

DINOTRAIL

5 AUGUST - 1 SEPTEMBER

What is a Palaeontologist?

Palaeontologists are like detectives who examine the evidence that extinct animals left behind. Those clues to what dinosaurs were like are found in fossils — the ancient remains of an organism, such as teeth, bone, or shell — or evidence of animal activity, such as footprints and trackways.

Everything that is known about non-avian dinosaurs is based on fossils, which include bones, teeth, footprints, tracks, eggs, and skin impressions. For centuries, people throughout the world have discovered amazing fossilized bones and footprints which are studied by Palaeontologists.

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DINO FACT SHEET



Doris the Dilong Paradoxus

The Dilong Paradoxus was one of the smallest tyrannosaurs known, reaching about two metres in length, and had an unusual Y-shaped skull crest. They also had three fingers and relatively long arms!

Type of dinosaur: *Tyrannosauridae*
Length: 2 metres
Weight: 11 kg
Diet: *Carnivorous*
Teeth: *Closely packed, D-shaped front teeth*
Food: *Other animals*
How it moved: *On 2 legs*
When it lived: *Between 105 and 125 million years ago*
Found in: *Liaoning, China*



Stan the Stegosaurus

Stegosaurus are famous for their two rows of kite-shaped plates that stick out from their neck, back, and tail. But the palaeontologist who first discovered a Stegosaurus fossil thought the plates laid flat on its back like a turtle's shell. That's why its name in Greek means 'roof lizard.'

Type of dinosaur: *Armoured dinosaur*
Length: 18 metres
Weight: 6350 kg
Diet: *Herbivorous*
Teeth: *Triangular and flat teeth*
Food: *Plants such as mosses and ferns*
How it moved: *On 4 legs*
When it lived: *145 million years ago*
Found in: *Colorado, USA*



Danny the Deinonychus

Originally, scientists only had a pair of arm bones with big, long claws to learn about Deinonychus. Now we know that it was a truly bizarre-looking creature, with huge, clawed hands, a beaked head like a duck and a hump like a camel.

Type of dinosaur: *Large theropod*
Length: 10 metres
Weight: 6,500 kg
Diet: *Omnivorous*
Teeth: *They didn't have teeth!*
Food: *Plants and other animals*
How it moved: *On 2 legs*
When it lived: *Late Cretaceous, 70-66 million years ago*
Found in: *Mongolia*

Find our Dino displays located on levels 1, 2 and 3.

All events are free and may be subject to change or cancellation without prior notice.

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Did you know?

- The heaviest dinosaur was Argentinosaurus at 77 tonnes. It was the equivalent of 17 African Elephants.
- The longest dinosaur was Argentinosaurus, which measured over 40 metres, as long as four fire engines.
- The smallest dinosaur egg so far found is only 3cm long.
- The smallest fully-grown fossil dinosaur is the little bird-hipped plant-eater like Lesothosaurus, which was only the size of a chicken.
- Modern birds are a kind of dinosaur because they share a common ancestor with non-avian dinosaurs.

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Dino Baby Hatchlings & Eggs

Dino eggs come in two basic shapes: round and oval. Different kinds of dinosaurs laid their eggs in different patterns, such as in a spiral or rows. But they always laid their eggs in nests. Some dinos scooped out nests on the ground and others built raised nests of mud.

Some of the nests were really big - a person could lie down across one with room to spare!



Tony the T-Rex

The Tyrannosaurus Rex more commonly known as a T-Rex was found stomping around the USA and Canada 65 million years ago. The T-Rex had 50-60 banana-sized teeth in its mouth and a brain twice the size of most other hunting dinosaurs.

Type of dinosaur: Large theropod

Length: 12 metres

Weight: 7000 kg

Diet: Carnivorous

Teeth: Banana-sized bone crushing pointed teeth

Food: Other animals

How it moved: On 2 legs

When it lived: Late Cretaceous, 68-66 million years ago

Found in: Canada, USA



Vanessa the Velociraptor

They hunted in packs and were very intelligent. With powerful back legs and long claws that could attack their prey with speed. They are famous for having one long large claw on the top of their foot to pin down their prey.

Type of dinosaur: Large theropod

Length: 1.8 metres

Weight: 7 kg

Diet: Carnivorous

Teeth: Lots of sharp, pointed teeth

Food: Other animals

How it moved: On 2 legs

When it lived: Late Cretaceous, 74-70 million years ago

Found in: Mongolia

Have some fun at home and download our **FREE** Dino activity sheets from our website.

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