



DINOSAUR MUSEUM

Museum Information

Britain's original award winning Dinosaur Museum is renowned for its use of actual fossils, skeletons, and life-size dinosaur reconstructions combined with hands on, interactive and ACV displays to excite, enthral, and entertain the visitor. Throughout its history **The Dinosaur Museum** has been extensively featured on television and has become famous for its innovative, and friendly approach. Only recently it was heralded as one of Britain's top family museums.

Dinosaurs ruled the land for some 180 million years, finally becoming extinct 65 million years ago. Our fascination with dinosaurs started in the 1820s when the first true discoveries of dinosaur bones were made in England. Then in 1841 Sir Richard Owen invented the word "dinosauria" - meaning 'terrible lizard' - to describe this group of prehistoric monsters. Dinosaur fever was created and still today people's imaginations are being excited by these prehistoric creatures. This sense of "dinomania" is reflected in The Dinosaur Museum.

At this World Heritage museum visitors immediately encounter a complete skeleton of the famous meat-eating dinosaur Megalosaurus, with its sickle-shaped claws and teeth, mounted over a unique set of footprints made by that dinosaur. Megalosaurus was the first dinosaur to be scientifically named 180 years

ago, by Reverend William Buckland. This skeleton contrasts sharply with the that of the small fleet-footed vegetarian dinosaur Hypsilophodon.

There are many life-size dinosaur reconstructions, including a young Tyrannosaurus rex - one of the largest meat-eating land animals ever; a Stegosaurus



with the strangely shaped ridge of plates along its back; a duckbilled dinosaur called Corythosaurus - and affectionately known as 'Dina' by her many fans; a pterosaur; plus outside the museum's new T rex and Triceratops dominate the Museum's courtyard. They beg to be touched by little hands - and that's encouraged, as is the handling of some of the fossils.

There are many things to touch and do at the Museum, such as the 'feely' box where you can find out what a dinosaur really felt like - if you dare! The Colour Box allows you to experiment with various colour combinations to see what colour a dinosaur might have been - no one really knows as colour doesn't fossilise. Computer displays allow you to compare yourself to a dinosaur, and investigate the many types of dinosaur that existed. creature. It has to be seen to be believed!

www.thedinosaurmuseum.com



Skeletons and fossils are complemented by a wealth of informative graphical and pictorial material making the museum a first class interpretive centre. Displays are in general thematic in approach, and stratified



vertically; with simple facts low down, and more in-depth information higher up. The Dinosaur Museum has been regularly featured on television appearing in documentaries, children's and entertainment programmes.

The Museum received great acclaim from educationalists, museum curators and the public on its opening in 1984, and went on to be nominated for the European Museum of the Year award in 1986.

The 'Dinosaur Discovery' Gallery is filled with all sorts of hands on displays such as magnetic dinosaur skeletons to reconstruct, and dinosaur 'feelies' to feel the difference between the teeth of vegetarian and carnivorous dinosaurs. 'Feel A Fossil' allows the visitor to see if they can identify fossils many millions of years old purely by touch. Discover the various sounds that dinosaurs may have made, and computer displays which aid the discovery of more fascinating facts about these amazing creatures.

The Mary Anning Room celebrates the life of a woman who became nationally famous at an early age for the spectacular fossilised marine reptile skeletons she found in Dorset. The gallery explores the vast length of time over which the Earth has evolved in relation to the different life-forms that are represented in the fossil record. *It was this gallery that was the inspiration for Tracy Chevalier's novel "Remarkable Creatures", which is based on the story of Mary Anning's fascinating life.*

GENERAL INFORMATION

Situation:

The Dinosaur Museum is situated in Icen Way, in the centre of historic Dorchester, the county town of Dorset. Dorchester is easily accessible by road, rail, and bus.

Opening times:

All year daily, including Sundays, January to March 10am to 4pm, April to September 10am to 5pm, October to December 10am to 4pm. Closed 13-26 December inclusive.

Special Group Admission Charges:

For pre-booked parties of 15 or more people. Adult £5.99; Senior £5.00; Student £5.00; Child £4.20; Children under 3 - Free.

Facilities:

The 'Dinostore' is well stocked with a wide range of dinosaurian gifts and souvenirs. There is an extensive book section with a range of titles for children, schools, and adults. Mail order is also available through the museum's comprehensive online store - follow the link from the museum's website. The ground floor of the Museum is accessible for people using a wheelchair (only one step at the entrance and a temporary ramp is available). The two upstairs galleries are inaccessible to wheelchair users and therefore a concessionary rate is charged. Car parking and a wide range of catering establishments can be found within easy walking distance of the Museum in Dorchester. Toilets are available in the Museum.

School Party Visits:

The Dinosaur Museum has an enviable reputation for its educational services. The Museum is extremely popular with schools linking various topics such as evolution, extinction, fossils, the variety and processes of life, to the study of dinosaurs. For further details ask for a Schools Bulletin.



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