



A LITTLE HISTORY

In the late 19th century, Professors Georges Pouchet, Albert Gaudry and Ernest-Théodore Hamy envisioned the creation of a new gallery in the Jardin des Plantes to accommodate the Muséum's collections of comparative anatomy, paleontology and anthropology.

Forerunners of their time, they imagined a thematic presentation in which the specimens were carefully selected and organised from both a scientific and an aesthetic perspective. Up to that time, museums had shown collections in their entirety.



To house the project, architect Ferdinand Dutert designed an 80-metre-long building in the Art Nouveau style, combining exposed metal beams, brick, stone, wood and glass with nature-inspired ornamentation.

The gallery was inaugurated on 21 July 1898. Since then, the comparative anatomy collections have been displayed on the ground floor and the paleontology collections on the first floor, arranged in chronological order. The anthropology collections, shown on the second floor, were transferred in 1937 to another Muséum location, the Musée de l'Homme, leaving room for the fossil invertebrates and flora you see here today.



221. PARIS — Jardin des Plantes
Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle
Le Diplodocus (long 27 mètres)
Offert par M. Carnegie



M A P

GALERIE DE
PALÉONTOLOGIE
& D'ANATOMIE COMPARÉE



WELCOME TO THE GALERIE DE PALÉONTOLOGIE ET D'ANATOMIE COMPARÉE

DISCOVER TWO OF THE MUSÉUM'S MAJOR FIELDS OF SCIENCE WITH A STRIKING PRESENTATION OF COLLECTIONS. FROM THE IMPRESSIVE ASSEMBLY OF SKELETONS ON THE GROUND FLOOR TO THE FASCINATING FOSSIL SPECIES ON THE FIRST AND SECOND FLOORS, TRAVEL HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF YEARS BACK IN TIME...

WELCOME TO THE MUSÉUM

The Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle is an exceptional institution: it is a research centre, a university, a museum, a botanical garden and a zoo, all rolled into one. Drawing on four centuries of scientific discovery, it contributes to the preservation of our planet's future. Its many sites throughout France will help you to better understand nature in all its dimensions and the world around us. Be sure to explore them!

THE GALERIE DE PALÉONTOLOGIE IS LOCATED IN THE JARDIN DES PLANTES, ONE OF TEN MUSEUM SITES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.



MNHN — Juin 2024. Imprimé sur papier issu de forêts gérées durablement. - Photo de couverture © MNHN - J.-C. Domenech

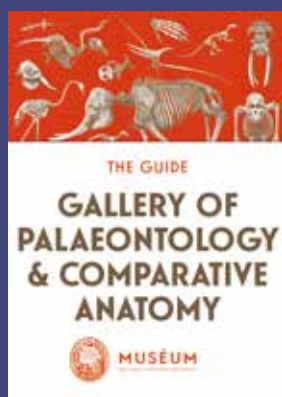
EMBLEMATIC SCIENCES OF THE MUSÉUM

The gallery showcases two of the institution's core disciplines, which were founded by the eminent Muséum professor Georges Cuvier (1769-1832).

Comparative anatomy studies the anatomical similarities and differences between living organisms. It provides a better understanding of how the environment influences the functional and evolutionary diversity of organisms.

Based on the analysis of fossils, **paleontology** is the study of biodiversity in the past and how it has evolved since life first appeared over 3 billion years ago. A fossil is the trace of an extinct organism or of its activity: bone, tooth, feather, shell, leaf, seed, imprint, burrow, etc.

LEARN MORE



ACTIVITIES AND GUIDED TOURS (in French)

Discover the gallery in a whole new light with the Muséum's scientific guides. Find the programme at jardindesplantesdeparis.fr

PODCASTS (in French)

Les curieuses histoires du Muséum

Seven gallery specimens are featured, including the mammoth of Dufort, the Cuvier's 'opposum' and the diplodocus. Coproduction France Culture / Muséum

Bestioles

Listen as a family to the adventures of several fossil animals: tyrannosaurus, ammonite, woolly rhinoceros, etc. Coproduction France Inter / Muséum

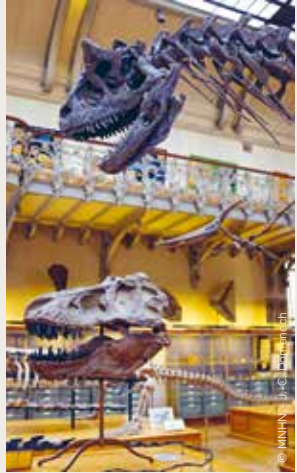
Listen at mnhn.fr/nos-podcasts and other podcast platforms

PUBLICATIONS

Gallery of Palaeontology and Comparative Anatomy Enrich your visit with this illustrated guidebook, available at the giftshop and select bookstores. Éditions du Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle

The mammoth de Dufort (in French). A special issue of the magazine *Beaux Arts* devoted to the iconic mammoth of Dufort, in partnership with the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle.

