

OFFICIAL VISIT GUIDE 2026

the Museum of the Bible

Washington, D.C. · From 32.42€

https://museumofthebible.visit-tickets.com/en/ · Skip-the-Line Tickets & Official Prices



History & Experience

ORIGIN & HISTORY

From Warehouse to Wonder

GOOGLE 4.7 ★★★★★ 14 136 reviews

TIQETS 4.8 ★★★★★ 730 reviews

The Museum of the Bible stands as a testament to modern philanthropy meeting ancient history, rooted in the private collection of **Steve Green**, founder of Hobby Lobby. Established as a nonprofit organization in 2010, the project aimed to bring the living word of God to life through scholarly rigor and immersive technology. The museum's physical home is a historic gem: the 1923 Terminal Refrigerating and Warehousing Co. building, formerly known as the Washington Design Center. This structure, located just two blocks from the National Mall, was purchased by the Green family in 2012, marking the beginning of an ambitious transformation that would redefine cultural spaces in Washington, D.C.

The renovation was a colossal undertaking, costing approximately **$400 million** to update the historically protected structure while adding two new floors and a glass-enclosed rooftop. The architectural design team, led by SmithGroup, faced the challenge of preserving the original red brick facade while integrating contemporary elements. To ensure visual continuity with the 1923 architecture, new bricks were specifically imported from Denmark, a meticulous artisanal choice that honors the building's past. The primary building was awarded historical status by the District's Historic Preservation Review Board, ensuring that its heritage remained intact amidst modernization.

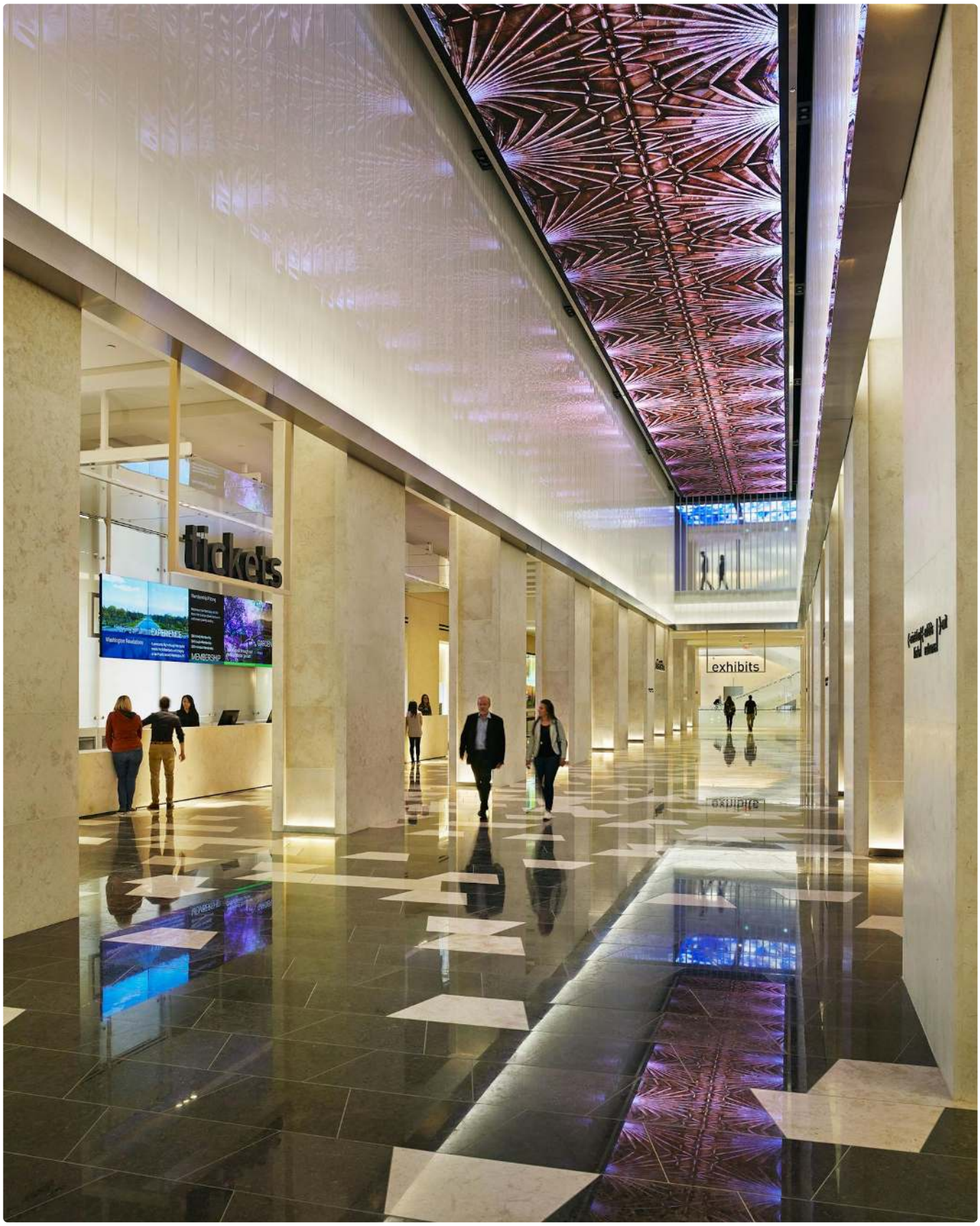
Opened on November 17, 2017, the museum quickly became a focal point for both spiritual reflection and academic debate. Its dedication ceremony was marked by a rare gesture: an official pontifical blessing from **Pope Francis**, highlighting the universal spiritual aspect of the institution despite its private funding. This event underscored the museum's nonsectarian mission, aiming to inspire confidence in the reliability of the Bible without proselytizing. However, the opening also brought scrutiny regarding provenance, particularly concerning smuggled Iraqi antiquities and forged artifacts, which the museum has since addressed with transparency.

