



Dinosphere Quick Facts

- *Dinosphere* is home to many scientifically important specimens, including the holotype (the fossil a new species is named from) of *Dracorex hogwartsia* and *Prenoceratops pieganensis*. Named two decades ago, this relative of *Triceratops* was much smaller and lacked the large horns of its later-occurring cousin.
- *Dinosphere* opened on June 11, 2004.
- The Polly M. Hix Paleo Prep Lab was added in 2011, and The R.B. Annis Mission Jurassic Paleo Lab was added in 2022.
- *Dinosphere* expanded in 2022 to include *Giants of the Jurassic* and *Monsters of the Mesozoic Seas*.
- Cost: \$24 million (initial funding) + \$25 million (Mission Jurassic).
- To complement the exhibit, the museum developed units of study for educators to use in the classroom or at home as well as other professional development opportunities and workshops.
- *Dinosphere* is made possible through lead gift support from Lilly Endowment Inc., The Fehsenfeld Family, The Scott A. Jones Foundation, Elli Lilly and Company Foundation, The Enid Goodrich Educational Initiatives Fund of the Children's Museum, Polly H. Hix, Yvonne H. Shaheen, The Elliott Sogard Family and Bob and Carol Reynolds, with major support provided by The R. B. Annis Educational Foundation, Bowen Engineering Corporation, The Dan and Rhonda Hall Family, and Seymour and Rheta Holt.

Dinosphere: Now You're in Their World®

Unearth the wonders of *Dinosphere*—your ultimate dinosaur adventure! This mesmerizing gallery transports visitors back in time through a multilevel, multisensory immersive environment. Meet prehistoric giants that came before us and search for clues, such as recovered fossilized bones, trackways and pathologies (evidence of disease or injuries), that tell us how dinosaurs lived and died. You'll encounter a vivid array of plant and animal species that



once roamed alongside these ancient giants, providing a vivid tapestry of life during the Cretaceous and Jurassic periods, and lighting effects that present an accurate picture of the Mesozoic Era.

Giants of the Jurassic™

They were some of the largest animals ever to roam Earth. Now families can see these ancient creatures after they spent 150 million

years buried underground. Meet two towering sauropods (long-necked herbivores named Midge and Fred) guarding the entrance to *Dinosphere*, ready to launch families on an epic adventure. Museum paleontologists were the first to lay their eyes upon the ancient fossils as they excavated the bones at an international dig site in Wyoming. The expedition was led by The Children's Museum with partners from the Naturalis Biodiversity Center (Netherlands) and the University of Manchester (United Kingdom). Preparators at Research Casting International helped our paleo team clean, prep and assemble some of the fossils to be displayed in the museum.

Walk the length of a massive dinosaur head to tail. With each stride, you will realize how large these giants grew—up to 70 feet in length! Place your hand alongside a true trackway, or footprint, and imagine the reality of their world as they stomped across the land, chased by smaller theropods (three-toed carnivores). Ponder how these sauropods ate only plants yet grew to be so large. Discover bite marks on sauropod bones and investigate shed teeth from theropods found nearby, which provide scientists clues on how these animals lived together in the Jurassic Mile®.

Creatures of the Cretaceous®

Tread carefully—you are about to witness a rivalry that spans 66 million years into the past. As you round the corner, meet Stan (full-grown) and Bucky (sub-adult), *Tyrannosaurus rex* with attitude confronting their historical opponent, Kelsey the *Triceratops*. Bucky also is the first *T. rex* in which a furcula, or "wishbone," was identified.

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis

CREATED IN 1925. MOVED TO CURRENT LOCATION IN 1946.

A sound and light show provides an atmosphere that evolves from a sunrise to rain showers to sunset, all within the span of minutes, helping visitors feel as if they are spending a day in the dinosaurs' world. Encapsulate yourself in a bubble-like dome and look up at the massive creatures. Understand the seriousness of the climate and habitat these animals lived in through interactions with our interpreters or museum staff who tell you about the power of the *T. rex* and its bite, which exerts more than 8,000 pounds (about the weight of an elephant) of pressure compared to a human's measly 150 pounds!

