Australian Museum
Aztecs evaluation report

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Introduction

*Aztecs* ran at the Australian Museum from 13 September 2014 to 1 February 2015 in the ground floor galleries, having previously been displayed at Te Papa and Melbourne Museum. It featured over 200 objects from Mexico, a huge scale model pyramid, interactive touch screens and a mobile-based audio guide.

These findings were

**Stereotypical visitors:**

- Similar profile to Alexander, but less likely to have heard about it via word of mouth (17% of *Aztecs* respondents said they had heard about it from other people, compared to 38% for *Alexander*).
- University educated females aged 50-64 visiting alone or with one other adult (friend or spouse/partner) and one or two children aged 10-12.
- Visit motivated by their personal interest in history and/or culture (not necessarily specifically Aztec history or culture).
- Decided to visit within the past week, having heard about it through external signage (posters & billboards), newspapers, word of mouth or the Museum’s website.
- Liked the artefacts (pottery, sculptures/statues), and the range and level of historical and cultural information.
- Would have liked more interactives for adults (including hands-on, not only touchscreens), more seating (particularly around the video immediately before the temple) and better lighting (particularly on the large oil painting in Gallery 2).

**Findings:**

- 91% of visitors had heard about the exhibition before arriving (down from 95% for Alexander and 96% for *Tyrannosaurs*), mostly through external banners/posters, newspapers, word of mouth and the Museum’s website.
- Most engaging sections were the *Journey from Aztlan*, the area around and inside the temple, and *Fall of an Empire*. The kids trail also proved to be popular.
- Average time spent in the exhibition was 63 minutes, compared to 76 minutes for *Alexander*.
- Males were slightly more engaged and spent slightly more time in the exhibition than females.
- 5% of tracked visitors exited through the entrance, compared to 6% for *Tyrannosaurs* and 4% for *Alexander*. No visitors were seen trying to enter via the exit.
Exhibition floor plan / tracking sheet

Floorplan heat map indicating average engagement on a scale of 1 to 4 as measured by tracking studies. Note that engagement may differ between age, gender and group composition.
Exit survey results

276 face to face surveys were conducted between September 2014 and January 2015 of visitors who had just exited the *Aztecs* exhibition.

**RESPONSES**

Before your visit today, which of any of the following did you read, see or hear about the Aztecs exhibition? Tick all that apply

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Information</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sign outside the museum</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendation by friend/family/teacher/colleague</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Museum’s website</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article / ad in another newspaper</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus shelter/street signage/phone booth</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First heard about it at front desk</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other website, blog or emailed information (specify below)</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Museum email / e-newsletter</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mention on TV (other)</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Telegraph</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brochures or postcards</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article / ad in a magazine</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other social networking site (specify below)</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Geographic Channel</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mention on radio</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Museum’s Facebook</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information from my hotel</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Word of mouth was significantly lower than for *Tyrannosaurs* (24%) and *Alexander* (38%)

**Can you name any of the Aztec exhibition sponsors?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Geographic Channel</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Daily Telegraph</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercure Sydney Potts Point</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adventure World</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JDecaux</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Similar results were measured during the research conducted by Melbourne Museum.

On a scale of 0 to 10, what is your satisfaction with the following aspects of the exhibition? (0 = extremely dissatisfied, 10 = extremely satisfied)

- Overall exhibition experience: 57% 39% 3%
- Quality of artefacts & objects on display: 69% 28% 4%
- Ambience and design: 63% 33% 4%
- Range of artefacts & objects on display: 56% 39% 6%
- Ability to see and read text: 56% 34% 9%
- Layout / wayfinding: 48% 42% 10%
- Value for money: 53% 35% 11%
- Timelines: 54% 34% 7%
- Lighting levels: 43% 43% 13%
- Dioramas / models: 51% 32% 9%
- TV screens / videos / projections: 42% 34% 8%
- Customer service: 54% 20% 5%
- Interactive multimedia (eg touchscreens): 43% 30% 9%
- Aztec shop: 35% 29% 16%
- Physical / hands-on interactives: 28% 22% 12%
- Aztec selfie interactive: 27% 15% 5%
- Kids Trail: 25% 9% 5%
- Museum cafe: 12% 11% 8%
- Audio guide: 9% 8% 4%

Satisfaction with the overall experience, the level of information, and the range and quality of artefacts was also measured with similarly high results at Te Papa and Melbourne Museum.
What was your MAIN REASON for visiting the Aztecs exhibition? (Word cloud from open-ended responses)

Visitors were typically motivated by an interest in history or culture, although not necessarily specifically that of Aztecs. The presence of real artefacts was also an attractor, as was general curiosity and the opportunity to learn something new. These are similar to the findings from Melbourne Museum’s research.

