

MEET BUFFALO BILL

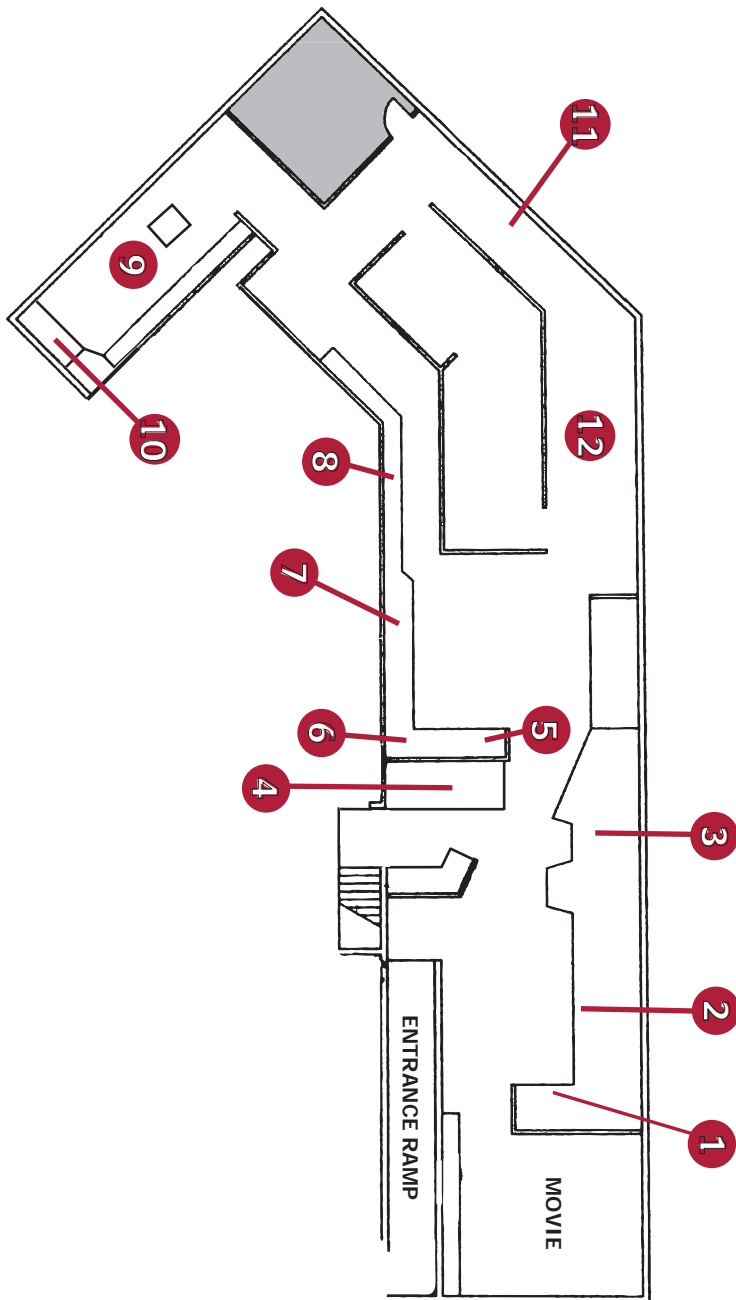
a guide for children and families



Buffalo Bill traveled all over the world, sharing stories about his life and introducing people to real cowboys and Indians. Use this guide to learn some interesting facts about Buffalo Bill Cody.

GALLERY MAP

Use this map to help you find your tour stops.



1 THE PONY EXPRESS

Buffalo Bill was hard at work when most children were still in school. He carried messages for soldiers, ran errands for stage coach companies, and helped carry supplies across the wilderness.

One of Cody's most exciting jobs was delivering mail for the Pony Express. It was very dangerous because riders were often threatened by wild animals, robbers, and Indians. Every rider had to carry a pistol and a knife for protection.

Think about it!

The Pony Express only lasted a few years, yet it is very famous. Do you know why?



Because riders in Buffalo Bill's Wild West demonstrated the skills of Pony Express Riders. If not for the millions of people watching these demonstrations, the Pony Express might have been forgotten!

2 DIME NOVEL

Buffalo Bill became a favorite hero in books called "Dime Novels." Today we would call Dime Novels "Comic Books." Some people now say that Buffalo Bill was one of America's first comic book heroes!

Something to think about:

Can you name one of today's comic book heroes? Are they real people or made up?

Imagine if you could meet one of your heroes in person! Buffalo Bill was a real person, so when he began to travel, everyone was very eager to meet a real, live action hero!



3 CODY'S COSTUME, SADDLE, AND BRIDLE

People didn't just want to read about Buffalo Bill's adventures, they wanted to see them! So Cody created a show called Buffalo Bill's Wild West. It was part rodeo and part circus.

Buffalo Bill was the star of the show. He knew that he had to look like the hero that people expected. His costume brought everything together: the fringed jacket from his days as a scout, beads from Indian clothes, tall leather boots from the army, and a fancy saddle decorated in Mexican silver.



