# Dippy the Diplodocus captivates Coventry with new interactive exhibition until 2026



Dippy, the renowned cast of a Diplodocus skeleton, has garnered an affectionate reputation as one of Britain's most beloved dinosaurs. With its impressive 26-metre length, Dippy has made a significant mark in the cultural landscape since it first took residence at the Natural History Museum in London back in 1905. Currently, Dippy is capturing the imagination of visitors at the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum in Coventry, a role it has embraced since its arrival in February 2023.

Originally a star attraction at the Natural History Museum, Dippy captivated audiences from 1979 until 2018. Its recent national tour has seen it travel across various cities, providing a chance for communities far beyond London to connect with this iconic figure. Previous stops have included major cities such as Dorchester, Birmingham, Belfast, Glasgow, Newcastle, Cardiff, Rochdale, and Norwich. Now, as "dinosaur-in-residence" at Herbert Art Gallery, Dippy is poised to inspire a new generation, attracting up to two million visitors during its tour, as reported in its earlier excursions.

The allure of Dippy can be attributed to more than just its colossal size. The dinosaur connects themes of evolution, climate change, biodiversity, and extinction—subjects that resonate with audiences of all ages. The exploration of paleontology has evolved dramatically over the last century. As discussed by Michael J. Benton, a Professor of Vertebrate Paleontology at the University of Bristol, these developments enable testable hypotheses about the dinosaurs' physiology and behaviour, making them scientifically engaging as well as visually impressive.

Attendees at the Herbert can also enjoy a virtual reality experience alongside Dippy, as well as a series of enriching exhibitions themed around "Dippy Facts & Fossils", enhancing the educational aspect of this cultural venture. The exhibition remains free, although booking in advance is encouraged, especially during peak times like school holidays. In a gesture to encourage local engagement, visitors can enjoy a 50% discount at the Coventry Transport Museum when they present proof of their Dippy reservation, integrating the experience with wider attractions in the area.

Despite the dinosaur's lengthy history, its charm remains undiminished. Dippy’s residency in Coventry is scheduled to run until February 21, 2026, providing ample opportunity for families, school groups, and enthusiasts to experience the giant skeleton up close. Its journey has not only made it one of the most accessible exhibits of its kind but also brought paleontology into a broader public consciousness, fostering a deeper appreciation of science.

The legacy of Dippy began with American philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, who financed the casting of the original fossil discovered in Wyoming. As part of a broader philosophical shift towards public education in museums, Dippy’s arrival in the UK was not merely about displaying a skeleton; it was part of a grand effort to educate the populace. Carnegie’s vision was to make science approachable, which is a principle reflected in Dippy's ongoing tour.

In a world where the public’s connection to science is sometimes diminished, Dippy stands as a bridge—uniting awe-inspiring natural history with engaging educational opportunities. As the cast continues its tour, the fascination with this Diplodocus remains not only a testament to its immense size but also to the enduring curiosity humans hold about the natural world.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/dippy-the-dinosaur-uk-tour-b2765965.html), [[2]](https://www.theherbert.org/news/283/dippy-the-nations-favourite-dinosaur-comes-to-coventry/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/dippy-the-dinosaur-uk-tour-b2765965.html), [[5]](https://www.nhm.ac.uk/press-office/press-releases/dino-star-dippy-on-the-move-again--iconic-diplodocus-cast-to-go-.html), [[7]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-61582945)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.theherbert.org/whats-on/1697/dippy-in-coventry-the-nations-favourite-dinosaur/), [[6]](https://www.theguardian.com/science/2017/jan/01/dippy-diplodocus-london-tour-replica-dinosaur-whale-natural-history-museum)
* Paragraph 4 – [[2]](https://www.theherbert.org/news/283/dippy-the-nations-favourite-dinosaur-comes-to-coventry/), [[4]](https://dippyincoventry.co.uk/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/dippy-the-dinosaur-uk-tour-b2765965.html)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/dippy-the-dinosaur-uk-tour-b2765965.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theherbert.org/news/283/dippy-the-nations-favourite-dinosaur-comes-to-coventry/> - Dippy, the life-size replica of a Diplodocus carnegii skeleton, is on display at the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum in Coventry from February 2023. The exhibition is free to visit, with advance booking recommended, especially during school holidays and weekends. Visitors can also enjoy a 50% discount at the Coventry Transport Museum on the same day by showing their Dippy booking confirmation. ([theherbert.org](https://www.theherbert.org/news/283/dippy-the-nations-favourite-dinosaur-comes-to-coventry/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.theherbert.org/whats-on/1697/dippy-in-coventry-the-nations-favourite-dinosaur/> - Dippy, the 26-metre-long Diplodocus carnegii skeleton, is on a three-year loan from the Natural History Museum, London, to the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum in Coventry. The exhibition opened on 20 February 2023 and is free to visit. Visitors can also experience the Dippy VR and Dippy Facts & Fossils exhibitions. ([theherbert.org](https://www.theherbert.org/whats-on/1697/dippy-in-coventry-the-nations-favourite-dinosaur/?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://dippyincoventry.co.uk/> - The official website for Dippy's residency in Coventry provides information on visiting hours, ticket bookings, and additional exhibitions. As of 1 April 2025, there is a minimal admission fee to visit the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, with children and Go CV+ card holders continuing to enjoy free admission. Dippy is included within the admission ticket. ([dippyincoventry.co.uk](https://dippyincoventry.co.uk/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/press-office/press-releases/dino-star-dippy-on-the-move-again--iconic-diplodocus-cast-to-go-.html> - The Natural History Museum announced that Dippy, the iconic Diplodocus cast, is available for hosting from 2023. The museum encourages venues with sufficient space to apply for hosting Dippy, aiming to engage audiences and contribute to regional regeneration. ([nhm.ac.uk](https://www.nhm.ac.uk/press-office/press-releases/dino-star-dippy-on-the-move-again--iconic-diplodocus-cast-to-go-.html?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2017/jan/01/dippy-diplodocus-london-tour-replica-dinosaur-whale-natural-history-museum> - After 112 years as the Natural History Museum's best-known exhibit, Dippy, the country's most famous Diplodocus, embarked on a farewell tour of the UK in 2017. The tour aimed to allow people from outside London to see the replica before it was replaced by a young blue whale skeleton. ([theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com/science/2017/jan/01/dippy-diplodocus-london-tour-replica-dinosaur-whale-natural-history-museum?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-61582945> - Dippy, the 26-metre-long Diplodocus cast, returned to London's Natural History Museum in 2022 for a short period before heading to a new temporary base. The replica had been seen by more than two million people on a UK tour after being dismantled from the museum in 2017. ([bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-61582945?utm_source=openai))