What did you LIKE BEST about the Aztecs exhibition? (Word cloud from open-ended responses)

The most liked aspect was the diversity of artefacts, particularly sculptures, statues and pottery.

The range of historical information was very well received, including descriptions of daily life, sacrifice and the rise and fall of the Aztecs.
What could be IMPROVED OR CHANGED in the Aztecs exhibition?
(Word cloud from open-ended responses)

Seating: People were often observed sitting on the plinths to watch the video immediately before the pyramid.

Interactives: More tactile interactives, particularly for adults.

Lighting: Particularly the reflections on the large oil painting in Gallery 2.

Is there anything else you’d like to share about the Aztecs exhibition?
(Word cloud from open-ended responses)

Australian Museum exhibition evaluation: Aztecs
EXIT SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

This population structure is very similar to that of Alexander’s survey respondents (see below). The demographics at the Australian Museum were slightly older than those measured when Aztecs was at Melbourne Museum.
Children attending Aztecs were skewed older than those who attended Tyrannosaurs (see below)
What is your total household income before tax and other deductions?

What is the highest form of formal education you have completed?

In which country/state do you live? (n=233)

An interactive Google map of respondent postcodes is available here: http://batchgeo.com/map/1f6d5bba00c84af3afc4df43edbb36c
Do you own a smartphone or other internet-connected mobile device?

- 83% No
- 17% Yes (please specify)

If yes, please specify:
- iPhone 37%
- Samsung 26%
- unspecified 11%
- HTC 7%
- tablet + phone 6%
- iPad 4%
- other 2%
- Nokia & Sony/Huawei each 1%

Australian Museum exhibition evaluation: Aztecs
MOTIVATIONS

Which describes your MAIN reason for visiting the Australian Museum? Choose one only

- a. It’s an Australian / Sydney attraction / ‘must do’ activity 11%
- b. I am drawn to interesting buildings and places 5%
- c. It’s an enjoyable way to pass the time 9%
- d. It is a nice place to spend time with my friends and family 7%
- e. To encourage children’s interest in a subject at the Museum 13%
- f. To improve my own knowledge or experience of a subject at the Museum 19%
- g. I have a personal interest in a subject at the Museum 19%
- h. I have an academic or professional interest in a subject at the Museum 2%
- i. For a strong sense of personal connection or identity 0%
- j. To see fascinating, awe-inspiring things 8%
- k. To see beautiful things in an attractive setting 2%
- l. To stimulate my own creativity 1%
- m. For peaceful, quiet contemplation 1%
- n. To escape and to recharge my batteries 1%

Note: The above graph represents a hierarchy in visitors’ depth of engagement where the simplest is as a social activity and the highest is as a spiritual experience.
Respondents who had visited within the past year had visited two or three times in the past 12 months, not including their current visit.
Did you use the AM website to plan your visit?

Yes: 40%
No: 60%

Are you currently an Australian Museum Member (AMM)?

Yes: 27%
No, but I am aware of AMM: 7%
No, and I haven’t heard of AMM: 66%
Tracking Results

80 tracking studies were made over the period from October 2014 to January 2015, between 10am and 4pm. Observations were carried out by interns and contracted surveyors, tracing the routes taken by visitors and noting how they engage with various display areas.

Visitors were classified as being an adult, teenager or child, and whether they came alone, with friends, as a couple, as a family, or a school group.

The observed behaviour of visitors at each area in the exhibition was divided into the following categories:

- **Engage (E)**: Visitor is clearly active and intently reads or uses exhibit
- **Attend (A)**: Visitor stops at exhibit with both feet still for at least two seconds
- **Skim (S)**: Visitor looks briefly at exhibit details but does not stop to attend
- **Ignore (I)**: Visitor passes within two meters of exhibit but fails to attend or skim

**Observations:**

- Adults were the most engaged age group. Males spent slightly more time in the exhibition than females, and were more engaged.

