

1001 Inventions – Discover the Golden Age of Muslim Civilization

By: Justin McGuire | Posted on: March 18th, 2011



New York is full of so many museums, it is hard to keep track of all the exhibitions and displays on offer at any given point of time. However, if you have some time on hand and are keen on a knowledge trip, the first place you should probably head to is the New York Hall of Science, which is currently displaying a fascinating exhibition, *1001 Inventions – Discover the Golden Age of Muslim Civilization*.

The exhibition brings to light crucial technological and scientific inventions and discoveries from the middle ages (7th – 17th century), when a lot of the West was reeling under the influence of the dark ages and the Muslim kingdoms represented the zenith of knowledge and advancement. Some of the breakthroughs of the time on display include surgical tools from the 10th century, a vertical windmill, a ninth century flying machine model, the giant elephant clock of Al-Jazari and Admiral Zheng He's 10th century Chinese ship. You will not only get to see the displays, but also learn how they came about and what made them significant. It is a great opportunity for children to discover and actually 'see' a history they would otherwise know little of.

You will also come away with knowledge of why we write numbers the way we do, and when scientists first discovered the exact mechanism of human sight. A lot of these advancements and inventions paved the way for the renaissance in Europe. Another reason to visit is an award-winning 13-minute short film that is a part of the exhibition. It features Oscar-winning actor, Sir Be Kingsley.

The exhibition is divided into seven zones and comprises of more than 60 interactive exhibits that cover diverse concerns, including medicine, home science, school, the marketplace, shipping and defense, and understanding the world and universe. Furthermore, the achievements of the time come from many different regions and cultures, clearly indicating that scientific progress during that time was a global achievement. You will get a first hand account of the works of pioneers from African, European, Persian, Chinese, Indian, Turkish, Arab and Jewish cultures.

Admission to the exhibition is free, once the general admission ticket has been bought. The New York Hall of Science is open from 9.30 am – 2 pm, from Tuesday-Thursday, 9.30 am – 5 pm on Friday and 10 am – 6 pm on Saturday and Sunday. Further information is available at 718-699-0005. The exhibition is on currently and is here till April 24, 2011. To learn more about the exhibition, please visit the official site, www.nysci.org.