# Dippy the dinosaur returns to Coventry to inspire new generation until 2026



Dippy, the acclaimed skeletal cast of a Diplodocus, has enchanted audiences for over a century and now resides at the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum in Coventry. Having become an emblem of Britain's natural history narrative, Dippy was originally unveiled at the Natural History Museum in London in 1905, where it quickly established itself as a cornerstone of the museum's identity, attracting millions of visitors.

After an impressive tenure in London, where Dippy graced the Hintze Hall from 1979 to 2017, the beloved dinosaur began a nationwide tour that has taken it to a variety of venues across the UK. In its recent stop at Coventry, Dippy continues to inspire and educate, embodying the fusion of art, science, and history that museums aim to promote. Visitors can marvel at the 26-metre long cast and explore its significance both as a scientific specimen and a cultural artefact.

The ongoing appeal of Dippy can be attributed to its sheer size and the awe it invokes in audiences. Michael J. Benton, Professor of Vertebrate Palaeontology at the University of Bristol, reflected on this attraction, drawing connections between Dippy and the profound themes of evolution and extinction. His experiences lecturing under Dippy in various locations reveal how the dinosaur resonates with audiences, serving as a gateway to intricate scientific concepts. At Norwich Cathedral, for instance, Dippy's presence sparked conversations not only about ancient life but also about the geological history shared with its cathedral surroundings, underscoring how such spectacular exhibits can bridge disciplines.

Historically, Dippy's journey began when Scottish-American philanthropist Andrew Carnegie funded its creation. After acquiring the original skeleton discovered in Wyoming, Carnegie sought to enhance public understanding of paleontology, a goal captured in the educational ethos of museums. However, when Dippy first arrived, it sparked debate among academics concerning the role of museums in educating the public. Proponents like Carnegie and museum figures in the US emphasised accessible science, while traditionalist scholars raised concerns over the potential for speculative interpretations of prehistoric life. Ultimately, Carnegie’s vision prevailed, and Dippy was welcomed in London through the royal endorsement of King Edward VII, signalling a shift towards a more engaging approach to natural history.

The cast was meticulously crafted using rubber moulds to produce a detailed replica of the original fossil. Dippy has since been displayed in over a dozen prestigious locations worldwide, extending its legacy beyond British shores and connecting audiences with the spectacle of prehistoric life. This journey encompasses a transformative century in palaeontology, characterized by a shift from vague speculation to rigorous scientific inquiry. The ongoing advancements in methodologies for studying dinosaur biology have made it possible to derive insights from fossil evidence, ensuring that Dippy's narrative remains relevant in contemporary scientific discussions.

Presently, Dippy continues to draw attention at the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, where it will remain until February 2026. The exhibition aims to stimulate appreciation for palaeontology and underline Dippy's role in this evolving discipline. By housing such a significant specimen, the gallery invites visitors to reflect on the enduring mysteries of the natural world and our planet's extraordinary history, ensuring that Dippy will continue to inspire wonder for many years to come.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/dippy-the-dinosaur-now-size-b2765044.html), [[2]](https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/dippy.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/dippy-the-dinosaur-now-size-b2765044.html), [[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dippy_%28London%29), [[6]](https://www.theherbert.org/whats-on/dippy-the-dinosaur)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/dippy.html), [[3]](https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/diplodocus-this-is-your-life.html), [[5]](https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/dippy-on-tour.html)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/dippy-the-dinosaur-now-size-b2765044.html), [[3]](https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/diplodocus-this-is-your-life.html), [[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dippy_%28London%29)
* Paragraph 5 – [[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dippy_%28London%29), [[6]](https://www.theherbert.org/whats-on/dippy-the-dinosaur)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/dippy-the-dinosaur-now-size-b2765044.html), [[2]](https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/dippy.html)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/dippy-the-dinosaur-now-size-b2765044.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/dippy.html> - Dippy, a plaster-of-Paris replica of a Diplodocus carnegii skeleton, first arrived in London in 1905. It served as a welcoming sight for visitors to the Natural History Museum from 1979 to 2017. The replica was a gift from Andrew Carnegie, who funded its creation and shipping to London. Dippy's presence in the museum's Hintze Hall made it an iconic representation of the institution, captivating audiences for over a century.
3. <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/diplodocus-this-is-your-life.html> - Dippy, the museum's Diplodocus skeleton cast, was unveiled to the public in 1905 and became a star attraction. Over the years, its appearance changed to reflect advances in understanding dinosaur biology. During World War II, the skeleton was disassembled and relocated to the basement to protect it from bomb damage. In 1979, Dippy was moved to Hintze Hall, where it remained until 2017, before embarking on a UK-wide tour.
4. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dippy_%28London%29> - Dippy, a plaster cast of a Diplodocus carnegii skeleton, was displayed in London's Natural History Museum from 1905 to 2017. The cast was a gift from Andrew Carnegie and became an iconic representation of the museum. After 112 years, Dippy was removed to be replaced by a blue whale skeleton. It then embarked on a UK-wide tour, visiting various venues, including the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum in Coventry, where it is currently on display.
5. <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/dippy-on-tour.html> - After being removed from the Natural History Museum in 2017, Dippy embarked on a UK-wide tour, visiting venues such as Dorset County Museum, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Ulster Museum, Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Great North Museum, National Museum of Wales, Number One Riverside in Rochdale, and Norwich Cathedral. The tour aimed to inspire and engage audiences with the wonders of the natural world.
6. <https://www.theherbert.org/whats-on/dippy-the-dinosaur> - Dippy, the famous Diplodocus skeleton cast, is on display at the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum in Coventry. As the 'dinosaur-in-residence,' Dippy offers visitors a chance to experience this iconic specimen up close. The exhibition provides insights into the history and significance of Dippy, allowing audiences to appreciate its role in paleontology and its cultural impact.
7. <https://www.theherbert.org/whats-on/dippy-the-dinosaur> - Dippy, the famous Diplodocus skeleton cast, is on display at the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum in Coventry. As the 'dinosaur-in-residence,' Dippy offers visitors a chance to experience this iconic specimen up close. The exhibition provides insights into the history and significance of Dippy, allowing audiences to appreciate its role in paleontology and its cultural impact.