- The average time spent in the exhibition was 63 minutes, and ranged from 20 minutes to 2 hours and 5 minutes.

- Only 5% exited through the entrance, compared to 6% during *Tyrannosaurs.*
Average Time and Engagement by demographic:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group Type</th>
<th>avg. Time</th>
<th>avg. Eng.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>0:59 (Adult) 1:05 (Teen) 1:03 (Child) 1:01 (ALL)</td>
<td>3.27 (Adult) 3.29 (Teen) 3.07 (Child) 3.24 (ALL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couple</td>
<td>0:57 (Couple)</td>
<td>3.56 (Couple)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>1:07 (Friends)</td>
<td>3.36 (Friends)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alone</td>
<td>1:06 (Alone)</td>
<td>3.62 (Alone)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>1:02 (ALL) 1:06 (ALL) 1:03 (ALL) 1:03 (ALL)</td>
<td>3.42 (ALL) 3.34 (ALL) 3.07 (ALL) 3.30 (ALL)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* = insufficient numbers to calculate an average
- = no data collected for this

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Average Time</th>
<th>Average Engagement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>1:07</td>
<td>3.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1:00</td>
<td>3.34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The degrees of engagement (Engage, Attend, Skim, Ignore) were quantified on a scale of 1 to 4 so that the average level of engagement for each area and for each demographic could be calculated. An average of 4 would mean that all those observed engaged with that particular section, while a rating of 1 would mean that everybody ignored it. If a visitor did not approach within 2 metres of a display this was also recorded.

The average level of engagement across the entire exhibition was 3.37, by far the highest of recent paid temporary exhibitions (Alexander: 3.09, Tyrannosaurs: 2.97, Deep Oceans: 2.99). Average engagement by display remained fairly steady towards the end of the exhibition (indicated by the horizontal trend line in the chart below).

The most engaging areas were Journey from Aztlan (immediately following the introduction), Living with the Gods (the area around the pyramid), Journey to Mictlan (inside the pyramid), and Fall of an Empire (the first section of Gallery 2). Interestingly, non-adults were noticeably less engaged in the “Creating Model Citizens” area.
Open Ended Responses

What was your MAIN REASON for visiting the Aztecs exhibition?

