

Dinosaurs: Ancient Fossils, New Discoveries

May 17 to September 16, 2012

The Exhibition

Dinosaurs explores how paleontologists are using new technologies to investigate the mysteries and challenge long-held beliefs about dinosaurs, such as what they really looked like, how they moved and behaved, and why, or even whether, they became extinct. This ground-breaking exhibition showcases the latest dinosaur research by leading scientists from around the world.

Highlights of *Dinosaurs: Ancient Fossils, New Discoveries*

- Gigantic life-size cast skeletons of *T. rex* and Stegosaurus.
- The most accurate three-dimensional representation of a moving dinosaur ever created – a robotic two-metre-long (6′) mechanical *T. rex* skeleton walking in place.
- A stunning metallic 18-metre-long (60′) model of an Apatosaurus skeleton – the giant, long-necked sauropod that lived 150 million years ago during the Jurassic period.
- A life-size model of a newly identified primitive tyrannosaur, *Dilong paradoxus*, covered with branched protofeathers—precursors to the feathers found on living birds.
- A model of a Microraptor gliding between trees with wings on both its arms and its legs. Discoveries like this provide further compelling evidence that birds are living descendants of theropod dinosaurs.
- One of the largest re-creations of a prehistoric environment ever built. Visitors can stroll back in time through the 130-million-year-old Liaoning forest in northeastern China. There are dozens of scientifically accurate, fleshed-out, life-size models of more than 35 different species of dinosaurs, reptiles, early birds, insects, mammals and plants.
- A “trophy wall” of mounted dinosaur skulls ranging from the three-horned Triceratops to the dome-headed Pachycephalosaurus.
- Interactive computer simulations and animations including a presentation of dinosaur extinction scenarios.
- An engaging suite of hands-on educational activities for young visitors.
- A newly collected sedimentary slab, which clearly shows a thin layer of iridium. Scientists believe this layer represents the remnants of a massive meteoroid that vaporized upon impact and contributed to the extinction of more than half of all species on Earth.
- Three large high-definition video screens showing a computer animation of a steel Apatosaurus skeleton that morphs into a realistic fossil skeleton then gradually adds layers of muscle and skin to build a full-fleshed Apatosaurus.
- Royal BC Museum family programs, events and presentations.

Dinosaurs: Ancient Fossils, New Discoveries is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York.