

WORLD'S LARGEST TYRANNOSAURUS FOSSIL SKULL SHOWN AT THE OSAKA NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

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The Osaka Museum of Natural History's special exhibit "The Growth and Behavior of Dinosaurs," is showing the world's largest tyrannosaurus rex skull in Japan for the first time!

From March 10, 2012 (Saturday), through June 3, 2012 (Sunday)

A special exhibit, "The Growth and Behavior of Dinosaurs," is being held at the Osaka Museum of Natural History from March 3, 2012 through June 3, 2012. Dinosaurs are very popular with children, although perhaps no dinosaur is as popular and well known as the tyrannosaurus rex.



On the left, the largest tyrannosaurus skull in the world. This skull has left the United States for the first time to make its international debut in Japan. To the right is the 12 meter tyrannosaurus robot.



This international traveling exhibit is the culmination of research by a team supervised by Jack Horner, PhD, a paleontologist from the Museum of the Rockies who worked on the famous Jurassic Park movie. Although it has been said that the Museum of the Rockies's "world's largest tyrannosaurus skull fossil" will never leave its home museum, this exhibit marks the fossil's premiere in Japan. The Museum of the Rockies currently houses one of the largest collections of tyrannosaurus and triceratops specimens in the world. It displays 8 tyrannosaurus specimens, as well as a number of triceratops specimens which collectively form a display which explains the growth stages and behaviors of dinosaurs. Most of these specimens have

never crossed U.S. borders. Furthermore, also appearing at the exhibit will be dinosaur robots, including a twelve meter long tyrannosaurus and a color changing triceratops robot, whose construction was supervised by Dr. Horner.

“Currently, the over one third of the scientific names for dinosaurs in the Cretaceous period refer not to different dinosaurs, but rather the same dinosaur in different developmental stages.” This exhibit, which endorses the controversial scientific theory that has triggered much discussion among the community of paleontologists, will capture the imagination of both the hard core dinosaur fans as well as children, both of whom should find a wide range of dinosaur details to enjoy.

Note that on the day before opening of the exhibit, March 9, 2012 , the press will get a sneak peak at the main exhibit room.

Summary

“The Growth and Behavior of Dinosaurs.”: World’s largest tyrannosaurus fossil skull to be premiered in Japan at special exhibit

- Exhibition Run: March 10, 2012 (Saturday) through June 3, 2012 (Sunday)
- Closed: Mondays, but open on April 30th
- Hours: 9:30 am through 5:00 pm (admission until 4:30 pm)
- Location: [The Osaka Museum of Natural History access detail](#)
- Organized by: [The Osaka Museum of Natural History](#) and the Yomiuri Shimbun
- Planning and Supervision: [The Montana State University’s Museum of the Rockies, Kokoro](#)
- Admission Fees: 1,200 yen for adults, 700 yen for college and high school students. The exhibit is free to middle school aged and younger children, citizens of Osaka aged 65 and older, as well as disabled persons (and their guide, if applicable).
- Tickets can be obtained through Lawson convenience stores, or at the museum. [Osaka day passes](#) can also be purchased,

which will allow unlimited train and bus use, as well as free access to some museums and other attractions (Osaka Museum of Natural History included, although a special exhibit ticket will need to be purchased separately)

Overview of the Exhibition

At this exhibition, the overall theme is Dr. Horner's theory, concentrating on four well-known dinosaurs (Tyrannosaurus, Triceratops, Pachycephalosaurus, and Hypacrosaurus).

1. *Tyrannosaurus*: Many tyrannosaurus fossils have been found in Montana and form one of the biggest highlights of this exhibit. Many variations in tyrannosaurus head fossils are displayed, and are an exciting introduction to the exhibit. In addition, a very rare tyrannosaurus tooth mark can be seen on a fossilized triceratops pelvis, while nearby, the tyrannosaurus robot reenacts (WC reenacts) the scene of the bite.



This picture shows the growth stages of the triceratops.

2. *Triceratops*: The triceratops has three horns and large frill in back of the head, and is a medium sized herbivore, generally considered to be an even match for the tyrannosaurus. Many triceratops fossils were also found in Montana. Triceratops fossils from various stages of life, from youth to adulthood, are seen throughout the exhibit, and describe the dramatic growth of the triceratops's horns and frills.



Adult Hypacrosaurus skull

3. *Hypacrosaurus*: The Hypacrosaurus was a thriving cretaceous Hadrosaurid herbivore whose head had bony ridges. These ridges lead to the dinosaur's nostril cavities, through which it is thought that the Hypacrosaurus could create sounds. At the display is a robot which demonstrates the Hypacrosaurus' noise making ability.



These skulls show the three growth stages of the Pachycephalosaurus.

4. *Pachycephalosaurus*: This dinosaur had a thick, helmet like head, and a rather strange face. The very different developmental stages of this dinosaur conventionally lead scientists to believe that they were seeing different species. However, this exhibit attempts to show that many dinosaurs were incorrectly categorized, due to a misunderstanding of dinosaur growth and development. This exhibit introduces these particular specimens as evidence of the new theory

concerning dinosaur growth and development.



At the end of the exhibit is a special corner exhibit made by the Museum of the Rockies, from Discovery to Excavation. This exhibit details through video and information kiosks details such as preparation and transportation of the fossils. In the Osaka Permanent Exhibit Hall there is a complete triceratops skeleton, as well as a commentary video about the tyrannosaurus.

Related Events

Also scheduled during the special exhibit is a gallery tour, workshop, and conference (for more information, please see the [Osaka Museum of Natural History website](#))