- Interest in Aztec history
- Interest in Mesoamerican culture
- Membership - free tickets
- Looked interesting
- Seemed interesting
- To check it out / look around
- Professional interest
- Personal interest in Aztecs
- Interested in ancient civilisations
- Interest in Aztecs
- Personal interest
- Personal interest
- Children’s interest
- General interest in history
- Ancient history major
- Aztecs are cool
- Museum interest generally
- Personal interest
- Friend’s interest, needed to do something for the day
- Education
- Interest in the topic / history
- South America fascinates me
- Interest in their cultures
- Interested in America’s history etc
- Passion
- Wanted to see ancient ruins
- Fascinating
- Fascination & seeing actual exhibits
- General interest in global history
- I like history
- It sounded interesting
- Won tickets from National Geographic
- Invited by a friend
- It was finishing soon
- Always liked Aztecs
- Family activity
- Designer of exhibits, wanted to check it out
- Historic interest
- To learn more about Aztec culture
- Always have enjoyed exhibitions here
- Interested in Aztec culture
- To learn more about the Aztecs
- Personal interest
- To see & learn more about Aztec culture
- Interested
- Interest in American history
- Go to all of the exhibitions regarding ancient works of all cultures
- To read about the culture and fascinating displays
- Interest in Aztec history
- Interest in a very different culture
- Learn more about culture
- Learn about the culture
- Chance because I chose to go to the museum
- Looked interesting
- General interest
- Sounded interesting
- Interest in Latin America
- I studied it at school, interested
- General interest in this culture
- Interested in history
- Day out with the children
- At museum, Touristy thing
- Like art
- Saw the Mayan show
- Was at museum, seemed interesting
- Historical interest - like Aztec/Mayan culture
- Museum trip, tourisy
- Personal interest in Aztec culture
- Personal interest, went on holidays in Mexico
- It was closing soon, personal interest (lived in Mexico)
- Well curated, closing soon, wanted to see the museum’s take on Aztec history
- Personal interest in South American history
- Personal interest, wanted to learn more
- History, personal interest
- Son’s interest (7yo)
- Interest in history & art
- Personal interest
- Personal interest
- Partners interest, old history
- Interested in civilisation and the artefacts
- Aztecs are cool, academic interest
- Interest in history, Aztec civilisation as unique
- Personal & friend’s interest
• Babysitting & wanted to see exhibit
• Teach Aztec history
• Academic interest and personal interest
• Daughters interest, unique culture
• Interested in the Aztecs
• Figurines and culture
• Education for child (daughter)
• See it, academic interest, personal interest in ancient history
• Looking at artefacts and acquire info
• school holiday
• Free ticket
• Academic interest (study anthropology)
• Sounded interesting, personal interest in Aztecs and Incas
• Fearsome reputation of the Aztecs
• Educational
• Have been to other similar exhibits, but this was the best!
• like museums & like the Mexican culture
• It was on TV
• I like history
• Nothing else to do
• Learning
• former studies
• museum interest
• Interest
• Love of history and museums, encouraged by friend and tv/show on Aztecs
• Learn more about Aztecs (particularly interest in history)
• Wanted to learn more & enjoy museum
• Interest in the Aztecs
• Travel
• Historical interest and something to do
• Interesting
• Involved in the South American way of life (travel)
• To see what was here
• School holidays
• Interest in the history
• Intense curiosity
• School holidays
• Cause you never get to South America
• Education
• Lucky coincidence, planned to see the Museum on their holidays
• kids interest
• Ancient history
• Interest in history, different kind of history
• Fascination with Aztecs since 12 years old
• Kids interest
• Personal interest
• Personal interest, heritage, cultural background, recommended to see it
• Personal interest
• Daughter’s interest, personal interest
• Kids to see the exhibit
• Children’s interest
• Cultural interest
• Fascinated by the subject matter
• Subject matter
• Personal interest
• Archaeology
• Interest in the culture
• Missed in Melbourne
• interesting subject matter
• General interest
• Curiosity
• Curious
• Museum in general
• General interest
• To learn about the awesome Aztecs
• To do something interesting
• Interest in Aztec culture
• Whole museum, Mexican heritage
• Love interesting mystery cultural things
• Interest in history
• interest
• Nothing else to do
• Bring grandson
• Fascinated by them, learned some before
• interest
• General interest
• my brother studies Mexico
• Aztec exhibition interesting
• interested (history teacher)
• Interested
• interested
• Fascinating history
• Interested in subject matter
• Daughter’s interest and broader interest in the museum
• Personal interest
• Personal interest in the subject matter
• Few days in Sydney, wanted to see the museum
• Curiosity
• Personal interest in archaeology etc
• school holidays activity
• Looked interesting
• Interesting for my 8 year old son
• Like to see exhibitions, day off
• Interesting or curious
• Learning new things, experiencing something new
• Like history
• General interest
• Children to see
• History
• Interested in the culture
• Interest
• Something interesting to do on the weekend
• Interesting culture
• Entertainment for family
• For school holiday program
• Interest in history and travel to South America
• Interest during a holiday
• Learn about Aztec history & view artifacts
• Have a look
• Culture is interesting
• Sounded interesting
• Interested in culture
• Personal interest due to having visited Peru
• To learn more
• Interest in the subject matter
• To learn about the history of the Aztecs and also the culture and traditions
• Interest
• Opportunity and interest
• Interest
• Always been fascinated by the Aztecs
• General interest
• Interested in various cultures
• General interest in Aztecs
• We’re visiting the Museum anyway
• Passionate about history
• To check out suitability for school excursion
• To explore the fascinating Aztec display
• Share interest in history, personal interest, interest in America & Canada
• Through recommendation and personal interest
• Interested to see how it is portrayed
• Son expressed interest. Son lived in Mexico
• General curiosity
• Learning Spanish (personal interest)
• History
• General interest in South America. Family day out
• Just bought the ticket without realising
• Day off
• General interest
• To learn something new
• Birthday present
• Interested in cultures of other countries
• Curiosity
• I am interested in old cultures
• for educational interest
• Love ancient history!
• Looked cool
• like museum exhibitions
• Interest
• Love the culture
• Enjoy learning about the culture and history
• Interest
• To bring my daughter in
• To learn about their culture & history
• curious
• Interested in history
• Good chance to learn more about the Aztecs
• Love Aztec design & passionate about history
• Interesting place to bring grandchildren
• Show off to my family how good AM is
• Interest in their culture
• Teacher
• General interest
• Curiosity
• Love the Aztecs
• Violent history
• In the city
• General interest
• Intrigue
• Intrigued
• Subject matter
• Something to do, holiday
• Curiosity
• history / geography / interest
• Grandson outing. Holiday / personal interest / native culture
• Intrigue by Aztecs
• Show Mexico to grandchild
• Holidays, history interest
• Day out, children’s interest
• Love of history
• holiday
• interested in Aztecs
• Curiosity
• The specimens
• Basic interest
• To allow my children to learn
• spent the saturday vivid
• Visited similar display at British Museum London
What did you LIKE BEST about the Aztecs exhibition?

