



# GIANTS

TOURING EXHIBITION

AVAILABLE FROM 2025



The Prehistorical Rhinoceros  
*Paraceratherium* sp.

# CONTENTS

Introduction	4
Exhibition layout	7
A journey through the exhibition	10
The Giants	12
Conclusion	18
Target audience	19
Exhibition hire	20
Exhibition specifications	21
About the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences	22
About Nomad Exhibitions	23

Front cover:  
**The Prehistorical Rhinoceros**  
*Paraceratherium* sp.

Back cover:  
**The Giant Snake**  
*Titanoboa cerrejonensis*

# INTRODUCTION

## Did you think that dinosaurs were the only giants ever to have populated our planet?

This exhibition invites you to discover the mesmerising but often overlooked giant creatures that lived after the extinction of the dinosaurs.

Prepare to be amazed by the incredible world of colossal creatures. Take a journey in time from 66 million years ago to the present day and immerse yourself in the prehistoric world inhabited by these magnificent giants. Come face to face with the largest land mammal ever known to have walked the Earth and the largest shark to have ever swum the oceans. Visitors will encounter the giant ground sloth and the enormous Asian ape, towering at three times the size of today's orangutans.

Discover 11 extinct giants in vivid detail, learn about their habitats, biology, and the reasons behind their extinction. Delve into the world of the palaeontologists responsible for these discoveries and gain insights into their fascinating work.

This exhibition not only celebrates the stunning diversity of these giants but also underscores their vulnerability. It serves as a poignant reminder that nature is delicate and can no longer be taken for granted. While extinctions are a natural phenomenon, the current rate at which they are occurring far exceeds historical norms.

Let's take action now to ensure today's giants are protected for future generations.



The Giant Ape  
*Gigantopithecus blacki*



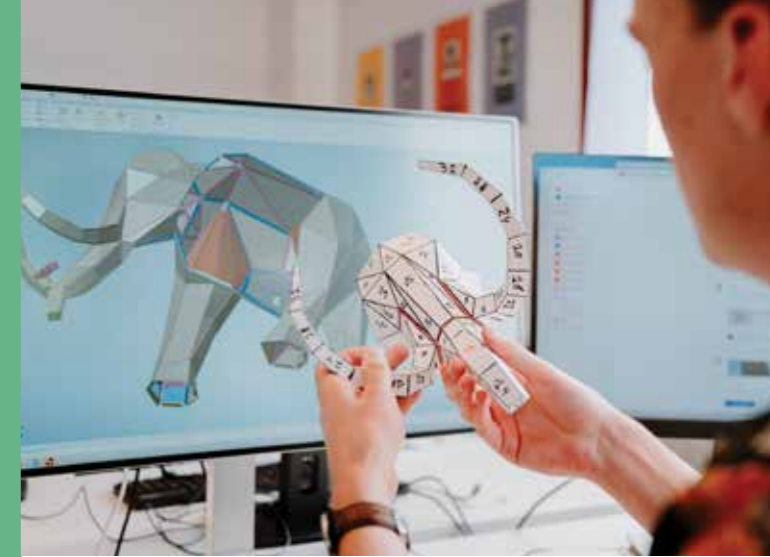
The Prehistorical Rhinoceros  
*Paraceratherium* sp.

