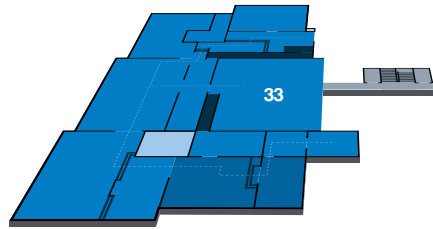
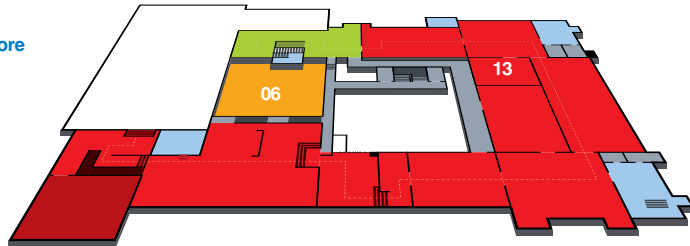


Ulster Museum Map



Location Key:

- 06 Window on Our World**
- 13 Takabuti**
(Life & Death in Ancient Egypt)
- 17 Discover Nature**
- 18 Flights of Fancy**
(in Window on Nature)
- 23 Fossils and Evolution**
- 33 The George & Angela Moore
Gallery of Applied Art**



- Welcome Zone
- Art Zone
- Nature Zone
- History Zone
- Window on Our World



Why not check out our shop on the ground floor.



Don't forget to visit the museum website for more information on our events, exhibitions, opening times and collection highlights.

www.nmni.com

This guide is available in other formats on request.



explore/engage/enjoy

The Nearly Scary Guide

Like to be sort of scared? We've got a whole gathering of curious characters. A giant fish like a bulldog, a bearded vulture, a powerful snake and a mask of death. There are so many cool things to see, it's almost scary. But not quite...

Kolam Dancer's Mask

This painted wooden mask is worn by performers in a dance drama from rural Sri Lanka known as Kolam. Just like several other names for drama traditions of south Asia, Kolam refers to disguise and mimicry. This mask features Naga Rasa, a snake demon that represents the evil power of snake poisons that can destroy human and animal life. The actors wear these masks and dance, mime and tell stories that range from village life to Hindu myths. This mask was donated in 1856 by Sir James Emerson Tennent from Tempo, County Fermanagh who was Civil Secretary to the government of Sri Lanka from 1845 to 1850.

[View the Kolam Dancer's Mask in Window on Our World \(06\).](#)



Kolam Dancer's Mask

Takabuti

Takabuti is a wonderful representative of the great civilisation of Ancient Egypt. Her mummy has been one of the museum's most popular exhibits since she was first revealed to the public back in 1835. Over two thousand five hundred years ago, she would have been mistress of an important house near Thebes in the Nile Valley. Brought to Belfast by Mr Thomas Greg from Holywood, County Down, she was unwrapped on 27th January 1835 in front of specially invited members of the Belfast Natural History & Philosophical Society. Reverend Dr Edward Hincks, an expert in deciphering Egyptian hieroglyphs, informed the meeting that the mummy's name was Takabuti and that she was a wealthy, married woman between 20 and 30 years old.

[View Takabuti in Takabuti Life and Death in Ancient Egypt \(13\).](#)



Takabuti

Mexican Red Knee Tarantula

Tarantulas, like all spiders, have eight legs. The two shorter feelers at the head, called pedipalps, are used to help with feeding and mating. Its fangs act like a syringe to inject venom into the prey. Most tarantulas feed on insects such as crickets and grasshoppers but some of the larger species will feed on frogs, small lizards, snakes and mice. Bird-eating tarantulas, despite their name, do not normally feed on birds. Despite common belief, a bite from a tarantula will not kill - unless of course you happen to be allergic to it. It will cause some pain, apparently similar to that of a bee sting. Some species of tarantula can flick irritating hairs which can be particularly dangerous if they get in the eyes. Tarantulas are found in tropical and desert regions all around the world. The largest spider in the world is the Goliath Bird-eating Tarantula from South America.

[View the Mexican Red Knee Tarantula in Discover Nature \(17\).](#)

Mexican Red Knee Tarantula



Lammergeier

The Lammergeier *Gypaetus barbatus* or Bearded Vulture is one of the rarest birds of prey in Europe. It is found in the high mountainous areas of southern Europe, Asia and North Africa. Like other vultures, it is a scavenger and feeds mainly on the flesh and bones of dead animals. Large bones are dropped from the air onto rocky slopes where they break into small pieces that can be easily swallowed. Many Lammergeiers die as a result of eating poisoned carcasses left as bait for other animals. Poisoned bait is a significant threat to the survival of this species. This female Lammergeier is mounted with a wildcat. It was prepared in January 1904 and is one of the finest mounts produced by the Belfast taxidermy firm, Sheals.

[View the Lammergeier in Flights of Fancy \(18\).](#)



Lammergeier

Bulldog Fish

Xiphactinus audax, also known as the Bulldog Fish, was one of the most fearsome predators to swim the ancient ocean that covered Kansas 85 million years ago. Growing up to 6 metres (20 feet) long and with giant fang-like teeth, unlucky fish and unsuspecting seabirds were captured inside the sea monster's upturned jaws. Indeed, several of these giant fossil fish have been found with entire fish up to two metres (6 feet) inside them. The bones of *Xiphactinus* have been found in the Chalk of southern England, which was deposited at the same time as the hard Ulster White Limestone, so it is quite possible that fish like this did once swim over Northern Ireland.

[View the Bulldog Fish in Fossils and Evolution \(23\).](#)



Bulldog Fish

Ivory Skull

This striking ivory head is beautifully carved from an elephant tusk and was probably made in England in the 17th century. One half skull and one half living, bearded man, it is known as a 'Momento Mori'. This Latin phrase means 'Remember you shall die' reminding people of their own mortality. It just goes to show that even hundreds of years ago, they knew the meaning of - 'be afraid - be very afraid!' The skull forms part of the jewellery collection that was gifted to the Ulster Museum by Mrs Hull Grundy who began giving pieces in 1975 and continued to do so until her death in 1984. She began gathering her collection of 16th-century to 20th-century jewellery at the age of eleven with her pocket money.

[View the Ivory Skull in The George and Angela Moore Gallery of Applied Art \(33\).](#)

Ivory Skull



Teapot by Wedgewood, c1820.

After all that 'nearly being scared', you may be in need of some refreshment to steady the nerves. Our restaurant offers an extensive range of locally sourced, wholesome meals while our café is the perfect spot for a cuppa, as well as offering a range of tasty treats sure to tempt.

Please be aware that due to the changing nature of our exhibitions and loans to other museums, some of the objects featured in the guide may not be on display during your visit.

The Nearly Scary Guide