

Discovery Center of Idaho Announces New Exhibition, *The World's Largest Dinosaurs*

The new exhibition, now opening October 12th, explores the super-sized sauropod dinosaurs with learning opportunities for all ages.

BOISE, ID- August 16th, 2024 -- The Discovery Center of Idaho is thrilled to announce the arrival of *The World's Largest Dinosaurs*, now opening on October 12th, 2024. This exciting exhibition explores the amazing biology of a group of uniquely super-sized dinosaurs: the long-necked and long-tailed sauropods. Organized by the American Museum of Natural History in New York, the exhibition draws on paleo-biological research that looks in part to living organisms to make inferences about how these giants—some of which grew to be longer than 150 feet, or the length of four standard city buses—were able to thrive, as a group, for approximately 140 million years.

Through imaginative exhibits—including the exhibition centerpiece, a life-sized, detailed model of a 60-foot-long *Mamenchisaurus*—*The World's Largest Dinosaurs* takes visitors beyond the bones and into the bodies of these titans, shedding light on how heart rate, respiration, metabolism, and reproduction are linked to size.

“The Discovery Center is so excited to bring *World's Largest Dinosaurs* to the Treasure Valley! While most guests are already familiar with our resident *Tyrannosaurus rex*, Tinker, we can't wait to expand into the colossal realm of sauropods. Stomp on over to learn about these enormous herbivores!” said Erin Seymour, Discovery Center of Idaho’s Education Director. “Our hope is that visitors of all ages will leave with a better understanding of the lives of sauropods and the way scientists explore and draw conclusions about extinct animals.”

Distinguished by their colossal size, sauropods included animals of diverse shape, and ornamentation, such as the gigantic *Apatosaurus*, formerly known as *Brontosaurus*, a mount of which has been on display in the American Museum of Natural History since 1905. Focusing on the biology and behavior of these diverse creatures, *The World's Largest Dinosaurs* builds on a growing body of research that examines dinosaurs as living animals, primarily through comparisons with modern dinosaur relatives.

The exhibition is curated by Mark Norell, Curator Emeritus of the American Museum of Natural History’s Division of Paleontology, who has done groundbreaking work in the field of dinosaur biology, and features the work of exhibition guest co-curator Martin Sander from the University of Bonn in Germany. Sander has assembled a multi-disciplinary research team of experts in materials science, animal nutrition, sports medicine, biomechanics, and paleontology to address the intriguing question of what sauropods in particular were like as living animals and how they became so large.

“The question of sauropod biology, particularly their gigantic size and incredible longevity as a group has interested me for some time,” said Martin Sander, Curator Emeritus from the University of Bonn,

Germany. “This exhibition addresses this question through a multi-disciplinary research process that reconstructs the mysteries of sauropod life in vivid detail.”

In their research, both Norell and Sander look to the closest modern relatives of dinosaurs, such as birds and crocodiles, to make inferences about sauropod biology, and the exhibition includes an array of interactive exhibits and hands-on activities that offer visitors of all ages engaging opportunities to compare sauropods with living animals. For instance, visitors can compare sauropod teeth with those of modern plant-eaters and carnivores or use a hand pump to discover how much pressure would have been needed to distribute blood through a sauropod’s long neck to its head.

“This exhibition represents a new era of dinosaur research that leverages recent advances in technology and the expertise of multiple scientific disciplines to understand how the largest animals to ever roam the earth actually lived,” said Mark Norell. “It demonstrates how our understanding of these enormous creatures continually evolves and changes in response to new science.”

The World’s Largest Dinosaurs will explore the dinosaurs’ size, eating habits, reach, skin, heartbeat, breath, dietary habits and more. *The World’s Largest Dinosaurs* is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (amnh.org).

Alongside *The World’s Largest Dinosaurs*, which will be hosted in two of the Discovery Center’s galleries, the center’s remaining popular hands-on exhibits will remain open, such as *BRICKS!*, *Classics Collection*, *TINKER THE T-REX*, *Young Learners* and more.

The World’s Largest Dinosaurs will now be opening on October 12th, 2024. To learn more about the exhibition, visit the [Discovery Center of Idaho’s website](#). To view press kits, schedule a media visit, or download media assets, visit the Discovery Center of Idaho’s [press page](#).

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About the Discovery Center of Idaho

The Discovery Center of Idaho is a private non-profit 501(C)3 organization, whose mission is to inspire lifelong interest and learning in science, technology, engineering, math (STEM) and the arts. Founded in 1988 by the Junior League of Boise, the Discovery Center is Idaho’s only hands-on science center, providing new opportunities for the local community to interact with STEM, alongside creating a more scientifically literate, curious and empowered future generation. Alongside hands-on exhibits, the center hosts world-class traveling exhibitions every four-to-six months, various educational programming and more. Visit dcidaho.org for more information.

About the American Museum of Natural History (amnh.org)

The American Museum of Natural History, founded in 1869 with a dual mission of scientific research and science education, is one of the world's preeminent scientific, educational, and cultural institutions. The Museum encompasses more than 40 permanent exhibition halls, galleries for temporary exhibitions, the Rose Center for Earth and Space including the Hayden Planetarium, and the Richard Gilder Center for Science, Education, and Innovation. The Museum's scientists draw on a world-class permanent collection of more than 30 million specimens and artifacts, some of which are billions of years old, and on one of the largest natural history libraries in the world. Through its Richard Gilder Graduate School, the Museum offers two of the only free-standing, degree-granting programs of their kind at any museum in the U.S.: the Ph.D. program in Comparative Biology and the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Earth Science residency program. Visit amnh.org for more information.