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Museum prepares for 'Extreme Mammals' invasion

OCTOBER 17, 2013 (AUSTIN, TX) – The amazing 300-million-year history of fossil and living mammals will be unveiled at the Bullock Texas State History Museum this fall, and museum staff are busy preparing to install what will be the largest exhibition in its history.

Extreme Mammals: The Biggest, Smallest and Most Amazing Mammals of All Time opens in the Bullock Museum's Herzstein Hall beginning November 23, 2013, and staff members have been planning for months in order to accommodate the blockbuster traveling natural history show during its only stop in Texas.

Exhibit elements and artifacts in 11 trucks will begin arriving in Austin the week of Oct. 21. Two trucks a day will be unloaded at the Bullock Museum as staff begins the monumental task of installation. The unpacking and installation may be followed on social media – the museum's [Facebook](#), [You Tube](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts – beginning in late October.

"The Bullock Museum is the only museum in Central Texas large enough to host an exhibit of this magnitude," Margaret Koch, director of exhibits, said. "Many of the specimens are related to Texas, and it's difficult to tell our incredible Texas history without paying attention to our natural environment. We're excited to be able to host this exhibition for our members, visitors and the community."

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When the exhibition opens Nov. 23, visitors will experience the most astonishing mammals to roam the Earth. Some with tongues weighing four tons, and other mammals as small as a bumblebee. Meet creatures with gigantic claws, massive fangs and strange snouts. See the largest land mammal that has ever lived, the oldest fossilized bat ever discovered, and the smallest mammal known in the fossil record. And, discover living and extinct Texas mammals that are part of the Story of Texas.

Highlights of *Extreme Mammals* include a 15-ft tall, life-size re-creation of an *Indricotherium*, the largest land mammal to walk on land, as well as the smallest mammal known in the fossil record, the rodent-like *Batodonoides*. Attractions also include taxidermy specimens, from the egg-laying platypus, to the recently extinct Tasmanian wolf. Visitors can examine fleshed-out models of spectacular extinct forms such as *Ambulocetus*, a “walking whale” and an entire skeleton of the giant hooved plant-eater *Uintatherium*.

“We at the Bullock Museum are pleased to offer this rare look into the natural history of Texas that spans millions of years. This exceptional story of adaptation and change in the animal world provides a unique theme for the museum’s first major exhibition in the realm of natural science,” Director Joan Marshall said.

Extreme Mammals is organized by the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) in collaboration with the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco; Cleveland Museum of Natural History; and the Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Canada. For information about this upcoming exhibition, visit www.thestoryoftexas.com/extrememammals, or call (512) 936-4649.

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About the Bullock Museum

The Bullock Texas State History Museum in downtown Austin tells the unfolding story of the history, culture and people of Texas. One of the most popular attractions in Central Texas, the Museum has welcomed more than 6 million visitors since it opened in 2001. The Museum and IMAX Theatre are located at 1800 N. Congress Ave., between the State Capital complex and the University of Texas campus. For more, visit www.TheStoryofTexas.com or call (512) 936-8746.