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**PREHISTORIC FAMILY REUNION: ANCIENT ANCESTORS  
MEET MODERN ANIMALS**

***Dinosaurs in the Desert will be returning to the Phoenix Zoo in Fall of 2026***

**PHOENIX (June 1)** – In celebration of National Dinosaur Day, June 1, the Arizona Center for Nature Conservation (ACNC)/Phoenix Zoo is excited to announce that dinosaurs from over 30 prehistoric species will return to the Zoo in the fall.

“Dinosaurs in the Desert” will debut on September 26, 2026, and run through April 30, 2027. Prepare for an immersive trek through time as the Zoo’s trails are overtaken by the sights and sounds of an era when these towering giants ruled the Earth.

This year, dinosaurs are taking over more than just one corner of the Zoo. For the first time, dinosaurs will be visible across the park. From the long-necked Brachiosaurus and spiked Ankylosaurus, to the winged Pteranodon and hulking Tyrannosaurus, guests should be ready for a dino encounter around any corner.

Inquisitive guests can dive deeper into the ancient world through interactive signage located at every display, offering facts about all 60+ prehistoric creatures found throughout the park.

“Dinosaurs in the Desert” originally debuted at the Phoenix Zoo in 2017 and quickly became one of the Zoo’s most popular attractions, welcoming nearly 400,000 guests during its first run. The life-size dinosaur experience returned in 2022 to once again huge fanfare. The larger-than-life exhibit is and is now making its way back to the Zoo once again, nearly a decade after its original debut. “We are thrilled to bring dinosaurs back to the Phoenix Zoo on a scale we’ve never attempted before,” says President and CEO, Bert Castro. “Spreading these incredible creatures throughout the Zoo allows us to highlight a wider range of prehistoric life, offering a unique educational journey that connects these giants of the past with the wildlife of today.”

Dinosaurs in the Desert will open to Phoenix Zoo members and to the public beginning Saturday, September 26, 2026. The prehistoric exhibit will also be on display during the Zoo’s annual holiday light show; ZooLights.

**About the Arizona Center for Nature Conservation**

The Arizona Center for Nature Conservation operates the Phoenix Zoo. The ACNC advances the stewardship and conservation of animals and their habitats while providing experiences that inspire people and motivate them to care for the natural world.

The Phoenix Zoo is the only zoo in the Valley accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and is a non-profit zoological park, serving 1.4 million guests annually. The Zoo is home to more than 3,000 animals, many of which are endangered and threatened species. For information on upcoming events, exhibits and activities at the Phoenix Zoo, visit [phoenixzoo.org](http://phoenixzoo.org).