- intricate detail of artefacts
- original artefacts & good exhibits
- structure was well guided - begin to end, interactives were great
- diorama - the model of the marketplace
- all together it was good
- new info / videos
- kids trail (extra for children)
- in depth
- layout, variety of information
- relic’s condition
- learning about another culture
- activity stations - kept children busy while i was reading, liked temple
- learning about civilisation
- interactive stuff for children & the amount of artefacts in the exhibit
- kids trail, very beautiful display / info was very good
- the artefacts made from volcanic rock added to knowledge about geology
- skulls were cool
- write ups and artefacts
- all over was good
- comparing the history timeline, what was going on in europe at the same time
- well designed, audio tour, stamps (kids trail)
- excellent descriptions & lots of exhibits
- all of it
- everything - the story
- statues, history, video
- history, sculptures
- the sculptures
- jewellery & pottery
- markets
- comprehensiveness of its conception
- war stories
- how the exhibition explained their whole story
- the information. it was not too extensive - just right
- the exhibits about agriculture
- amazed at the size of the pottery, made at such an early time
- sculptures
- stamps
- spacial and atmospherically - good soundscape
- the artistic skills
- history timeline. layout, entirety
- exhibits displayed well
- that i don’t live in that period
- comprehensive, a lot of work has been put into it, well done
- ceramics
- stone sculptures
- spacious, informative
- the exhibition was outstanding, easy to see and easy to read. excellent art pieces brought out
- the way it was set out and the descriptive information easy to read and it was well lit.
- conquering for the gods
- good view of exhibits up close; excellent signage
- i like the stonework
- seeing the way they lived and learning about everyday life
- good labelling
- information boards gave a better understanding
- people sculpture
- degree of interest stimulated
- level of info! lots of cultural focus
- lots of relics, original from this time
- level of info. thorough
- interactive displays for children
- the artefacts
- structure of the show. skulls.
- mesoamericas, timeline etc
- good amount of info, artefacts
- artefacts
- artefacts, stone knives
- history in comparison to western culture
- descriptions were good, bought book, logically explained, well sized
- very well done, artefacts, commentary
- the reflection of Aztec history, detail
- very descriptive
- sculptures, clay artefacts, faces (eyes) using stone very talented
- sacrificial stuff, stamp books
- a lot of info and visuals (very good artefacts)
- colonisation but more about floating markets & agriculture
- well presented, sculptures
- artefacts and info
- informative, detailed
- wasn’t too crowded, well set up
- archaeological side & statues
- comprehensive insight on a 100 year phenomenon
• statues from the Mexican museum
• statues and inside the temple
• being close to statues
• comprehensive, quite educational
• real life artefacts from other museums
• temple and the death, sense of humour in the exhibit
• artefacts specifically the jewellery
• gruesome
• to look at objects
• learnt lots of things and saw new stuff
• sculptures
• poetry, lighting and setup (ie, layouts, descriptions, contrast between contemporary & historical view)
• historical info & artefacts
• conquest & downfall of the Aztecs
• variety & information notes
• explanation of the temple and underworld
• the theme “Aztecs”, it’s good to learn more about the latin culture
• educational
• art, sculpture
• centre of the universe - temple
• how old the artefacts were, good setup
• interactive (kids trail)
• sculptures
• interactives for kids were great but would like to come again to see more without kids
• the jaguar warriors and clothes. kids trail and selfie. masks, shells, bowls, etc
• religious components
• the statues and videos
• artifacts
• blood and the removal of hearts
• the audio was very good (lots of extra info)
• sacrificial elements (interesting)
• the design was well suited to school age
• the kids interactives and design
• culture and history interpretation, religious info
• sculptures
• kids interactives, warriors, trail
• beautiful and thoughtful layout and creat captions
• diversity
• rolling history components
• pieces were amazing
