

LEOH Trip

December 19, 2019

Hemi Hideout; HMNS Planetarium



Hemi Hideout is located north of Houston in Pattison. The *Hideout* is the culmination of a dream of John Hovas, who, at an early age, developed a love for the 1960's-1970's Dodge and Plymouth muscle cars.

The building consists of 21,700 sq. ft, with a 54-foot tall scissor-arched copula, built of Douglas fir from sustainable forest. Mortise and tenon joinery (no nails) was used in construction, and the building was constructed to be energy-efficient.

As you walk in, you must first become accustomed to being bathed in neon lighting from the many vintage neon signs on display! The Hemi blue elephant is easy to spot, along with the classic restored Hemis in a rainbow of hues. Below left, the chameleon hemi is so-called because the color can seem to change from eggplant purple to green to... Below right, how about this spoiler alert!



So many neon signs to marvel at! We spent much of our tour looking up at them! There were also many other displays of collectibles, even including a woolly mammoth tusk. Below right, tour guide Shelly Gates points out some antique museum-quality items and colorful paintings. Shelly is not just the tour guide; she is also the *Hemi Hideout* exterior and interior decorator. The Hideout includes a full service 1950's style diner and soda fountain, along with a large outdoor patio and BBQ. The Christmas season was a perfect time to tour, as the grounds and interior were beautifully decorated.





Topping off our tour, we enjoyed an ice cream treat, courtesy of *Hemi's*!

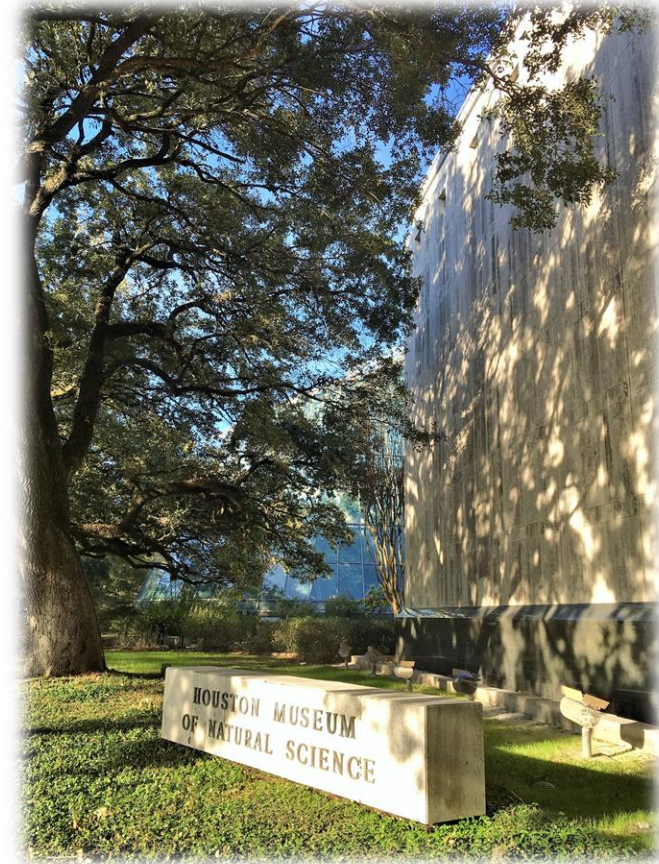




Next stop: Lunch at Skeeters back in Houston! Our bus driver Chris and trip leader Ann made sure our entire trip was pleasant and hassle-free!



Last stop: The HMNS and Planetarium





As we entered the museum lobby, we were greeted by “Lego Man”, a life-size figure made entirely of legos.

We then enjoyed the planetarium show “Mystery of the Christmas Star”. Numerous celestial events, such as comets, eclipses, and star alignments, were documented over several years B.C., serving as possible explanations for what we have come to know as the Christmas Star.



Inside the museum, the large moon mock-up was very impressive, along with a large-scale train exhibit, which included mountains, bridges, forests, tunnels, etc! Through the glass, we watched museum staff meticulously cleaning fossils. Back in the lobby, we admired many Christmas trees decorated by a variety of groups. And a trip to the museum was not complete without a swing through the gift shop to admire so many beautiful items.