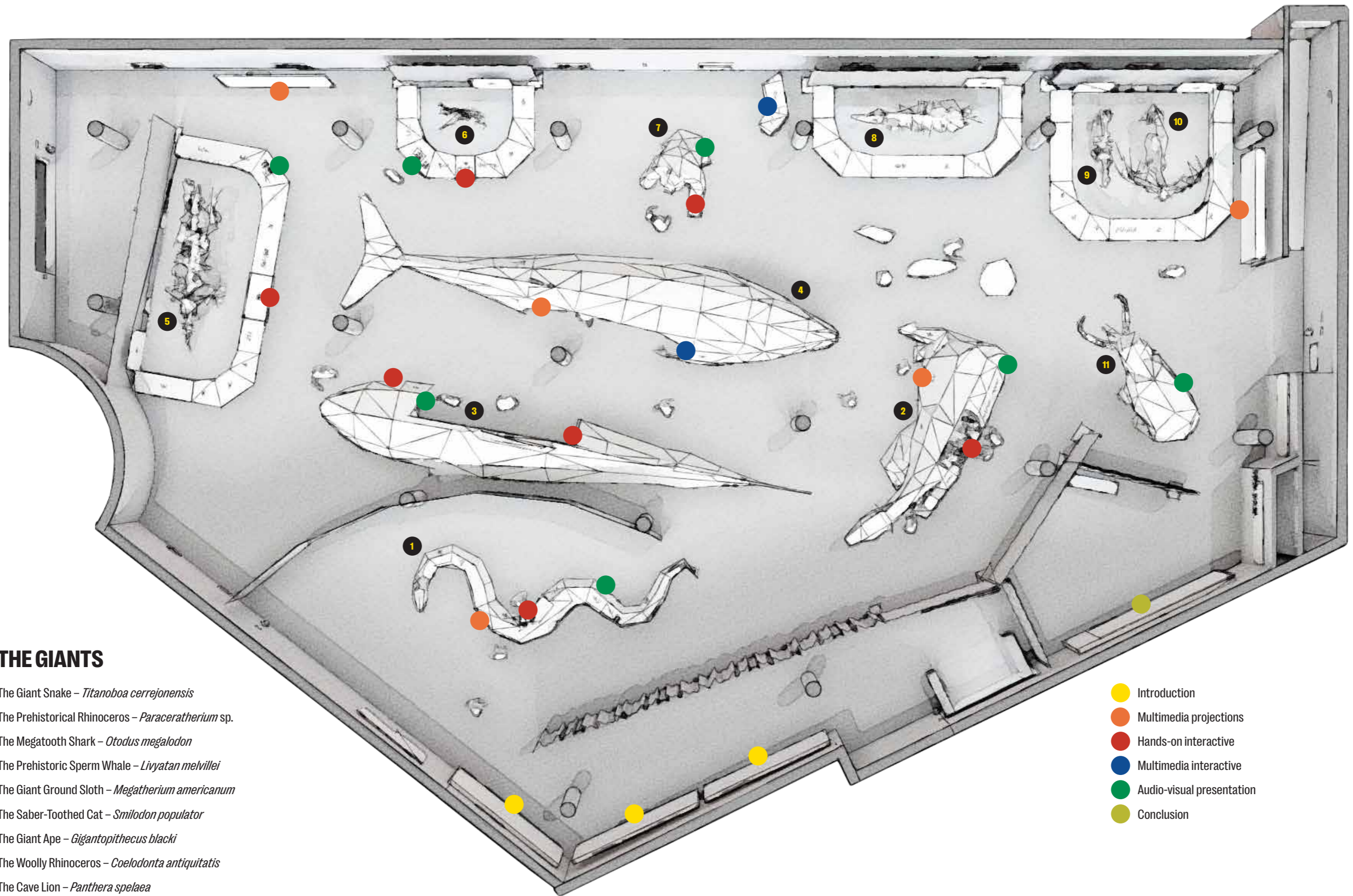
# EXHIBITION LAYOUT

The exhibition consists of an introduction section, a main zone featuring 11 giants, and a concluding section.

Each giant is accompanied by comprehensive texts and illustrative graphics. Engaging audio-visual elements immerse visitors in the giants' natural habitats while narrating intriguing stories linked to the research conducted on these magnificent creatures. These multimedia features showcase the dedicated work of palaeontologists and biologists, providing glimpses into their research and discoveries.

Furthermore, the exhibition offers multiple interactive and hands-on experiences designed to place visitors in the shoes of a palaeontologist. These interactive modules enable guests to conduct their own simulated research or analyse the findings of specific studies, all directly tied to the extensive research carried out by paleontologists and biologists on the respective giants.