Today, the museum houses over **40,000 objects**, displaying around 1,500 artifacts spanning 4,000 years of history. It serves not only as a repository of biblical manuscripts but also as a center for education and dialogue. With more than 3 million visitors since its inception, including 453,000 in 2024 alone, it has solidified its place as a major cultural destination. The museum continues to evolve, balancing its role as a guardian of ancient texts with its commitment to intellectual honesty and public engagement.

THE EXPERIENCE

Stepping through the monumental bronze doors, weighing **2.5 tons** and adorned with stained glass depicting creation, visitors are immediately immersed in a space where light and history converge. The grand lobby features a 140-foot LED ceiling that transforms the atmosphere, casting dynamic visuals that echo the themes of preservation and narrative. This technological marvel sets the tone for a journey that blends ancient artifacts with cutting-edge digital experiences, inviting guests to explore the Bible's impact across millennia.

As you ascend through the six floors, each level unfolds like a chapter in a grand story, combining scholarly exhibits with interactive technologies. The air hums with curiosity as families engage with touchscreen tablets and virtual reality tours, bringing biblical landscapes to life. Whether standing before authentic fragments of the Dead Sea Scrolls or gazing out over the Capitol from the rooftop garden, every moment feels designed to bridge the gap between past and present, making history tangible and deeply personal.


tickets
exhibits

PREPARING FOR YOUR VISIT

Practical Information

ADDRESS

Penn Quarter Neighborhood · Metro: Smithsonian (Orange/Silver/Blue Line) or L'Enfant Plaza (Red/Green/Blue Lines), exit towards the National Mall.

OPENING HOURS

Hours vary by season and school holidays. Check the official website before visiting, especially for exceptional closures.

PRICING

Free admission for children depending on age (check variants). General admission is free every Tuesday.

VISIT DURATION

Allow 2 to 3 hours to comfortably explore the multiple floors and over 1,000 objects on display. Add extra time if you include paid immersive experiences.

PHOTOS

Photography without flash is allowed in most galleries. Take advantage of this to capture manuscript details, but respect areas where photography is prohibited

AUDIENCE

Ideal for families thanks to educational interactions tailored for children. History and archaeology enthusiasts will appreciate the scientific rigor and richne

HOW TO GET THERE

Access & Transportation

Metro

: Federal Center SW — 2 min à pied

Columbus Circle, Union Station (10 min) · Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (16 min)

Bus

: Federal Center SW — 2 min à pied

Columbus Circle, Union Station (15 min) · Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (25 min)

Car

Columbus Circle, Union Station (9 min) · Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (17 min)

Bike

Columbus Circle, Union Station (10 min) · Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (22 min)

LOCALISATION

Où se trouve the Museum of the Bible ?



