



# Going To Ford's Theatre

## Pre-Visit Story

# Ford's Theatre



Photo of Ford's Theatre © Maxwell MacKenzie.

**I am going to Ford's Theatre to visit and explore the National Historic Site.**

**Ford's Theatre is the place where President Lincoln was assassinated in 1865. Today, it is a history museum and working theatre.**

**Ford's Theatre is a four-part campus that includes the museum, theatre, Petersen House, and Aftermath Exhibits.**



# Staff



Photos by Carolina Dulcey.

**National Park Service and Ford's Theatre Staff are friendly helpers who will:**

- 1. Help me find the museum and theatre.**
- 2. Answer questions about the museum and theatre.**

# Lobby



Photo by Carolina Dulcey.

**When I get inside the building, I can go to the box office if I need to pick up my tickets. There is also a gift shop inside the lobby.**

**The lobby may be crowded and noisy.**

**Once I have my tickets, the staff may ask me to join the line outside the windows to get ready to enter with the other visitors.**

# Bathrooms



Photo by Carolina Dulcey.

**Bathrooms are down this hallway. They are open anytime during my visit.**

**The paper towel dispensers, faucets and toilets in the bathroom are automatic. The automatic toilets may be loud and surprise me.**

**The bathrooms on the balcony level do not have automatic faucets or toilets.**

**There are water fountains near the elevator on the balcony level.**

# Museum



Photo by Carolina Dulcey.



Photo © Maxwell MacKenzie.



Photo © Maxwell MacKenzie.

**If I am visiting the museum, I can walk down a stairway or take an elevator if I need to.**

**There are many cool things to see inside the museum, like videos and artifacts.**

**The museum may be crowded.**

**Many visitors spend about 30-minutes in the museum. There may be an announcement to let visitors know when it is time to go up to the theatre.**



# Theatre



Photos by Carolina Dulcey.

If I am visiting the theatre, there are many doors to enter the orchestra level, or I can go up the stairs to the balcony level.

When I go inside the theatre, I will see a lot of seats and a stage.

I will see one of three programs in the theatre:

1. **Ranger Talk:** A National Park Service Ranger will deliver a presentation from the stage. This will last about 30 minutes.
2. **Theatre Walk-Through:** I can explore the theatre at my own pace. Staff are available to answer questions.
3. ***One Destiny*:** A 40-minute performance that tells the story of the assassination of President Lincoln.

I can double-check my ticket or ask a staff member to confirm what I will get to see.

# Presidential Box



Photo © Maxwell MacKenzie.

**When I am inside the theatre, I will see a special area called the Presidential Box.**

**The Presidential Box is where President Abraham Lincoln sat in 1865.**

**It is decorated today just like it was for President Lincoln in 1865.**

**No one sits in the Box today. It is just a way to remember President Lincoln.**



# Leaving the Theatre



Photos by Carolina Dulcey.

**When I am finished in the theatre, I can go across the street to the Petersen House.**

**It may be crowded with other people who are also going to visit the Petersen House.**

**I may have to wait my turn to leave the theatre and the lobby.**

# Petersen House



Photos of Petersen House © Maxwell MacKenzie.

**The Petersen House is across the street from Ford's Theatre. It is where President Lincoln died in 1865.**

**I may have to wait in line to enter the Petersen House.**

**There are three rooms to explore. None of the furniture is original, but it helps me imagine what the house would have looked like in 1865.**

**When I am finished in the Petersen House, I can go up the elevator to the 4th floor to explore more exhibits.**

# Aftermath Exhibits



Photos of Aftermath Exhibits © Maxwell MacKenzie.

There are two exhibits where I can learn more about what happened after President Lincoln was assassinated.

The 4th Floor Exhibit tells the story of President Lincoln's funeral, and the manhunt for John Wilkes Booth.

The 3rd Floor Exhibit explores how President Lincoln is remembered in the United States and around the world.



# Book Tower



Photo of Ford's Theatre Book Tower © Maxwell MacKenzie.

**This book tower represents all of the books that have ever been written about President Lincoln. It was designed to be looked at, but not to be touched.**

## **GOING TO FORD'S THEATRE – CREDITS**

The pre-visit materials were developed by: Ford's Theatre  
Access Committee

Designer: Lenice Araiza