



EXHIBITION WALK THROUGH

ENTRANCE / LOBBY: Welcome to *Ultimate Dinosaurs*

Fully-Articulated Skeleton

- *Cryolophosaurus* (cast) [cry-o-LOAF-o-sore-us]

SECTION 1: Triassic Period / 250-200 Million Years Ago

The Supercontinent of Pangaea and the Origin of Dinosaurs

Dinosaurs evolved during a time when the Earth's land masses were grouped together as the equatorial super-continent known as Pangaea. As a result, early dinosaur communities, dominated by coelophysoid theropods and prosauropods, were widely distributed throughout the Triassic and the early Jurassic periods.

The Ischigualasto Formation in Argentina contains some of the oldest known dinosaur remains and is our best window into the origin of dinosaurs. This section of the exhibition features fossils of some of these early dinosaurs, including the carnivores *Eoraptor* and *Herrerasaurus*, and the herbivore *Pisanosaurus*.

Although dinosaurs first evolved in the Triassic, they were not the dominant land animals during this period. A number of other large groups of vertebrate such as the rhynchosaurian, crocodilian, and crurotarsan reptiles and the therapsid synapsids, were more numerous, and may have preyed upon some of these early dinosaurs.

Fully-Articulated Skeletons

- *Eoraptor* (cast) [ee-oh-RAP-tore]
- *Herrerasaurus* (cast) [her-RARE-uh-SORE-us]
- *Pisanosaurus* (cast) [pye-SAN-oh-SORE-us]

Supplementary Fossil and Cast List

- *Lystrosaurus* (cast; skull) [Liss-tro-SORE-us]
- *Mesosaurus* #1 (cast; stereosternum) [Mes-oh-SORE-us]
- *Mesosaurus* #2 (cast) [Mes-oh-SORE-us]
- *Glossopteris* #1 (cast) [gloss-op-ter-is]
- *Glossopteris* #2 (cast) [gloss-op-ter-is]
- *Megatherium* (original fossil) [Meg-ah-ther-ree-um]
- *Glyptodon* (original fossil) [Glip-toe-don]

SECTION 2: Jurassic Period / 200-145 Million Years Ago

The Dinosaurs Take Over

Just before the beginning of the Jurassic Period, many animals that competed with the early dinosaurs were wiped out, victims of a global, mass extinction event. This opened up new ecological opportunities for the surviving dinosaurs, which expanded into new ecological roles and habitats across the globe.

New dinosaur groups evolved during this time, and by the late Jurassic, sauropods dominated the landscape, replacing the earlier prosauropods as the major herbivores. Early theropods like *Cryolophosaurus* gave way to new groups of carnivores, including the tyrannosauroids, abelisaurs, and allosauroids. Other new dinosaur groups that evolved during the Jurassic included the herbivorous ornithopods and ceratopsians.

During the Jurassic, in the first stage of continental break-up, the supercontinent of Pangaea divided near the equator to form a northern land mass (Laurasia) and a southern land mass (Gondwana).

Fully-Articulated Skeletons

- *Ouranosaurus* (cast) [ooh-RAN-oh-SORE-us]
- *Malawisaurus* (cast) [ma-LAHW-wee-SORE-us]
- *Suchomimus* (cast) [Su-ko-MY-mus]

Supplementary Fossil and Cast List

- *Nigersaurus* (cast; skull) [Nee-jeer-SORE-us]
- *Carcharodontosaurus* (cast; skull) [Car-kah-ROW-dont-oh SORE-us]
- *Hamadaosuchus* (cast; skull) [Ham-odd-oh-SUE-kus]
- *Elosuchus* (cast; skull) [El-oh-SUE-kus]
- *Aegisuchus* (cast; skull) [Ay-je-SUE-kus]
- *Onchopristis* (original fossil) [On-cho-priss-tis]
- *Ceratodus* (original fossil) [Ser-rah-toe-dus]
- *Lepidotes* #1 (original fossil; skull) [Lep-ih-DOE-teez]
- *Lepidotes* #2 (original fossil; scale) [Lep-ih-DOE-teez]
- *Suchomimus* (tactile bronze cast; tooth) [Sue-ko-mie-mus]
- *Suchomimus* (tactile bronze cast; claw) [Sue-ko-mie-mus]