📍 400 4th St. SW, DC — 20024 Washington, D.C.

🌐 38°53.089′ N, 77°1.037′ O



ORGANIZATION

Navigating Six Floors of Discovery

Niveau 0 (Rez-de-chaussée)

The ground floor welcomes visitors with the iconic bronze doors and a grand lobby featuring a 140-foot LED ceiling. Here, you'll find introductory exhibits on the Bible's origins and early manuscripts. Interactive displays allow guests to engage with virtual reality tours of significant locations like the Sea of Galilee.

Niveau 2

This level focuses on the transmission and translation of biblical texts throughout history. Exhibits highlight key moments such as the printing press revolution and the spread of vernacular Bibles. Visitors can examine facsimiles of influential manuscripts and learn about their global impact.

Niveau 5 (Terrasse)

The rooftop garden offers panoramic views of the U.S. Capitol, Washington Monument, and Smithsonian museums. A café provides refreshments while allowing guests to relax and reflect on their visit. Morning visits offer softer lighting perfect for photography.

ACCESSIBILITY

♿ **Accessibility for people with reduced mobility**

Full accessibility for people with reduced mobility with elevators and ramps throughout the renovate

👨‍👩‍👧 **Families**

Interactive and educational content specially designed to engage children and families.

🎧 **Audio guide**

French, English, Spanish



Must-sees

SELECTION

Unmissable Moments Inside

01 Permanent Gallery

Dead Sea Scrolls Fragments

Authentic fragments of the **Dead Sea Scrolls** are displayed alongside detailed explanations of their discovery and significance. These ancient texts provide invaluable insights into Jewish life during the Second Temple period. Observers can appreciate the delicate preservation efforts required to maintain these fragile documents.

> 💡 Some scrolls were found hidden in caves near Qumran, suggesting they may have been concealed during the Roman siege of Jerusalem in **68 CE**.

02 First Floor

Virtual Reality Tours

Immerse yourself in biblical landscapes using state-of-the-art VR technology. Explore sites like the Temple Mount or walk along the shores of the Sea of Galilee. This innovative approach brings historical contexts to life, enhancing understanding of biblical narratives.

> 💡 Developed in collaboration with archaeologists, these simulations recreate environments based on extensive research and fieldwork conducted over decades.

03 Entrance

Monumental Bronze Doors

Standing 40 feet tall and weighing 2.5 tons, these doors feature stained glass art depicting scenes from Genesis. They serve as both an architectural masterpiece and a symbolic gateway into the museum's thematic journey. Their craftsmanship reflects the care taken to honor the building's heritage.

> 💡 The design incorporates motifs inspired by medieval illuminated manuscripts, bridging ancient artistic traditions with modern techniques.

04 Top Level

Rooftop Garden Views

Enjoy breathtaking vistas of Washington, D.C., including landmarks like the Capitol and Washington Monument. The open-air setting provides a serene conclusion to your visit, encouraging contemplation amidst urban beauty. Photographers will love capturing golden-hour shots here.

> 💡 Bricks used in the restoration were imported from Denmark to match the original 1923 facade, ensuring seamless integration with the cityscape.

05 Second Floor

Printing Press Revolution Exhibit

Discover how Gutenberg's invention transformed access to scripture worldwide. Displays include replicas of early printed Bibles and tools used in mass production. Learn about the societal shifts driven by widespread literacy enabled by this technological breakthrough.

> 💡 Before the printing press, copying a single Bible could take months; afterward, thousands could be produced annually.

06 Family Areas

Interactive Touchscreen Tablets

Designed for younger audiences, these tablets make complex topics accessible through engaging visuals and quizzes. Children can interact with timelines, maps, and translations tailored to different age groups. Parents appreciate how fun learning becomes when kids actively participate.

> 💡 Feedback from school groups indicates increased retention rates compared to traditional lecture-style presentations.

