



# News Release

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Dinosaur Exhibit A  
Roaring Hit with Guests,  
But Ending Soon

Columbia, S.C. --- *Allosaurus* versus *Stegosaurus*. A mother *Triceratops* with her young. A fierce-looking *Dilophosaurus* peering around for prey.

These and other life-size moving and roaring robotic dinosaurs have brought thousands of appreciative dino fans of all ages to the State Museum's most recent blockbuster exhibit *Dinosaurs: Mesozoic Monsters*.

"This group of animals definitely has the attention of the public," said Chief Curator of Natural History Jim Knight. "Few exhibit subjects are more interesting to the museum guest than dinosaurs."

The fun will continue for the rest of the month for the exhibition, which ends Feb. 28.

In addition to the realistic robots, the various hands-on features are a hit with youngsters, said Knight. A special treat is the "design a dino" section, which allows kids to add different heads, legs, tails and horns to a central body to create their own dinosaurs, whether two- or four-legged, resembling carnivores or herbivores.

Plus, the South Carolina dinosaur fossils give the exhibit a local flavor, said the curator. Included are other period fossils which were not dinosaurs, but of creatures who lived in the same environments.

“Because our state is covered with greenery and has very few rock outcrops of the correct age, it’s harder to find dinosaur fossils in South Carolina, but they were definitely here,” said Knight. “We had duck-billed plant-eating dinosaurs called hadrosaurs, as well as the fierce predator *Albertosaurus* and more.”

Among the Palmetto State specimens are the tiny teeth of a hadrosaur, a claw core of the small, fleet-footed meat eater *Dromaeosaurus*, and the leg bone of a *Deinosuchus*, the giant, 40-to 50-foot prehistoric crocodile that dined on dinosaurs.

“This exhibit also is a tremendous opportunity for us to teach our many visiting school children about what life was like in what is now South Carolina 75-65 million years ago,” Knight said. “The animals and plants were obviously very different than those of today, as were the climate and atmosphere.

“Studying these aspects of the earth’s past is fascinating, and could open up a whole world of exploration in young minds. Who knows, perhaps the next major dinosaur expert may be a young South Carolinian who is exposed to dinosaurs through this exhibit?”

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 WACH-TV, 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 FOR DINOSAURS

*Triceratops* was a common dinosaur during the Cretaceous period, very recognizable for its large neck frill. These robotic dinosaurs are among 14 realistic moving dinosaurs to be found in the South Carolina State Museum’s blockbuster exhibit *Dinosaurs: Mesozoic Monsters* through Feb. 28.

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

Photo by Susan Dugan/ courtesy S.C. State Museum