



A STUNNING SHOWCASE OF RECENT PALEONTOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES COME TO LIFE AT *DINOSAURS UNEARTHED™* AT UNION STATION KANSAS CITY

Dinosaurs Unearthed™ at Union Station Kansas City, Inc. is a dynamic new dinosaur exhibition that brings inspiration, science, and technology together to create a multi-sensory guest experience. The exhibition features a state of the art showcase of 24 full-sized animatronic dinosaurs, five fully-articulated skeletons as well as a historically significant collection of nearly 40 fossil replicas which includes eight feathered fossils.

The unique combination of life-sized, life-like animatronics, skeletons, fossil replicas and interactive displays offers a comprehensive and highly visual window into the fascinating world of scientific dinosaur discovery. This exhibition tells the engrossing story of how feathered dinosaur fossils have been discovered throughout the last decade or more in China, and illustrates these findings through realistic animatronic technology and fossils.

Eight feathered animatronics are one of the highlights of *Dinosaurs Unearthed at Union Station Kansas City*, and offer a visual representation of the current scientific thinking that some of the best-known dinosaurs – such as *Tyrannosaurus rex* – looked very different than originally thought. Traditionally, dinosaurs were thought to be scaly and reptilian in appearance. Since feathered fossils have been found, scientists now know that from the time of hatching until its juvenile stage, the *T. rex* was covered in both tough skin and a downy coat of hair-like structures called protofeathers that helped regulate heat.

Feathered fossils in Asia were first discovered in 1996, and are the strongest evidence to date that modern day birds are actually descendents of theropods – a theory that had been debated for decades.

The stories are further articulated through a collection of fossil replicas representing species from the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous Periods. This includes the largest collection of feathered fossil replicas on display outside of China. In some cases, the feathered fossil specimen is displayed next to its animatronic counterpart to allow audiences to draw connections between the two forms.

One of these fossil-animatronic displays is *Caudipteryx*, a flightless feathered dinosaur with tail and forearm feathers. Its feathers were most likely used in courtship displays as well as to provide stability and mobility during locomotion. *Dinosaurs Unearthed* was the first exhibition to display this fossil replica in North America at its exhibition at the Cincinnati Museum Center, Cincinnati, OH.

The eight feathered fossil replicas displayed in *Dinosaurs Unearthed* at Union Station Kansas City were created using with the advice and assistance of *Dr. Xu Xing* of the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology of the Chinese Academy of Science in Beijing.

The animatronic dinosaurs are the most realistic in the industry. Curious guests can also make some of the dinosaurs move. Simple buttons on consoles for four animatronic dinosaurs allow guests to guide dinosaur movement so they can see how scientists believe each dinosaur moved its arms, tail, mouth or eyes.

The exhibition is designed to both educate and entertain audiences who are captivated by the mysterious allure of dinosaurs and the science behind their discoveries. *Dinosaurs Unearthed* at Union Station Kansas City encourages visitor participation with interactive stations throughout the exhibition. Large wall graphics and other interpretive content provides context for each of the displays, and tell the fascinating stories behind the stories.

Amongst the exciting stories of feathered fossil discoveries, guests will learn that human fascination with dinosaurs has spanned generations and continents. From late eighteenth century discoveries in England, to the “Dinosaur Renaissance” of the 1970s, these spectacular creatures have captured the human imagination and inspired study for centuries.

The animatronic dinosaurs, full-sized skeletons and fossil replicas on display have been custom built using the best available data from leading palaeontologists around the world. Due to the sheer size and detailed design of each dinosaur or skeleton, many are transported in very large pieces and carefully reassembled by hand prior to each exhibition.

Dinosaurs Unearthed at Union Station Kansas City is a blockbuster exhibition that appears in museums and science centers across North America. It was created in close collaboration with palaeontologists, paleo-artists, designers and builders, and the Cincinnati Museum Center. This team of science and design experts have ensured that the exhibition is both visually impressive and authentic to what scientists know about dinosaurs today.

Dinosaurs Unearthed is an innovative traveling exhibition company that creates dynamic, multi-sensory experiences about the fascinating world of dinosaur discovery. Launched in 2005, the company offers unique, multi-faceted exhibitions to museums, science centers and zoos across North America.

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