07 Exhibition Halls

Controversy Transparency Labels

Labels openly address issues of provenance and forgery within certain collections. This honesty fosters trust among scholars and casual visitors alike. Understanding controversies adds depth to discussions about authenticity and ethical curation practices.

> 💡 One notable case involved clay tablets linked to illegal excavations in Iraq, prompting international investigations.

08 Grand Lobby

LED Ceiling Visual Effects

A 140-foot LED ceiling creates ever-changing patterns that complement exhibit themes. Dynamic projections enhance storytelling, drawing attention to specific artifacts or events. Guests often pause beneath it, marveling at its scale and creativity.

> 💡 Programmers work closely with curators to align visual effects with narrative arcs presented throughout the galleries.

TIPS

Tips for a Seamless Visit

TIMING

Arrive early to beat crowds, especially if planning to visit the rooftop garden for optimal photo opportunities.

BILLET

Book online in advance, particularly for weekends or free Tuesdays, as slots fill up quickly.

PARCOURS

Start at the bottom and work your way up systematically to avoid missing key exhibits.

PHOTO

Capture manuscript details without flash; check signage for restricted areas near fragile works.

PAUSE

End your tour at the rooftop café for drinks overlooking the National Mall—a perfect spot to unwind.

ENFANTS

Engage kids with interactive touchscreens and educational activities designed specifically for families.

AUDIOGUIDE

Rent an audioguide available in French, English, or Spanish for deeper insights into complex exhibits.

CONFORT

Wear comfortable sneakers due to multiple floors and extensive walking involved in exploring all levels.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQ

How much is the entrance to the Museum of the Bible?

The standard rate starts at €32.42. Note that certain immersive or theatrical experiences require a specific ticket or a separate supplement compared to the classic entry ticket.

Do I need to book in advance?

Yes, online booking is recommended, especially for popular time slots and weekends. This allows you to avoid queues at the ticket office and guarantees your access at chosen times near the Terminal Refrigerating.

What is the difference between the standard ticket and supplements?

The standard ticket covers access to permanent and temporary galleries. Supplements are mandatory for specific virtual experiences or museum theater sessions, sold separately.

Is there a current promotion?

General admission is free every Tuesday. It's the ideal opportunity to visit without charge, although seats may be limited. Always check availability on the official website before your visit.

How long does it take to visit the museum?

Allow approximately 2 to 3 hours for a complete visit. The museum spans several floors with over 1,000 exhibited objects, which takes time to fully absorb.

DID YOU KNOW?

Anecdotes & curiosities

Pope Francis' Blessing

In a rare move, Pope Francis sent an official blessing for the museum's opening in **2017**. His message emphasized nourishing faith while introducing others to humanity's spiritual history. This gesture highlighted the institution's inclusive mission despite its private backing.

Danish Bricks Imported

To restore the original red brick facade, new bricks were sourced from Denmark. This decision ensured visual harmony with the 1923 structure, showcasing dedication to preserving architectural integrity.

Over 3 Million Visitors

Since launching, the museum has welcomed more than **3 million people**, reflecting growing interest in biblical history. In 2024 alone, attendance reached 453,000, proving its appeal across diverse demographics.

Intellectual Honesty About Controversies

By addressing provenance disputes openly, the museum demonstrates transparency rarely seen elsewhere. Educational labels explain controversies surrounding forgeries, fostering critical thinking among visitors.

AROUND THE MUSEUM

Located in the vibrant **Penn Quarter** neighborhood, the museum is surrounded by historic charm and cultural richness. After your visit, explore nearby Chinatown Restaurants for authentic Asian cuisine or stroll along the Reflecting Pool toward the Lincoln Memorial. For art lovers, the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture offers a compelling next stop, just across the National Mall. Evening plans can include performances at the Kennedy Center, blending opera and ballet into your day. The area's mix of vintage boutiques and cocktail bars makes it ideal for extending your exploration beyond the museum walls.



Visiting the Museum of the Bible is more than observing artifacts; it is an invitation to reflect on the enduring power of text and tradition. As you leave, the view of the **Washington Monument** from the rooftop lingers in your mind, symbolizing the intersection of faith, history, and human aspiration. This experience leaves you with a deeper appreciation for the stories that have shaped our world, urging you to carry their lessons forward.