

## **BODY WORLDS & The Cycle of Life Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q. What dates and hours are the museum and this temporary exhibit open?**

**A.** *BODY WORLDS & The Cycle of Life* will be on view at OMSI from March 7 to September 13, 2020. Beginning March 7, the museum and exhibit will be open Monday through Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Hours will be extended until 7:00 p.m. during select holiday periods. Please visit [omsi.edu](http://omsi.edu) for the latest information on dates and times.

### **Q. How much does it cost to attend the exhibit? Where can I purchase tickets?**

**A.** Tickets to *BODY WORLDS & The Cycle of Life* include general museum admission and can be purchased online at [omsi.edu](http://omsi.edu), via phone at 503.797.4000, or in person at the museum starting February 18. Due to anticipated public interest, advance ticket purchase is recommended.

This is a timed entry exhibit. Please plan to join the line no more than 10 minutes prior to the printed time on your ticket.

	<b>Non-Member Pricing</b>	<b>OMSI Member Pricing</b>
Adults (14+)	\$26	\$12
Youth (3-13)	\$18	\$10
Seniors (63+)	\$22	\$11
Students (14+)**	\$22	\$12

Note that OMSI members always receive free general admission to the museum's permanent exhibits. [Learn more](#) about membership.

\*\*Valid Student ID required. Tickets must be purchased in person at OMSI's Front Desk. Cannot be combined with other offers.

### **Q. Is there an audio tour available? What languages are offered?**

**A.** Audio Guides are available to rent for an additional fee of \$4. These guides, designed to enhance the exhibit experience and provide additional insight to the specimens on display, are available in both English and Spanish. Personally guided tours through the exhibit are unavailable at this time.

### **Q. How long does it take to see the exhibit?**

**A.** Individual visit times will vary, but most guests can anticipate spending 60 to 90 minutes to view *BODY WORLDS & The Cycle of Life*. There is no time limit within the exhibit, and guests are welcome to enjoy it for as long as the museum is open.

### **Q. Is photography permitted in the exhibit?**

**A.** Absolutely! Guests are encouraged to take photos so they can share with their friends and family (don't forget to tag the museum: [@omsi](#) and [#omsi](#)). Guests should respect the privacy of others and not use flash, so as not to distract from the exhibit experience.

Commercial image reproductions are not permitted. For the privacy of guests, and out of respect to the donors and the Institute of Plastination, photography that becomes distracting or disruptive will be restricted at OMSI's discretion.

**Q. Are food and drink permitted in the exhibit?**

**A.** Food or drink are not permitted in the featured exhibit hall.

**Q. Are there field trips or group rates to *BODY WORLDS*?**

**A.** Yes, schools or groups can [start a request](#) to book a visit and OMSI staff will reach out to discuss ticketing opportunities.

**Q. What is *BODY WORLDS*?**

**A.** *BODY WORLDS* exhibits are the first of their kind to inform the visitor about anatomy, physiology and health by viewing real human bodies preserved through plastination—the preservation process invented by Dr. Gunther von Hagens while he was working as an anatomist at the University of Heidelberg.

Since the beginning of the exhibit series in Japan in 1995, more than 50 million visitors in more than 145 cities across Asia, Europe, the Americas, Africa, and Oceania have seen the world's most successful traveling exhibition.

**Q. What does *BODY WORLDS* show?**

**A.** Each *BODY WORLDS* exhibit contains real human specimens—including whole-body plastinates as well as individual organs, organ configurations, and translucent body slices—that provide a comprehensive insight into the anatomy and physiology of the human body.

The plastinates in the exhibit take the visitor on an exciting journey of discovery under the skin. In addition to organ functions, common diseases are described in an easily understood manner by comparing healthy and affected organs. They show the long-term impact of diseases and addictions, such as tobacco or alcohol consumption, and demonstrate the mechanics of artificial knee and hip joints.

**Q. Has this exhibit been to OMSI before?**

**A.** *BODY WORLDS* has a number of different exhibits traveling the world at any given time. In 2006, OMSI brought *BODY WORLDS 3* to Portland, and in 2011–2012 hosted *BODY WORLDS & The Brain*.

*BODY WORLDS & The Cycle of Life* offers a dedicated look at human development, longevity, and aging. This full exhibit is all-new to OMSI.

Additionally, even if guests have seen a previous *BODY WORLDS* exhibit, they likely saw it in a different time of their life—this exhibit provides new knowledge about their current life stage and the power they have to keep their body healthy.

**Q. Why is it important for the public to see these exhibits?**

**A.** OMSI and the organizers of *BODY WORLDS* believe that when people understand more about how the body works and how it can break down, they are more likely to choose healthy and sustainable lifestyles.

**Q. Can I bring my stroller into the exhibit if I have young children with me?**

**A.** Yes. Strollers are permitted inside the exhibit.

**Q. Is this exhibit appropriate for children?**

**A.** Adults of all ages and some children will find *BODY WORLDS & The Cycle of Life* fascinating. The exhibit is developed and written for children approximately 5th grade and up, but it is up to parents, guardians or school staff to decide whether *BODY WORLDS* is appropriate for the children in their care.

Full-body plastinates—real human specimens preserved for educational and instructional purposes—are on display throughout the exhibit. Guests can see all elements of the human body including musculature, healthy and diseased organs, male and female genitals and reproductive systems, the nervous system, and the skeletal system.

Becoming familiar with and discussing the exhibit with any accompanying children before deciding whether or not to share the experience with them is recommended.

**Q. How much of the human body is shown in this exhibit?**

**A.** The human body is displayed in its entirety. With a goal of educating visitors about health, the plastinates provide a comprehensive insight into the anatomy and physiology of the human body. In addition, there are displays of individual organs and each of the systems of the body, including the urogenital system.

**Q. Would I be able to learn just as much from books or models of the human anatomy?**

**A.** The use of authentic specimens allows a penetrating examination and study of disease, physiology and anatomy unmatched by models, textbooks or photos. In addition, the exhibit allows visitors to understand that each and every body has its own unique features, even on the inside. The experience in other cities has clearly demonstrated that exhibit visitors are drawn to real specimens in a way that cannot be replicated by models.

**Q. What is plastination?**

**A.** Plastination is a unique process invented by Dr. Gunther von Hagens in 1977 to preserve specimens for medical education. The process replaces bodily fluids and soluble fat in specimens with fluid plastics that harden after vacuum-forced impregnation. After the bodies are fixed into lifelike poses, they are hardened with gas, heat or light. The plastinates show how our bodies respond internally to movements in everyday life, as well as during athletic activities. [Learn more](#) about plastination.

**Q. Why are the plastinates posed the way they are?**

**A.** The poses are chosen to highlight specific anatomical features and allow the visitor to relate the plastinate to his or her own body. They have been carefully thought out and serve educational aims—for instance, the athletic poses illustrate the use of muscle systems while playing sports.

**Q. Where did the specimens on display come from? Will we know who the plastinates are or how they died?**

**A.** The *BODY WORLDS* exhibits rely on the generosity of body donors. Each individual in the exhibit bequeathed that, upon their death, their bodies could be used for educational purposes. All the whole-body plastinates and the majority of the specimens are from these body donors. A few organs and specific specimens that show unusual conditions come from old anatomical collections and morphological institutes.

As agreed upon by the body donors, their identities and causes of death are not disclosed. The exhibit focuses on the nature of our bodies, not on providing personal information. [Learn more](#) about the Institute for Plastination's body donation program.