

# Outdoor Self Guide

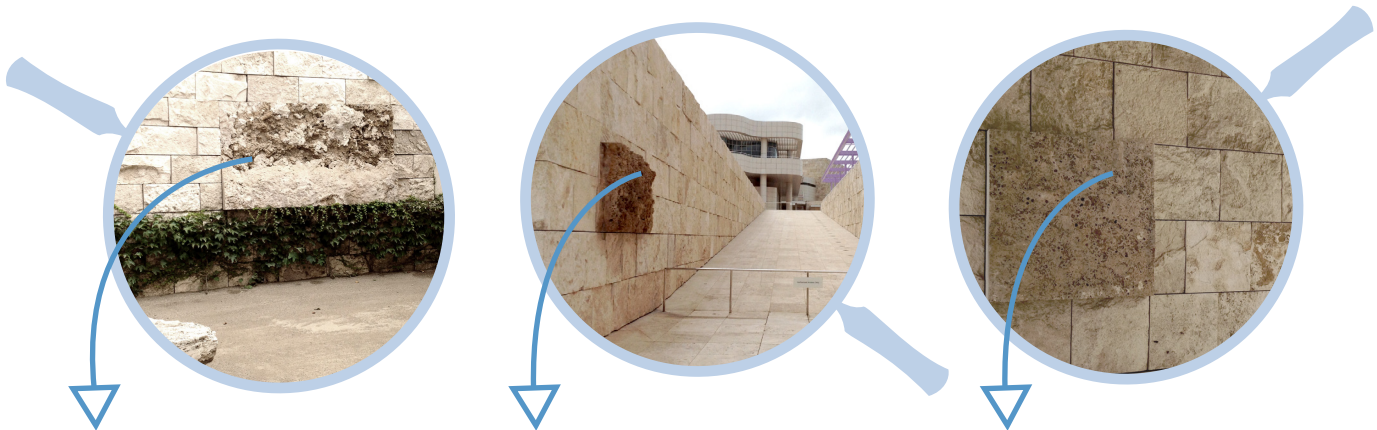
# The Getty Center

## Travertine Traces

Architect Richard Meier used travertine from Rome to construct the Getty Center. Travertine is a sedimentary rock which forms when layers of soft soil build up and are pressed together for millions of years. The travertine at the Getty is up to ten million years old, dating to the Miocene epoch. With a friend, come up with two possible reasons an architect would choose this ancient material to build the museum and grounds.

### Take a closer look at the travertine stones to find fossils.

Fossils are the remains of organisms that lived many years ago. Many of the Getty's fossils are of leaves –can you find anything else?



Top of the Garden  
next to the stairs.

Bottom of the ramp  
on the Tram Plaza.

Courtyard Level  
passing the Entrance Hall

### Keep Looking

Fossils appear on the floor, on steps, and along walls. Find a fossil and try the following activity.



### Get a Partner

Look and touch the fossil. Imagine where you could have found this organism before it was fossilized. What kind of organisms alive today would be found in the same place?

### Travel back

Pretend you could travel back ten million years. Dinosaurs were already extinct, but the first dogs, hawks, and whales began appearing. What kind of creatures would you find? How did you come to those conclusions?

### Discuss

Come together with everyone in your group and share what you and your partner imagined.

## SCHOOL



Education at the J. Paul Getty Museum

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