Before you leave, don’t forget to:

- Check out our Museum Store, hailed by the New York Jewish Week as “the best curated museum store around.”
- Apply the cost of today’s ticket to a membership, and enjoy free admission every day! Visit the Front Desk to learn more.

Please stay in touch!

- Sign up for our E-news at NMAJH.org
- Follow us on: [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com), [Twitter](https://twitter.com), [Pinterest](https://www.pinterest.com), [TripAdvisor](https://www.tripadvisor.com)
- Review us on:
- Visit us any time on Google Cultural Institute [on.nmajh.org/360gci](http://on.nmajh.org/360gci)

We have new exhibitions, programs, and events all the time. Visit NMAJH.org for more information.


Visitor Guide & What to See in an Hour

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY
A Smithsonian Affiliate Institution
Dear Visitor,

Welcome to the National Museum of American Jewish History (NMAJH)! NMAJH brings to life the more than 360-year history of Jews in America through rich stories that celebrate the power of imagination and ideas, culture and community, and leadership and service. I hope these stories will inspire you as much as they have inspired me, and that they will compel you to visit our It’s Your Story booth to share your own reflections on how your identity has both shaped and been shaped by the American experience.

Whether you are visiting us for the first time or the tenth, I hope you have a wonderful time with us today. This guide will show you the essentials of navigating the Museum, but feel free to stop at our front desk or ask one of the volunteers should you have any additional questions.

Ivy L. Barsky
Chief Executive Officer and Gwen Goodman Director

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**HOURS**
Tuesdays through Fridays, 10 am to 5 pm; Saturdays and Sundays, 10 am to 5:30 pm. Please check our website for special holiday openings or closures (including open some Monday holidays).

**ADMISSION**
$15 adults; $13 seniors (ages 65 and up) and youth (ages 13-21) and students (with ID); children 12 and under, active military (with ID), and Members are FREE. Tickets valid for admission on 2 consecutive days.

**SHOPPING & REFRESHMENTS**
The Museum Store offers a curated collection of contemporary and traditional Judaica, gifts, jewelry, and books, as well as our renowned Ketubah Gallery and gift registry service. All purchases benefit the Museum. Open during Museum hours and Monday and by appointment. 215.923.0262. Shop online and support NMAJH from home at judaicashop.net. Hot and cold beverages and packaged snacks are available inside the Museum Store.

**DOCENT TOURS & TALKS**
Please check at the Admissions Desk on day of visit for information on public tours or talks available that day. Private tours must be booked in advance. Discounts available to groups of 15 or more when booked in advance through Group Services, x 141.

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**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**GALLERY POLICIES**
Photography is permitted (no flash or recording). For the safety of our collection and the enjoyment of other visitors, we ask visitors to refrain from cell-phone conversation; food, beverages, and chewing gum; pen/marker use in the exhibition areas. We ask that luggage, large bags, and wet gear be checked before entering the exhibition. Thank you.

**COAT CHECK**
Complimentary coat and bag check is available on the first floor. Please check all luggage, large bags, and wet gear before entering the galleries.

**SECURITY AND RESTRICTIONS**
All individuals are subject to screening. All blades, firearms, and other weapons are not permitted on the premises. All bags (including cameras and laptops) are subject to X-ray or manual inspection. Tripods/monopods are not permitted.

**ACCESSIBILITY**
The main entrance on Market Street and all public areas within the Museum are wheelchair-accessible. A limited number of standard wheelchairs are available at the Front Desk, free of charge, on a first-come, first-served basis. All videos and computer interactives in the exhibition are captioned; assistive listening devices can be requested for special programs within the Dell Theater. Wayfinding signage includes Braille; service animals are welcome.

**RENTING SPACE**
Interested in holding your corporate or special event at the Museum? Visit NMAJH.org/eventspace.

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For more information:
Contact the Museum at 215-923-3811 or visit NMAJH.org.

Follow us on: #NMAJH

Review us on: tripadvisor

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We invite you to begin your visit on the 4th floor. Starting with the very first Jews to settle in colonial America, the core exhibition flows chronologically as it highlights the diverse backgrounds, expectations, and experiences of Jews who came to the United States and the generations that followed. The exhibition illustrates the choices they faced, the challenges they confronted, and the ways in which they shaped, and were shaped by, their American home.

The Only in America® Gallery features the stories of hundreds of individuals—some well-known, others less so—whose stories are emblematic of the American Jewish experience.
What’s your story? Jews and Judaism became increasingly mainstream in the postwar years, as antisemitism waned and legislation prohibiting housing and employment discrimination became law. Jews joined the migration to the suburbs and pioneered new communities. They celebrated the new State of Israel and joined the fight for civil rights, advocated for women’s equality, and worked to free Soviet Jews. Share your thoughts on current events in the Contemporary Issues Forum, and add your story to the Museum’s collection in our It’s Your Story video recording booths.
Did your family immigrate to America? From 1880 to 1924, nearly 20 million immigrants arrived in the U.S. More than two million eastern European Jews came with dreams of religious freedom and economic opportunity, hoping for success but facing the realities of starting anew. See how the Great Depression challenged all Americans, especially the children of immigrants, and how the rise of Nazi Socialism brought alarm and tragedy. Don’t miss the Entertainment Theater’s films that show the role immigrants and their children played in the rise of Hollywood.
What are our roots? America began as a sleepy colonial outpost and by the mid-nineteenth century had become the world’s most energetic society. Unprecedented economic growth, technological innovation, and territorial expansion made it a particularly attractive destination to those escaping the poverty and economic upheaval of central Europe. American Jews sought to preserve heritage and tradition while integrating into American society—a balance that minority communities strive for today. Don’t miss the interactive map, or trying on a costume in our family gallery!
We invite you to visit this floor during special exhibitions and events.

- **Special Exhibitions**: Please see the Front Desk and website for any upcoming exhibitions.
- **Dell Theater**: Open during special programs and available to rent.
- **Special Events Space**: Open during special programs and available to rent.

Photo by: Rosenblatt

Photo by: Rebecca Garber
What to see in an hour...

**4th Floor**

1. **Touro Synagogue Model**
   - Establishing Communities
   - Section 2 on map

2. **George Washington Letter**
   - Embracing Freedom
   - Section 1 on map

3. **The Gratz Family**
   - Innovation and Expansion
   - Sections 2 and 3 on map

4. **Civil War Uniforms**
   - Union and Disunion
   - Section 4 on map

**3rd Floor**

5. **Yiddish Typewriter**
   - Making America Home
   - Section 5 on map

6. **Eva Davidson**
   - Freedom Challenged
   - Section 6 on map

7. **Workmen’s Circle Plaque**
   - Competing Visions
   - Section 7 on map

8. **Helga Weiss’s Teddy Bear**
   - Anxiety, Alarm, and Fear
   - Section 8 on map

**2nd Floor**

9. **Establishment of the State of Israel**
   - A Jewish State
   - Section 9 on map

10. **The Borscht Belt**
    - New Neighborhoods
    - Section 10 on map

11. **The Soviet Jewry Movement**
    - Freedom Now!
    - Section 11 on map

12. **American Menorah**
    - American Mosaic, Jewish Mosaic
    - Section 12 on map

**1st Floor**

13. **Irving Berlin’s Piano**
    - Only in America

14. **Leonard Bernstein’s Grammy**
    - Only in America

15. **Henrietta Szold’s Autograph Book**
    - Only in America

16. **Louis D. Brandeis’s Nameplate**
    - Only in America