FLOOR PLAN



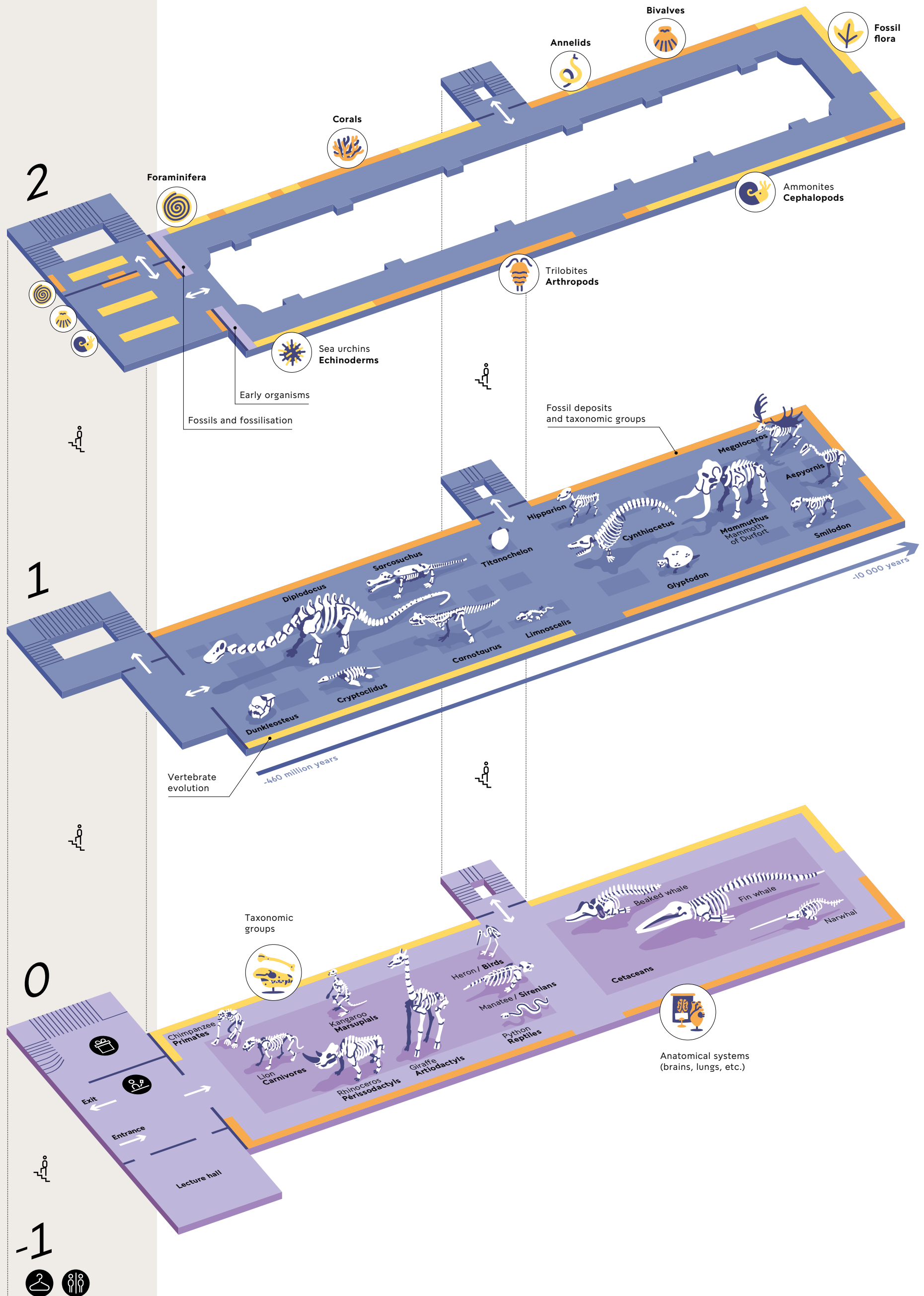
1ST & 2ND FLOOR PALEONTOLOGY

Step back in time thanks to 7,000 fossils that illustrate the history of life from the earliest appearance of organisms. On the first floor, the central display gathers fossil vertebrates (dinosaurs, mammoths, etc.) in chronological order, starting 460 million years ago at the entrance to 10,000 years ago at the back. The display cases on the side tell the story of the major stages in the evolution of life and the main sites studied by the Muséum's paleontologists. The balcony presents the mechanisms of fossilisation and the diversity of invertebrates (trilobites, ammonites, etc.) and fossil plants.



GROUND FLOOR COMPARATIVE ANATOMY

Discover the diversity of modern-day vertebrates, both terrestrial and aquatic, through 4,300 skeletons, skeletal parts and organs. These specimens are located in the impressive central procession of skeletons, in the wall displays and among the hanging osteological elements between the windows. They are classified by taxonomic groups (primates, marsupials, cetaceans, etc.) and by vital organ systems, enabling visitors to understand how an animal's body functions, observe the similarities and differences between species, and make sense of adaptations to living environments.



GALLERY RULES

The skeletons and fossils on display are rare and fragile. Please do not touch them. Photography authorised but tripods prohibited.

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