### THE GIANTS

- 1 The Giant Snake – *Titanoboa cerrejonensis*
- 2 The Prehistorical Rhinoceros – *Paraceratherium* sp.
- 3 The Megatooth Shark – *Otodus megalodon*
- 4 The Prehistoric Sperm Whale – *Livyatan melvillei*
- 5 The Giant Ground Sloth – *Megatherium americanum*
- 6 The Saber-Toothed Cat – *Smilodon populator*
- 7 The Giant Ape – *Gigantopithecus blacki*
- 8 The Woolly Rhinoceros – *Coelodonta antiquitatis*
- 9 The Cave Lion – *Panthera spelaea*
- 10 The Giant Deer – *Megaloceros giganteus*
- 11 The Woolly Mammoth – *Mammuthus primigenius*

- Introduction
- Multimedia projections
- Hands-on interactive
- Multimedia interactive
- Audio-visual presentation
- Conclusion

# A JOURNEY THROUGH THE EXHIBITION

## The extinction of the dinosaurs

Around 66 million years ago, almost all life on Earth came to a sudden and apocalyptic end when a meteorite crashed into Earth. This fifth mass extinction killed all large marine reptiles (plesiosaurs, mosasaurs), all flying reptiles (pterosaurs), and all dinosaurs except birds.

The extinction marked a turning point, creating opportunities for the first small mammals to flourish in vacant habitats. Over time, they diversified, some to gigantic proportions. However, many of these remarkable creatures eventually faced extinction. Today, giants still traverse the earth and its waters, although in decreasing numbers.

## Room for new giants

In the wake of the meteorite impact, nature recovered quickly. Ecological spaces, vacated by the mass extinction on land, in the air, and in the water, became occupied by mammals that grew in size and diversified. Yet, it wasn't solely mammals that seized these opportunities; other vertebrates, including birds, non-dinosaur reptiles, and sharks, also thrived.

Although these extraordinary creatures have long vanished, the diligent work of palaeontologists have unveiled a trove of knowledge, illuminating the existence of these incredible giants—majestic land and sea animals that once traversed and inhabited our planet's ancient landscapes and waters.



The Prehistoric Sperm Whale  
*Livyatan melvillei*

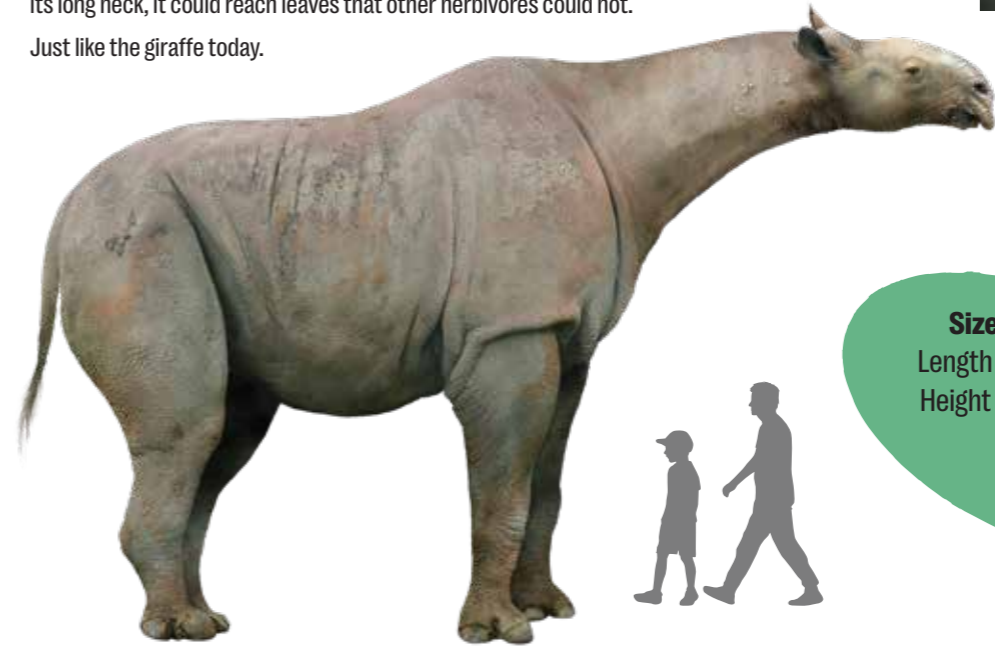
**The Woolly Mammoth**  
*Mammuthus primigenius*



# THE GIANTS

**The Prehistorical Rhinoceros**  
*Paraceratherium sp.*

*Paraceratherium* was the largest land mammal ever known. This giant is also called *Indricotherium* or *Baluchitherium*. For over 10 million years, it roamed Asia and Eastern Europe. It was a rhino without a horn. With its long neck, it could reach leaves that other herbivores could not. Just like the giraffe today.