• invaded countries for human sacrifices
• video information, short version of info
• death, funeral, parallels between levels of life/death
• activity booklet
• kids trail, Aztec selfie, everything
• eagle statue, the layout of the exhibition
• specimens, out on display
• size, breadth, interactivity for children
• sculptures and story (narrative was good)
• sacrifice, history, underworld
• learning how they lived as a culture
• sacrifice, the nature of their population control
• death, sacrifice
• artefacts
• laid out / organised
• written material, nicely accompanied by the static displays. interactive displays
• like exhibitions in Australia as they are well curated and well presented much better educational value (good context)
• easily accessible so you could actually see, no crowds, well spaced videos
• condition of artefacts
• information, educational value
• amount of info
• information
• everything
• everything
• movies were very good
• codex, pendants, art
• the afterlife part and stamp collection
• the booklet to take stamps
• statues
• weapons
• lip plugs, big painting, codex
• sculptures, human bone mash (creepy & cool), simple plaques to help understanding
• artifacts
• artifacts, and information
• the temple
• sacrificing
• spanish conquest
• history
• very interesting
• everything
• reading about the daily life & customs
• spanish invasion section was most interesting
• well laid out, well spaced, easy to follow, good flow
• a lot of descriptions, good idea of the history and thorough context
• well set up, a lot of information provided
• the nature of the culture, the schools
• everything was good
• kids trail
• sculptures
• the stories, statue of warrior, the temples
• understanding the history, artefacts
• detail, story
• broad interest
• information
• sculptures, sacrifices
• the villages on water
• interesting
• baptismal font
• information
• real artefacts, reading the history
• i was impressed with all & especially liked the audio
• interactive activities
• touch screen
• sculptures and the eyes that make them alive
• informative
• the history - timelines in particular
• good context, frightening
• scientific, interesting, sculpture
• everything, it was all great
• the temple diorama
• information provided was good, very clear and precise
• the variety of static and video displays
• religious and conquest info
• i liked the temple and learning about how they sacrificed humans
• information provided and learning something new
• explanations, right level and in context to see examples
• everything was good, too hard to choose one.
• the codex was very impressive
• videos
• detailed
• dioramas were really good, after spanish conquest the spread of disease
• interactivity for kids
• beautiful objects & understand interpretation
• clear information - great for kids
• the jewellery they wore on display
• familiar to mayan & Aztec
• large sculptures
• pyramid model impressed the most
• very informative, huge range.
• skulls. stamp book things. souvenir coins
• descriptions, dioramas
• sculptures
• stamps
• insights into Aztec civilisation
• artefacts, also the description of the life of the Aztecs
• learning about the afterlife
• gift shop / models
• variety of exhibits shown
• video clips
• sculptures and Aztec clay dishes
• stamping & map
• i loved the weapons and tomes
• some artifacts
• sculptures
• information plus style
• it was a wonderful portrayal of life
• how close you can be to the items & how in depth some of the ex goes
• the stories about their lives
• involvement for kids
• interesting statues & monuments
• the pottery & videos
• the history
• balance of culture & warfare
• scary statues!
• all good
• it was all wonderful
• all of it
• historical significance, well laid out. social aspect. visuals
• the original artefacts
• easy to understand, pronunciation, layout
• big temple
• sacrificial info
• lots of info. huge mural
• sacrifices
• well put together
• well done generally
• very informative
• spirituality / religion
• sacrifice
• drinking god, rituals, information available
• temple
• in depth study - specific info
• personal interest / heritage / info about background
• history
• underworld information inside temple
• artefacts
• sculptures
• statues
• booklet
• broad subject matter
• layout, descriptions of items, easy to understand
• the interactive media
• thorough; both Aztec & spanish history
• stamps and the self portrait booth

