



**PTEROSAURS: FLIGHT IN THE AGE OF DINOSAURS LANDS AT  
THE PHILLIP AND PATRICIA FROST MUSEUM OF SCIENCE ON MAY 15, 2021**

***Special Exhibition Presented by Nicklaus Children's Hospital Showcases Amazing Variety of Prehistoric Flying Reptiles, How they Flew and Surprising Details from Fossils***

MIAMI, Fla. – On Saturday, May 15, 2021, the [Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science](#) (Frost Science) will welcome its latest special exhibition, [Pterosaurs: Flight in the Age of Dinosaurs](#). Presented by Nicklaus Children's Hospital and organized by the American Museum of Natural History in New York, the exhibition will be on view through Monday, September 6, 2021. The largest exhibition about these flying reptiles ever mounted in the United States, *Pterosaurs* highlights research by scientists and leading paleontologists around the world and features **rare pterosaur fossil casts** from Italy, Germany, China, the United States, the United Kingdom and Brazil. The exhibition includes **life-size models, captivating videos and interactive exhibits** that immerse visitors in the mechanics of pterosaur flight, including a motion sensor-based interactive that allows you to use your body to "pilot" two species of pterosaurs through virtual prehistoric landscapes.

For as long as dinosaurs walked the Earth, flying animals called pterosaurs ruled the skies. They ranged from the size of a sparrow to that of a two-seater plane. Close relatives of dinosaurs, these extraordinary winged reptiles — the first back-boned animals to evolve powered flight, and the only vertebrates to develop this ability besides birds and bats — are the focus of the intriguing exhibition. The exhibition features dozens of casts and replicas of fossils from the American Museum of Natural History collection and from museums around the world, including **the cast remains of an unknown species of giant pterosaur unearthed in Romania in 2012** by scientists working in association with the American Museum of Natural History.

Despite popular misconceptions, pterosaurs were not dinosaurs, although the two groups are closely related. In fact, these flying reptiles were the first vertebrate animals to evolve powered flight, diversifying into more than 150 species of all shapes and sizes spreading across the planet over a period of 150 million years until they went extinct 66 million years ago.

Exhibition highlights include:

**INTERACTIVE PTEROSAUR EXPERIENCES**

- **Fly Like a Pterosaur** - visitors can "pilot" two species of flying pterosaurs over prehistoric landscapes complete with forest, sea and volcano in a whole-body interactive exhibit that uses motion-sensing technology.
- Interactive iPad Stations - five iPad stations offering visitors the inside scoop on different pterosaur species with animations of pterosaurs flying, walking, eating and displaying crests; multi-layered interactives that allow users to explore pterosaur fossils, behavior, and anatomy;

and video clips featuring commentary from curators and other experts.

- "Adapted for Flight"- visitors can view a short film offering a look at the basic principles of pterosaur flight and aerodynamics.

### **PTEROSAUR DIVERSITY**

- Visitors will encounter a variation of pterosaurs from pint-size to truly gargantuan through full-size models including **the colossal *Tropeognathus mesembrinus*, with a wingspan of more than 25 feet**, soaring overhead and the sparrow-size *Nemicolopterus crypticus*, with a wingspan of 10 inches, to **a full-size model of a 33-foot-wingspan *Quetzalcoatlus northropi*—the largest pterosaur species known to date.**

### **FRAGILE FOSSILS**

- Several exhibits break down the fossilization process to show how the composition of pterosaur bones affects their potential for preservation. Visitors will also find out about conditions that produce particularly valuable fossils and view **a cast of an exquisitely preserved three-dimensional fossil of *Anhanguera santanae*.**

*Pterosaurs: Flight in the Age of Dinosaurs* is presented by Nicklaus Children's Hospital. The exhibition is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York ([amnh.org](http://amnh.org)).

*Pterosaurs: Flight in the Age of Dinosaurs* will be on view from Saturday, May 15 through Monday, September 6, 2021 inside the Hsiao Family Special Exhibition Gallery on the first floor of the museum. Admission to *Pterosaurs: Flight in the Age of Dinosaurs* is included with all museum admission tickets. For more information on the exhibition, please visit [frostsscience.org/pterosaurs](http://frostsscience.org/pterosaurs).

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### **About the Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science**

Located in Downtown Miami's Maurice A. Ferré Park, the Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science is a leading-edge science museum dedicated to sharing the power of science, sparking wonder and investigation, and fueling innovation for the future. Sitting on four acres, the 250,000-square-foot museum divides into four distinct buildings: the Frost Planetarium, Aquarium, and the North and West Wings. At Frost Science, visitors can explore the world of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) in an experiential setting with interactive exhibitions and unique shows. Frost Science is supported by the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County. This project is supported by the Building Better Communities Bond Program and the City of Miami. Sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. The museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and a member of the Association of Science and Technology Centers. Learn more at [frostsscience.org](http://frostsscience.org).

### **About Nicklaus Children's Hospital**

Founded in 1950 by Variety Clubs International, Nicklaus Children's Hospital is South Florida's only licensed specialty hospital exclusively for children, with nearly 800 attending physicians, including more than 475 pediatric subspecialists. The 309-bed hospital, known as Miami Children's Hospital from 1983

through 2014, is renowned for excellence in all aspects of pediatric medicine with many specialty programs routinely ranked among the best in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report* since 2008. The hospital is also home to the largest pediatric teaching program in the southeastern United States and has been designated an American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Magnet facility, the nursing profession's most prestigious institutional honor. For more information, please visit [nicklauschildrens.org](http://nicklauschildrens.org).

**About the American Museum of Natural History (amnh.org)**

The American Museum of Natural History, founded in 1869, is one of the world's preeminent scientific, educational, and cultural institutions. The Museum encompasses 45 permanent exhibition halls, including those in the Rose Center for Earth and Space and the Hayden Planetarium, as well as galleries for temporary exhibitions. It is home to the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial, New York State's official memorial to its 33rd governor and the nation's 26th president, and a tribute to Roosevelt's enduring legacy of conservation. The Museum's five active research divisions and three cross-disciplinary centers support approximately 200 scientists, whose work draws on a world-class permanent collection of more than 34 million specimens and artifacts, as well as specialized collections for frozen tissue and genomic and astrophysical data, and one of the largest natural history libraries in the world. Through its Richard Gilder Graduate School, it is the only American museum authorized to grant the Ph.D. degree. Beginning in 2015, the Richard Gilder Graduate School also began granting the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) degree, the only such freestanding museum program. The Museum's website, mobile apps, and MOOCs (massive open online courses) extend its scientific research and collections, exhibitions, and educational programs to additional audiences around the globe. Visit [amnh.org](http://amnh.org) for more information.