**Includes:**

- Life-size 3D model
- 3D printed skull and foot
- 1 multimedia projection
- 1 audio-visual presentation
- 1 hands-on interactive

**Size:**  
Length 9 m  
Height 5 m

**Weight:**  
17.000 kg

**The Giant Snake**  
*Titanoboa cerrejonensis*

This is the largest snake ever. It lived in the rainforest of what we now know as Colombia. *Titanoboa* was a great predator. It ate whatever animals it could find; fish, crocodiles, turtles. Like the anaconda and the boa constrictor, *Titanoboa* suffocated its prey by wrapping its body around it. Then, it swallowed the prey in one bite.



**Includes:**

- Life-size 3D model
- 3D printed vertebrae and ribs
- 1 multimedia projection
- 1 audio-visual presentation
- 1 hands-on interactive

**Size:**  
Length 15 m

**Weight:**  
> 1.000 kg



© Roman Uchytel

All illustrations supplied by Roman Uchytel

**The Megatooth Shark**  
*Otodus megalodon*

Megalodon was the largest predatory shark that ever lived. For over 12 million years, it ruled the oceans. Its teeth were triangular, serrated and the size of a human hand. Megalodon hunted whales and dolphins. Probably like the great white shark does today: it approached its prey from below, and then shot upward, its mouth wide open.



**Includes:**

- Life-size 3D model
- 5 original fossil teeth
- 3D printed spine
- 1 audio-visual presentation
- 1 multimedia projection  
*(combined with the Prehistoric Sperm Whale)*
- 2 hands-on interactives

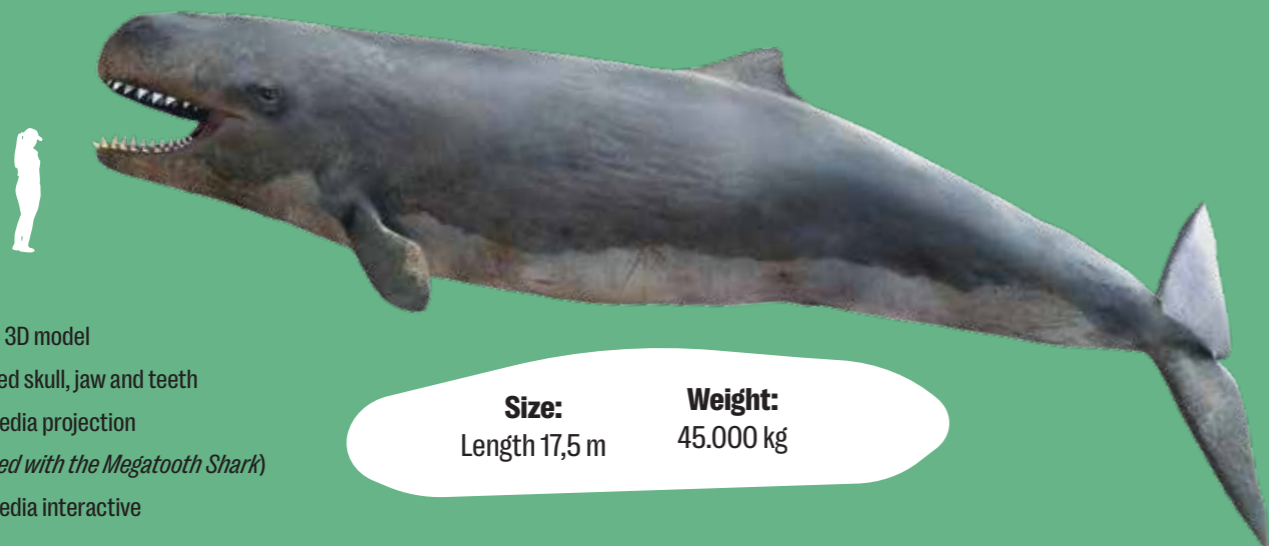


**Weight:**  
> 60.000 kg

**Size:**  
Length > 16 m

## The Prehistoric Sperm Whale *Livyatan melvillei*

*Livyatan* had enormous teeth and jaws, like the killer whale. Still it was no orca, but an ancient cousin of the sperm whale. For over 5 million years, *Livyatan* swam the same waters as the giant shark Megalodon. It most likely hunted whales, dolphins and fish.



