



NEWS

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Step Into a Spider's World at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

Arachnids Crawl Into the Spider Pavilion
September 24-November 5, 2006



Giant Orb Weaver,
photo by Gary Leonard

Visitors to the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County will have a rare opportunity to observe nearly 100 spiders in their natural habitat in the **Spider Pavilion, open from September 24 through November 5, 2006.** The *Spider Pavilion's* unique, fully engaging concept, in which gallery interpreters guide small groups through an enclosed greenhouse area, puts visitors up close to Orb Weaver spiders such as the Golden Silk and the Banded Garden. In this setting, the only public spider-viewing center of its kind in the country, spiders can be seen busily creating intricate webs, interacting with one another and feeding on their prey.

The largest spider on view will be the Golden Silk, which builds webs up to three feet across. Most common in South America, Golden Silks are considered the largest spider in the Americas, with females measuring up to 1-3/4" in length. Male Golden Silks are about 1/5 the size of their mates.

The *Spider Pavilion* also features the Banded Garden spider. The most common arachnid in the western United States, and easily identified by dramatic yellow and black markings, the Banded Garden spider produces large, crisscross webs that resemble those of the most famous garden spider of all – Charlotte of E. B. White's "Charlotte's Web."

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County's *Spider Pavilion* is located in an outdoor exhibition area on the Museum's South Lawn.

Spider Pavilion Special Ticketing

Timed tickets are available inside the Museum, with first availability for purchase at 10 a.m. and final sale at 4:30 p.m. each day. Adults \$3; Students/Seniors \$2; Children (5-12) \$1. Members receive FREE admission and the first available tickets.

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Museum Admission and Hours

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is located at 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles. It is open weekdays, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and weekends and holidays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$6.50 for children. For more information, visit the museum's website at www.nhm.org or call (213) 763-DINO.

About the Museum

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County serves more than one million families and visitors annually, and is a national leader in research, exhibitions and education. The Museum is L.A.'s second oldest cultural institution, the first to open its doors to the public in 1913, and has amassed one of the world's most extensive and valuable collections of natural and cultural history – more than 33 million objects, some as old as 500 million years.