What could be IMPROVED OR CHANGED in the Aztecs exhibition?

• more stuff that is being recently discovered, current archaeological projects
• more music
• needs a summary video of all the info in the exhibit
• films were too loud, distracting
• lighting could have been brighter
• needed explanations about carving & skills of aztecs
• more hands on activities
• selling posters and shop should be cheaper
• was surprised at the textile pieces
• lighting was dull and sometimes difficult to see details in sculptured basalt etc. what tools / metals / stone did they use to make the sculptures
• change the way of thinging of the archaeologists
• more pictures
• lights on the leather screen was very poor, glass surface was not properly lit, needed an evenly distributed light instead of spot lighting
• digital stuff wasn’t working
• there needs to be a diversity of experiences in the gallery, needs to present different displays, size of displays needs to vary
• numbering of audio tour confusing, cannot find next number without a search
• large painting was poorly lit
• more of it, although excellent
• by displaying a few more things - you cannot see too much!
• generally well thought out
• order of audio tour wasn’t clear
• more light
• lighting over large battle painting
• lighting was poor on the oil painting, touchscreen content was rather short. too many skulls in shop. cafe had awful coffee, the worst i have had in years; will never go again.
• more jewellery!
• very gory. more child-appropriate
• more clear direction / layout
• more seating
• more gold!
• more information on spanish, cortez
• used the audio guide
• more seats spread out

• set up
• layout

• the temple. text was too small and too low. cafe food is boring & unhealthy
• needed more of everything
• lighting was not well positioned
• lecture events should be recorded/online resources for teachers. Aztec selfie was too high for 8 year old to play with, needed to be lower
• more for kids, getting kids more involved, too much reading
• tightly spaced, very crowded
• a ten minute movie with seating and an auditorium, more seats and benches in front of these movies
• the amount of artefacts was too little
• crowded, very small space for the amount of people, more multimedia with seating, very tiring, activities for grownups
• clear info in the competition so others can’t see personal details
• maybe smell / smoke in a brazier!
• better lighting in spots where reading is invited
• the temple was under my expectations
• more for the kids to touch
• could have been bigger
• interactive session with video-audio included, just like with tyrannosaurs
• nothing
• nothing
• nothing
• more gold
• free chocolate samples
• bigger (in comparison to melbourne)
• nothing
• lack of seating (nowhere to sit)
• nothing
• lighting difficult as shadows are cast on text by visitors
• nothing
• nothing much except a little about family and day to day life
• needed to know more about the people
• sit down movie, a larger screen, somewhere to sit listen & relax
• some lighting positioned awkwardly
• everything was pretty well laid out
• more things for children, painting, colouring the gods, buying hot chocolate, having Mexican nachos
• spaces to sit and relax, for all ages
• caps in how they lived, more detail, more continuity
• more information
• nothing it fitted the space perfect
• more extensive
• more seating
• more seats to sit on and relax
• nothing
• paprika is not Mexican. more sculptures
• more video
• add more video
• nothing
• art of competition papers
• nothing
• nothing
• not as easy to navigate as we had to retrace steps
• more of this
• writing could be bigger (labels on items)
• the process of acquiring the artefacts and the context of finding them or when they were found. more explanatory videos
• it was a bit confronting. you can’t read everything, too much info
• the numbering could have been clearer, audio guide was not as informative as the wall mounted videos
• density of space
• more of everything
• more hands on
• needed more context & background. too much emphasis on the death and sacrifice. context within the area - would have been good to show the current context, more context about it, more differentiation
• too scary (the skeletons)
• more chairs
• nothing
• more chairs, bit gory
• poetry not for sale - the poetry on the walls is not for sale in the shop!
• nothing
• could not be better
• the children made too much noise
• not much historical gold artifacts
• it’s fine!
• difficult audio guides - need more benches for older people
• more security. people were using flash, supervision clearer direction, ie flow chart or footprints
• nothing
• little a bit more about conquest
• more interactive exhibitions and games for the kids
• children running
• nothing
• the lighting - creates shadows and the red colour is hard to read. size is not the best in crowds.
• could have been more interactive
• more on dance & music?
• date that cortez given interpreter
• more interactive displays, eg push a button to have something interesting happen
• touch screens were broken. more on religious aspects & sacrifice
• more jewellery and colour represented
• inaccuracy in information (fact checking please) in few details
• make it as if you were an Aztec citizen to more personally identify
• more assistance
• more interactions
• more pictures, less writing
• one or two spaces where there was crowding in corner as several people wanted to see the same thing, eg mask with dagger in mouth was hard to get to.
• wish to have a chance to see more
• more souvenirs
• perhaps add more books or informaiton
• more artifacts, less writing
• all good
• nothing unless you add more
• make it a little easier for kids
• nothing
• much better access for less educated people/children - level of literacy & attention required to fully access exhibition too high
• quite happy with it as it is
• easier flow
• more human sacrifices
• more info about sacrifices
• too long, more jewellery
• lighting, shadows on the text. more flow, too broken
• more chairs, resting place
• more objects, more diversity
• more info about nobility / sacrifice blood letting in royalty / rituals within society
- arrows / notice to indicate to follow exhibit
- too gruesome
- needed more arts and jewellery
- nothing
- one day free for children 12 and under