**Includes:**

- Life-size 3D model
- 3D printed skull, jaw and teeth
- 1 multimedia projection  
*(combined with the Megatooth Shark)*
- 1 multimedia interactive

**Size:**  
Length 17,5 m

**Weight:**  
45.000 kg

## The Saber-Toothed Cat *Smilodon populator*

Saber-toothed cats lived everywhere, except in Australia and the polar regions. The most famous and largest of them was *Smilodon populator*, in South America. Its fangs measured up to 28 centimetres in length. No wonder it was a top predator. It hunted in open grasslands. Its favourite foods were horses, ground sloths, camels, bison and large, flightless birds.



**Includes:**

- Complete skeleton cast
- 1 multimedia projection  
*(combined with the Giant Ground Sloth)*
- 1 audio-visual presentation
- 1 hands-on interactive



**Size:**  
Length 2,3 m  
Height 1,2 m

**Weight:**  
400 kg

## The Giant Ground Sloth *Megatherium americanum*

About 25 million years ago, giant sloths arose in South America and lived on the ground. When a land bridge between the two American continents was formed, they also colonised North America and Alaska. One of the largest giant sloth species was this *Megatherium americanum*. It had a blunt snout, powerful muscles and large claws. It fed mainly on leaves, branches and tubers and lived on forested grasslands.



**Includes:**

- Complete skeleton cast
- 1 multimedia projection  
*(combined with the Saber-Toothed Cat)*
- 1 audio-visual presentation
- 1 hands-on interactive

**Size:**  
Height 3,5 m

**Weight:**  
4.000 kg



## The Giant Ape *Gigantopithecus blacki*

*Gigantopithecus blacki* was the largest ape that ever lived. Two million years ago, it lived in the subtropical forests of what is now southern China. Most of the year it fed on rough leaves, bark, roots and shoots. In some seasons, it could eat fruit, which came as a welcome change.



**Size:**  
Height 3,7 m

**Weight:**  
400 kg





## The Woolly Rhinoceros *Coelodonta antiquitatis*

The large, flattened horn on *Coelodonta antiquitatis*'s head could grow more than 1 meter long! Males used it to defend themselves and to impress females. It also came in handy to clear snow in winter, in search of grass. In summer, the woolly rhino also ate sedge and herbs, like plantain and mugwort.

**Includes:**

- Complete original skeleton



**Size:**  
Length > 4 m  
Height 2 m

**Weight:**  
3.000 kg

## The Giant Deer *Megaloceros giganteus*

We know *Megaloceros giganteus* mainly for its immense antlers. They grew to be about 3 metres wide and weighed a whopping 50 kilograms. It is no wonder that the giant deer is one of the largest deer ever. It had different habitats: vast mammoth steppe to open grass steppe with scattered trees and shrubs. It ate herbs, grasses, leaves, twigs and branches.

**Includes:**

- Complete original skeleton with 3D printed skull and antlers



**Size:**  
Length 2,8 m  
Height 2,1 m

**Weight:**  
650 kg

## The Cave Lion *Panthera spelaea*

*Panthera spelaea* is considered one of the largest felines. It is related to the lion, but we know from genetic research that the cave lion is another species. The males, for example, had no mane. But they probably were more or less the same color. Cave lions lived on the mammoth steppe and hunted cave bears and reindeer.

