



# The World's Largest Dinosaurs

The science  
behind  
their size.



**DISCOVERY**  
Center of Idaho

The World's Largest Dinosaurs is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York ([amnh.org](http://amnh.org)).

# exhibition BACKGROUND

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.

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## Fun Facts

### 1. Size

- One of the largest sauropods, *Argentinosaurus*, may have weighed as much as 90 tons and grown to as much as 130 feet in length—almost 10 times bigger than the largest known land mammals.
- Not all sauropods were big. Some dwarf sauropod species, for instance *Europasaurus holgeri*, weighed less than one ton, or about as much as a modern rhino.
- *Mamenchisaurus* had one of the longest necks for its body size of any dinosaur. Sauropods used their long necks like construction cranes to avoid having to move their heavy bodies.

### 2. Skin

- In humans, skin is the biggest organ—an average adult's skin weighs 7.5 pounds, or about as much as a gallon of milk. In comparison, the skin of the *Mamenchisaurus* featured in the exhibition would have weighed nearly 2,400 pounds, or about as much as a small car.
- Sauropod skin was almost certainly dry and warm, and because dinosaurs had no sweat glands in their skin, they didn't perspire.
- Sauropods were covered with small scales that protected the dinosaur's body and prevented evaporation of water from inside. These scales were bumpy and knobby and did not overlap like snake scales do.

### 3. Heart

- A *Mamenchisaurus* heart moved an estimated total of about 630 quarts of blood through its body, compared to the 7 quarts your body contains.

### 4. Respiration

- Sauropods had a highly efficient bird-like system of air storage sacs that made up part of their breathing apparatus. These pockets of air lightened their enormous bodies, perhaps by as much as 10 percent. In modern birds, air sacs like these can account for as much as one-third of the volume of their body cavities.

# available **SPOKESPERSONS**



## **ERIN SEYMOUR**

*Education Director, Discovery Center of Idaho*

The Education Director provides leadership in planning, developing, implementing and assessing all educational programs offered by the Center.

"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! 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."



## **KIRSTEN PEDERSON**

*Marketing & Communications Manager, Discovery Center of Idaho*

The Marketing & Communications Manager is responsible for overseeing and coordinating all marketing asset production, social media, public relations and communications platforms.

"The World's Largest Dinosaurs offers Idahoans an opportunity to dive deep into the world of dinosaurs and learn more about the largest species, sauropods! This exhibition offers hands-on learning experiences for all ages to learn more about these fascinating animals."

## **DOWNLOADS**

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