Is there anything else you’d like to share about the Aztecs exhibition?

- nice skulls
- one of the best
- more for young children (1-2yo)
- really enjoyed it
- font was too small
- very impressive, would recommend it
- no, happy with it
- pretty good
- really fun
- great thanks
- really enjoyed it
- great opportunity. stimulates me to visit Mexico!
- thank you
- thanks
- well worth seeing
- it was a pleasure to see this wonderful display
- the length of the videos were good, the size was awkward, too many people sharing one screen
- text was well presented, gruesome nature was very engaging, audio visuals added to experience, size was well proportioned, lived up to its promise.
- not enough in the shop of the Aztec culture, too many contemporary items
- very large and extensive, gave a very good picture of the society, very good indication of women’s role. very effective at showing the nature of Aztec culture
- shop included very good items (handcrafted items)
- museum should do more of this, more advertising and more variety
- enjoyable, met expectations, well set out
- 10yo thought it was good
- more hands on for kids - cheaper things for kids to buy at shop
- needs more interactivities for children
- it was fabulous, exceeded expectations, learnt more although i had already studied it
- appreciate it coming to Sydney
- it was good!
- was wonderful, very enjoyable
- very fun and interesting, it was new and informative
- i feel i would have more comments and feedback if i was alone to see the exhibit
- fun!
- very enjoyable! really pleased
- enjoyable and about the right size for here in Australia (not over-whelming), great that there were no lines.
- reading became tiresome, more opportunities for adults to go without chiodren, adult sized playground
- Aztecs rule
- need more space, large exhibitions, need to be bigger
- really enjoyable
- feel sorry for the people who died
- good exhibition, well organised
- wonderful exhibition
- outlet for direct engagement with 13-14 year olds. need to be engaged directly, ie tour guides or talk.
- interesting experience
- very interesting and i liked the sculptures
- satisfied with any geographical interest
- not enough in the exhibition
- one of our favourites we have seen, just the right amount of information.
- $4 extra was very reasonable considering the added cost at other museums for temporary exhibits.
- i am very interested with the models and children’s interaction pieces
- thanks for bringing it here - really evocative
- it was really good!
- very far away from our current context, very informative in regard to conquerer and the culture of the Aztec. the religion aspect was very engaging
- more music
- all good
- wonderful & informative exhibition, keep up the good work. well done.
- if the exhibition was open one night a week it would help some people who work full time to see it.
- temple could have been amped up more, needs to be more prominent in the centre exhibits. more effects with the centrepiece & sound effects
- the standard of exhibits at the museum has always improved!
- more diversity with content (jewellery/arts)
- everyday goods present in the exhibit