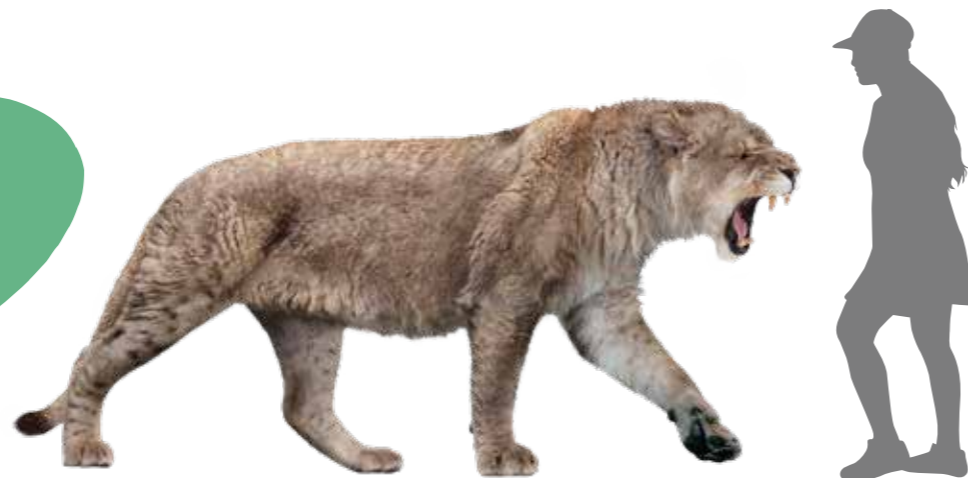
**Includes:**

- Complete skeleton cast



**Size:**  
Length > 2 m  
Height 1,2 m

**Weight:**  
250 kg



## The Woolly Mammoth *Mammuthus primigenius*

*Mammuthus primigenius* lived on the mammoth steppe. That was a vast grassland, running from Western Europe to the tip of North America, across Northeast Asia. For large herbivores, it was the perfect environment. Woolly mammoths shared the steppe with other animals, like woolly rhinos, cave hyenas, wild horses, reindeer, cave bears and cave lions.

**Includes:**

- Life-size 3D model
- A fossil molar
- 3D printed leg bones
- 1 multimedia projection (combined with the Woolly Rhinoceros, Cave Lion and Giant Deer)
- 1 audio-visual presentation
- 1 multimedia interactive game (combined with the Woolly Rhinoceros, Cave Lion and Giant Deer)



**Size:**  
Length 6 m  
Height 3,5 m

**Weight:**  
6.000 kg



# CONCLUSION

## THE END OF THE GIANTS?

These remarkable extinct giants represent merely a fraction of the diverse array that once lived on earth after the dinosaurs. As palaeontologists continue their excavations, who knows what other astonishing creatures they will unearth from our ancient past.

Giant animals still exist on earth, but their populations are shrinking. The extinction of species is a natural phenomenon; however it is now occurring at an unprecedented speed due to the actions of humans. Fortunately, despite this alarming trend, there is still hope to slow down the rate of extinction and to take action to preserve these wonders of nature for generations to come.



## TARGET AUDIENCE

This exhibition is aimed at families with children aged 9 or over, as well as for school groups.

Young visitors will find themselves embarking on an incredible journey of exploration as they walk among the giants and engage with the immersive videos, offering them a captivating and educational experience.

An education pack and digital assets for an exhibition workshop are available.

# EXHIBITION HIRE

Nomad Exhibitions and the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences offer a comprehensive and tailored turn-key exhibition production and management service from development and design through to delivery, exhibition installation and de-installation.

**Exhibition hire fee: Please enquire. Duration of hire and display is flexible.**

## The hire fee includes:

- Curated exhibition content by the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences.
- Comprehensive design and project management services from Nomad Exhibitions to adapt the exhibition to suit your exhibition space.
- Loan of collections from the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences.
- All exhibition displays including 3D giant models, casts, fossils, display cases and object mounts.
- All scenic and interpretive exhibition graphics and text panels, printed in local languages as required.
- Exhibition and audio-visual text in French, English and Dutch.
- Translations of exhibition content into languages not already supplied (French, English and Dutch) where required.
- Interactive multimedia and audio-visual hardware and content, adapted into local languages as required.
- Hands-on interactives.
- Exhibition transportation crates.
- An education pack with digital assets for an exhibition workshop.

- A set of visual assets with rights cleared for Host to use in press and marketing.
- All expenses for Nomad Exhibitions staff site visits as may be required.
- A crew of 6 technicians for installation and de-installation of setworks, one of whom will act as Nomad's Site Manager (inclusive of all travel, accommodation and expenses).
- 2 Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences couriers, to support installation and deinstallation of collection (inclusive of all travel, accommodation and expenses).
- Transportation coordination and management.

## Excluded services (direct costs for Host to cover):

- Transportation of collection and setworks.
- Permits as may be required for import and export duties.
- Insurance of exhibition and collections (covering nail to nail transportation and exhibition hire period).
- Storage for all empty crates during the exhibition hire period including transport to and from place of storage. Collection crates must be stored in a climate-controlled facility.
- Provision of two projectors (software will be provided).
- General lighting of the exhibition space.
- Provision of facilities to meet the environmental requirements of the exhibition collection whilst on display.
- Records of exhibition visitor numbers and tickets sales, including visitor analysis and feedback where possible.
- Records of press and marketing materials and coverage during the run of the exhibition.