SECTION 3: Cretaceous Period / 145-65 Million Years Ago

Gondwana Fragments

During the Cretaceous Period, the southern supercontinent of Gondwana began to fragment under the unrelenting forces of plate tectonics, ultimately forming the present-day continents of South America, Africa, Australia, and Antarctica—plus India and Madagascar. This section of the exhibition is organized geographically into three major sub-sections, Africa, Madagascar, and South America, and profiles Cretaceous southern dinosaurs whose fossil remains have been found on these landmasses.

Throughout the Cretaceous period, the global climate was relatively warm, sea levels were high, and vast regions of the continents were covered by shallow seas. As the continental pieces of Gondwana drifted apart, the isolation created distinctive ecosystems in which the respective dinosaur communities evolved.

Fully-Articulated Skeletons

- *Majungasaurus* (cast) [mah-JUNG-ah-SORE-us]
- *Masiakasaurus* (cast) [Mah-shee-ah-kah-SORE-us]
- *Rapetosaurus* (cast) [Rah-pay-tow-SORE-us]

- *Simosuchus* (cast) [Sim-oh-su-kus]
- *Rahonavis* (cast) [Rae-hoe-nay-viss]
- *Amargasaurus* (cast) [A-mar-gah-SORE-us]
- *Buitreraptor* (cast) [Bwee-tree-Rap-tor]
- *Carnotaurus* (cast) [Car-no-TORE-us]
- *Austroraptor* (cast) [Aw-stro-RAP-tore]

Supplementary Fossil and Cast List

- *Majungasaurus* (tactile bronze cast; bones) [mah-JUNG-ah-SORE-us]
- *Majungasaurus* (tactile bronze cast; teeth) [mah-JUNG-ah-SORE-us]
- *Spinosaurus* (original fossil; tooth) [Spine-oh-SORE-us]
- Sauropod (original fossil; tooth) [Sore-oh-pod]
- Crocodilian (original fossil; osteoderm) [krok-oh-dil-ee-uh n]
- *Carcharodontosaurus* (original fossil; tooth) [Car-car-ROW-dont-oh SORE-us]
- Sauropod (tactile original fossil; vertebra large) [Sore-oh-pod]
- Sauropod (tactile original fossil; vertebra small) [Sore-oh-pod]
- Theropod (tactile original fossil; partial tibia) [ther-oh-pod]
- *Argentinosaurus* (cast; vertebrae) [AHR-gen-TEEN-uh-SORE-us]
- *Futalognkosaurus* (cast; leg) [Foo-tah-lonk-oh-SORE-us]
- *Amargasaurus* (model; embryo) [A-mar-gah-SORE-us]
- *Amargasaurus* (original fossil; femur) [A-mar-gah-SORE-us]
- *Titanosaur* (cast; femur) [Tie-tan-oh-SORE-us]

SECTION 4: Late Cretaceous Period / 100-65 Million Years Ago

Southern and Northern Hemispheres

The final section of the exhibition will illustrate the difference between northern hemisphere and southern hemisphere dinosaurs by presenting a dramatic hypothetical face-off between the mega-predators *Tyrannosaurus rex* (from the north) and *Giganotosaurus* (from the south). During the Late Cretaceous, the familiar tyrannosaurs were the dominant carnivores in North America, while the plant-eating hadrosaurs (duck-bills) and ceratopsians (horned dinosaurs) were the dominant herbivores.

This contrasts with the Gondwana fauna, where the dominant carnivores were *Giganotosaurus* and its relatives and the sauropods (long extinct in the north) were the dominant plant-eaters.

Fully Articulated Skeletons

- *Giganotosaurus* (cast) [Jig-a-NOTE-oh-SORE-us]

Supplementary Fossil and Cast List

- *Giganotosaurus* (tactile bronze cast, tooth) [Jig-a-NOTE-oh-SORE-us]
- *Tyrannosaurus rex* (tactile bronze cast, tooth) [tie-RAN-oh-SORE-us]