A nearly complete *Gorgosaurus* suffered serious injuries—a broken fibula, an infected lower jaw, crushed tailbones, broken ribs and a shattered shoulder blade. Find out what scientists believe may have caused injuries to this resilient animal, bearing witness to astonishing tales of survival. Discover more Late Cretaceous creatures nearby, including *Protoceratops* (a distant relative to the



Triceratops), *Maiasaura*, *Bambiraptor* and even a family of *Hypacrosaurus* (including an adult, "Shiny"; a juvenile, "Lauren"; and two infants, "Abigail" and "Caroline"). From pterosaurs soaring overhead to the enormous *Sarcosuchus* (aka Super Croc) on the water's edge, dinosaurs aren't the only ferocious creatures you will see in this Cretaceous landscape.

Monsters of the Mesozoic Seas™

Plunge deep into the sights and sounds of ancient waters as *Monsters of the Mesozoic Seas* beckons you into the depths of prehistoric oceans. Check out an *Archelon* (an 11½-foot-long cast of the largest turtle to ever live, named "GB") and marvel at a 6-foot-wide ammonite fossil (a cast of a squid-like creature that manipulated gas within the chambers of its shell to glide through the sea). The shimmering undersea experience showcases fearsome fossils, including a 14-foot *Plioplatecarpus* (mosasaur) and a cast of a 34-foot-long *Elasmosaurus* (plesiosaur), an undersea predator that some say resembles the Loch Ness monster. This predator likely utilized its long neck to strike prey that could fit entirely in its mouth. A 17-foot-long *Baptanodon* (ichthyosaur named "Welly") found in the Jurassic Mile may have gone after prey using its large eyes to hunt at night. Visitors are invited to create their own sea creature in a computer-animated interactive that shows what different fins, snouts and tails can do to help these animals survive.

The Jurassic Mile®

The museum signed a 20-year lease for a 1-mile-square plot of land in Wyoming called the Jurassic Mile. Here, the museum and our partners at Naturalis search for and recover fossils that will eventually be prepped in our labs and exhibited throughout our respective museums. This \$27.5 million project has attracted many scientists from around the world. The Jurassic Mile is the primary source of what is found today throughout *Giants of the Jurassic* and *Monsters of the Mesozoic Seas*.

Polly H. Hix Paleo Prep Lab and The R.B. Annis Mission Jurassic Paleo Lab

Interact with real scientists, who unravel the mysteries of prehistoric life as they uncover secrets hidden within bones. Watch at the Polly H. Hix Paleo Prep Lab as our team of scientists works on fossils, preparing them for study and display. An open window allows visitors to touch real fossils and ask questions of paleontologists who spent time in the field excavating the bones. They will share everything and keep no secrets! Walk over to The R.B. Annis Mission Jurassic Paleo Lab to watch how they prepare bones for display using field machinery, such as massive saws, and toothbrushes and small files to extract fossils from their field jackets that protect them during travel.

One of the most remarkable specimens being worked on in the lab is an *Allosaurus* that our team of paleontologists first discovered at the Jurassic Mile in 2020. This *Allosaurus* displays incredible preservation with a nearly complete, articulated skeleton and even skin impressions! Come see the legs of this dinosaur on display in front of The R.B. Annis Paleo Lab, where you can examine various injuries it sustained during life and learn about the struggles of being a predator in the Jurassic. Our paleontologists are hard at work preparing and studying the rest of the skeleton in the lab, so keep checking back to see their progress!

Dinosphere Art Lab

What if the dinosaurs before us were far more colorful than evidence shows? What if the *T. rex* was bright blue and pink? Families act out their visions of what a dinosaur looks like in the Art Lab located on Level 2 of *Dinosphere*. Visitors color a picture (or two or three), scan the QR code and watch their creations hatch and virtually scamper across a massive projection screen. Sculpt your ideation of a dinosaur egg with just your hands and some putty or write the story of a dinosaur's



life as a comic book. The Art Lab provides the opportunity to make this ancient period your own.

Throughout *Dinosphere*, families can experiment and explore at interactive learning stations designed to encourage an interest in science. They include touching real fossils, piecing together dinosaur anatomy and serving the appropriate dinner to a cast of hungry creatures. Families are prompted to discuss why dinosaurs became extinct and what people can do today to preserve the environment and prevent future animal and plant extinction.

Dracorex hogwartsia

Discover a one-of-a-kind creature called *Dracorex hogwartsia*, on display on Level 2 outside of *Dinosphere*. It is a skeleton so unique that it was classified as a new genus and species after being discovered in South Dakota. Museum visitors had the honor of naming it, combining *Dracorex*, which means "dragon king," with *hogwartsia*, a nod to the school in Harry Potter's world.