The Woolly Rhinoceros  
*Coelodonta antiquitatis*

# EXHIBITION SPECIFICATIONS

- Gallery space of at least 750m<sup>2</sup>/8000 sq ft and 3.6 metre/11ft 8in ceiling height required.
- 6 life-size giant 3D models.
- 5 near-complete skeletons.
- 8 original fossils.
- 14 multimedia and audio-visual applications.
- 2 multimedia interactives games.
- 7 hands-on interactives.
- Bilingual or trilingual exhibition graphics and audio-visual content.
- Exhibition text available in French, English and Dutch.
- Exhibition travels in 5 artic curtain-sided trucks and 1 fine art truck.
- Installation period of 10 days.
- De-installation period of 10 days.
- Gallery space with 24-hour security controls with full CCTV coverage, and environmental controls to regulate temperature between 16 and 24°C and 40 to 65% RH.

# ABOUT THE ROYAL BELGIAN INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCES

Established in 1846, the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS) celebrated its 175th anniversary in 2021. In this time it has garnered international recognition from its peers and the public, becoming one of the most visited museums in Belgium, holding the third largest collection of natural sciences in Europe.

The RBINS is one of the ten federal scientific establishments governed by the Belgian Science Policy Office (Belspo). It is involved in important scientific research activities and carries out public service missions.

Its vision is to bring nature into everyone's lives and to provide information to encourage everyone to act as an informed and committed protector of our planet. It does this through four areas of work:

- Scientific research into Natural Sciences**  
 One in three people at the RBINS is a scientist. The scientific personnel include mainly biologists, palaeontologists and geologists, but also oceanographers, anthropologists and archaeologists, as well as geographers, physicists, bioengineers and mathematicians.
- Scientific expertise aiding public authorities**  
 The RBINS offers scientific expertise aligned with Belgium's international commitments. It provides valuable guidance for shaping national and European policies dedicated to safeguarding and preserving habitats and biodiversity.

- Conservation and management of scientific and heritage collections**

With a collection of 37 million specimens of Belgian and international significance, RBINS is one of the largest natural sciences collections in Europe, visited and studied by researchers from around the world.

- Dissemination of scientific knowledge in society**

The public museum plays a leading role in the promotion and dissemination of scientific culture. It includes 16,000m<sup>2</sup> of galleries which welcome over 300,000 visitors each year, 30% of whom are school groups. The Dinosaur Gallery is world famous and the largest in Europe.

# ABOUT NOMAD EXHIBITIONS

Nomad Exhibitions has been appointed by the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences to manage the international tour of this exhibition.

Nomad Exhibitions specialises in the design and production of innovative and expertly designed temporary, touring and permanent exhibitions for museums, galleries and cultural venues worldwide.

Through a diverse programme, world-class featured collections, and creative exhibition presentation and interpretation, the award-winning Nomad team aspires to encourage meaningful and lasting cultural interactions between international communities and between museums and their visitors.

Nomad is motivated by the aim to contribute positively towards the improvement of the exhibition production and hosting experience for cultural venues. The team is committed to facilitating worldwide access to outstanding collections and heritage through a focus on creative design, curatorial excellence, exceptional partnerships and environmental responsibility.

## Commitment to sustainable touring exhibitions

Nomad's exhibition services are provided climate neutrally. Their sustainable model is achieved through considered design principles including use of recycled/recyclable materials and reusable modular systems, efficient and low volume packing, zero waste and zero landfill policy. This significantly reduces the carbon footprint of activities both to Nomad and their touring exhibition hosts.

All services that Nomad provides are carried out whilst maintaining a detailed audit of emitted carbon; that carbon footprint is then accounted for through financial and service support within sustainability partnerships such as for SolarAid (a UK charity providing low-cost solar lights to rural Sub-Saharan African communities).

## CONTACT

Alanna Davidson, Partnerships Director  
Nomad Exhibitions  
alanna@nomadexhibitions.com  
+44 7746 322 552

