



News Release

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[Dinosaurs Roar Into
State Museum Oct. 17](#)

Columbia, S.C. --- Behemoths from out of the distant past once again will roam the South Carolina State Museum as its new, 6500 square-foot “blockbuster” exhibit features an ever-intriguing subject.

Dinosaurs: Mesozoic Monsters opens Oct. 17 and brings to the museum 14 lifelike, moving, roaring robotic dinosaurs, along with hands-on features to fascinate old and young alike.

“Dinosaurs have always been profoundly interesting to the public,” said Chief Curator of Natural History Jim Knight. “Plus, they give the museum staff the opportunity to teach some science.”

In *Dinosaurs*, museum guests will see such amazing creatures as the three-horned *Triceratops*, whose horns, size and armored frill helped protect it from the big meat-eaters; *Allosaurus*, one of the most ferocious predators of its time; *Stegosaurus*, the huge herbivore whose armored spine and menacing spiked tail make it one of the most recognizable and popular dinosaurs; *Utahraptor*, the vicious bigger cousin of the *Velociraptor*, also equipped with the deadly killing claw; the giant flying reptile *Pteranodon*; and more.

Hands-on features include a 10-foot “dig a fossil” pit to re-create the uncovering of fossils; a photo opportunity to sit on a duck-billed dinosaur with one’s head in a *T-rex*’s mouth; a “please touch” display of a *Triceratops* horn piece; and more.

In addition, guests will see a full-size *Tyrannosaurus rex* skull cast; a 9-foot fleshed out *Torosaurus* head sculpture; and several dinosaur fossils from South Carolina, such as duck-billed dinosaur teeth, the claw core of a *Dromaeosaurus* (a small, carnivorous dinosaur), and the leg bone of the giant *Deinosuchus*, a 40 to 50-foot long crocodile which easily could have eaten dinosaurs.

These endlessly spellbinding giants from bygone ages have been wrapped in mystery since they were first discovered in the early 19th century. Ever since, scientists have peeled back the shrouds of the unknown as they've discovered evidence to give us a better idea of the lives and environments of these ancient creatures.

“Additionally, we will have on display fossils of other animals that were alive in South Carolina during the age of dinosaurs, such as mosasaurs and plesiosaurs (both were giant, carnivorous aquatic reptiles) and turtles,” said Knight.

Admission to the exhibit is \$5 for adults and \$3 ages 3-12 in addition to regular museum admission.

Sponsors for *Dinosaurs: Mesozoic Monsters* include the city of Forest Acres and media sponsors The State, Lamar Advertising, WCOS-FM, WNOK-FM and STEVE-FM.

The exhibit can be seen in the museum's blockbuster gallery through Feb. 28.

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CUTLINE #1 FOR DINOSAURS

The vicious *Deinonychus* is one of the many moving, roaring robotic dinosaurs coming to the South Carolina State Museum Oct. 17 in the exhibit *Dinosaurs: Mesozoic Monsters*, the museum's latest blockbuster exhibit.

[Click here to view/download hi-res photo](#)

Photo courtesy S.C. State Museum.

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CUTLINE #2 FOR DINOSAURS

Triceratops, easily recognizable for its three-horns and neck armor, comes to the South Carolina State Museum Oct. 17 as part of the blockbuster exhibit *Dinosaurs: Mesozoic Monsters*. The exhibit brings 14 moving, roaring dinosaur robots and many hands-on features to the museum, and includes fossils from South Carolina.

[Click here to view/download hi-res photo](#)

Photo courtesy S.C. State Museum.

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