Interesting fact:

This is the last show outfit worn by Buffalo Bill. There is a famous painting that shows him wearing this outfit and sitting on this saddle. It is located in the Museum lobby. Look for it before you leave!

4 OAKLEY THE BUFFALO

Most of the visitors to the Wild West had never seen a real buffalo, a real cowboy or a real Indian. They had only read about them in newspapers and dime novels. For them, visiting the Wild West was like watching the stories come alive.



Imagine this!

Look at the picture on the wall behind the buffalo. This is what the Buffalo Bill's Wild West arena looked like. Do you see all of the people sitting under the tents? Pretend you are sitting with them. What do you hear? What can you smell?

5 VIDEO

This movie shows scenes from Buffalo Bill's Wild West arena.

When people visited Buffalo Bill's Wild West, they would see performers from all over the world. Watch the video and you will see some of the people and animals that were part of the Wild West show.

Did you see ...?

Cowboys
Elephants
Mexicans
Bucking broncos
Trick shooters

Indians
Arabs
Japanese



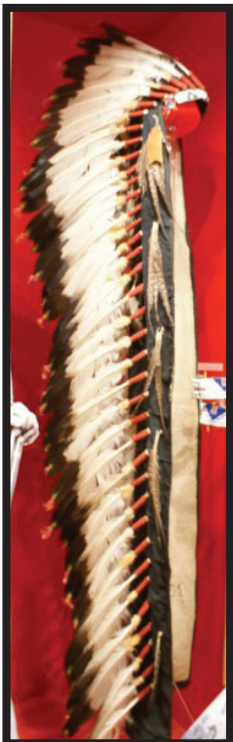
6 IRON TAIL'S HEADDRESS

This headdress belonged to Chief Iron Tail and is made with real eagle feathers. Buffalo Bill hired Indians from the Sioux tribe for his Wild West. Headdresses were an important symbol of their strength and ability as a hunter, fighter, and leader.

Iron Tail was very friendly and loved to meet visitors to the Wild West. People thought he was the perfect image of what an Indian might look like.

Something to think about...

Visitors to the Wild West were invited to meet the performers. What would you think if you were standing in front of an Indian like Iron Tail, or a Japanese soldier carrying a long sword? Would you be excited or frightened? Would you want to get close and shake their hands or just watch from a distance?



7 CLAY PIGEON



Trick shooters used to shoot real birds like this one, but Buffalo Bill thought that was cruel. Then he saw a man shooting fake birds, or "clay pigeons" like the ones you see here. Buffalo Bill knew that shooting a round target was much better than a live bird, so from that day forward, that is all he used in his show.

8 ROUGH RIDERS POSTERS

When Buffalo Bill took his Wild West all over the world so that people could meet real cowboys and Indians, he also met skilled horsemen from other countries. He decided that people in America would like to meet them, so they were added to the show.

Look closely!

Look at the posters in this area and you will see some of the people that were from other countries. Notice their costumes or uniforms. Each country has its own design. Can you describe how they are different?



9 THE AMERICANS EXHIBIT

Buffalo Bill was not a soldier, but he worked for the army guiding soldiers around Indian villages or to Indian battles. He rarely fought Indians himself.

Buffalo Bill respected the Indians and later became their friend. To help others learn about them too, he hired Indians to perform in his Wild West. He invited their entire families so the men would not have to leave their wives and children behind.

Look at the large photograph. Do you see all of the Indian children? If you went to Buffalo Bill's Wild West, you could have visited these kids in their tepees and learned what it was like to be an Indian child. If you met one of these children, what would you ask them?



Who is that?!

Do you see the giant nickel below the photo? Do you recognize the Indian? It's Iron Tail! He was the model for the Indian Head Nickel!

10 SITTING BULL

The most famous Indian in Buffalo Bill's Wild West was a Sioux Chief named Sitting Bull. He was a warrior who led many Indian battles. While many people treated him like an enemy, Buffalo Bill knew Sitting Bull was very smart and brave.



Buffalo Bill admired Sitting Bull very much. Here you can see a picture of Buffalo Bill and Sitting Bull standing together. The headdress in this exhibit is the same one he is wearing in the picture.

Indian Fashion!

Like other Indians, Sitting Bull liked to add decoration to his clothing. Look in this case and elsewhere in the museum. What types of things did Indians used to make their clothing beautiful?

11 FIREARMS

Buffalo Bill was famous for being an excellent hunter but most people only got to see him shoot a rifle when he performed in the Wild West. These demonstrations were an important part of the show. Not only would people see performers shooting at targets, they would also see soldiers and Indians pretending to have fights with wooden arrows and no bullets.

A Picture Says a Thousand Words!

Look at the photographs in both exhibit cases. Do you see the faces of the Indians in the second case? Do they look like they are having fun? This was one of the most important parts of Buffalo Bill's Wild West. He wanted to make sure that everyone performing and everyone in the audience had a good time.



12 COWBOY CORRAL



Now it is your turn to be a performer! Using the items in the Kids' Corral, dress up like a cowboy and try to lasso the calf. Pretend you are a performer in Buffalo Bill's Wild West, and everyone is cheering as you ride around!