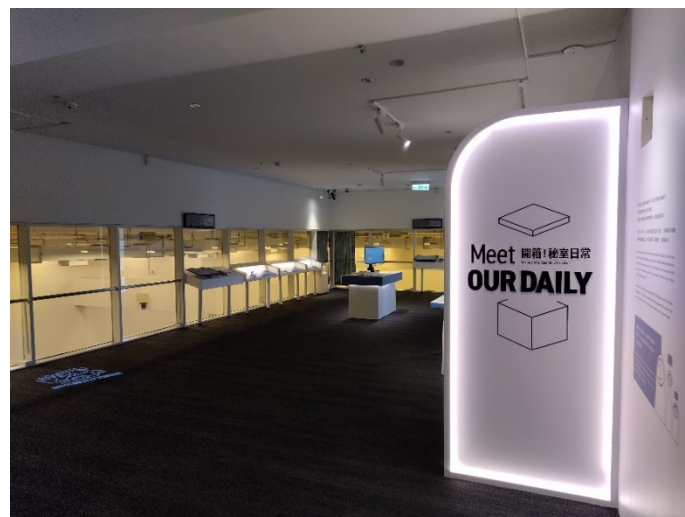


(5) The Museum's Secret Chamber (Suggested Visit Time: 7 minutes)

Through this glass-walled corridor, visitors can observe conservators at work as they carefully clean, restore, and document artifacts and human remains unearthed from archaeological sites.

The lab is open to public viewing during scheduled hours: 10:00–11:30 and 14:30–16:30 daily.

For the best experience, visit this section between 10:30–11:30 or 14:30–15:30
—these are the ideal times to engage directly with our conservation team, ask
questions, and gain first-hand insights into their works.

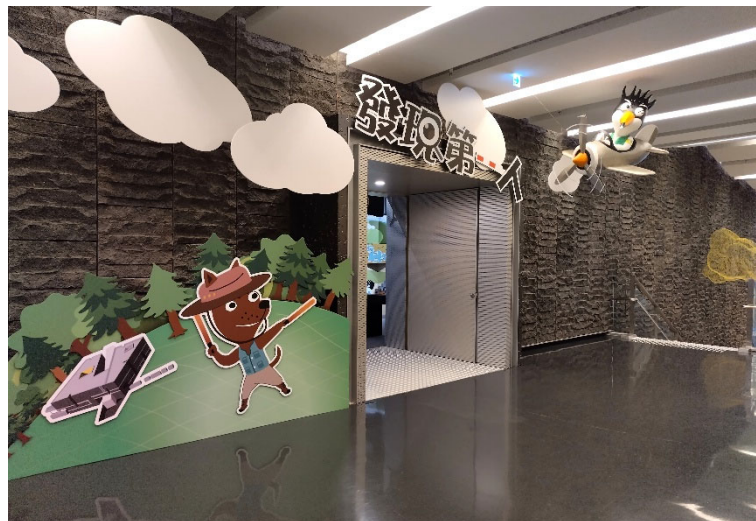




(6) Special Exhibition Hall (Suggested Visit Time: 10 minutes)

Take this opportunity to explore our current special exhibition — each one offering a unique perspective on archaeology, history, or culture.

A new thematic exhibition is presented every six months, so there's always something new to discover.



(7) Outdoor Installation Arts (Suggested Visit Time: 5 minutes)

Before you leave, take a moment to explore the museum's outdoor installations. These include a traditional sugar mill ("Tang-Bu") and shelter-style pavilion, inspired by Taiwan's early sugar production industry, along with a sugarcane squeezer ("Shi-Che") once used for extracting sugarcane juice.

Don't miss The Niaosong Family — a public art installation inspired by the human-faced pottery figures unearthed from the Niaosong Culture. It's a perfect

spot for a memorable photo with the charming ceramic family!

