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Field Trip: Jurassic In The Park at the California Academy of Sciences

By Aidin Vaziri

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Gulp.

It's not exactly like the [movie](#) where they come back to life and cause all kinds of awesome havoc but now through Nov. 15 the California Academy of Sciences is celebrating all things dinosaur in its own distinct way with a series of educational programs called [Jurassic in the Park](#).

The centerpiece of the exhibit is a new 3D film called "Dinosaurs Alive!" which brings visitors up close to prehistoric predators. Some of the more intense scenes will probably keep kids under five up a night until they're about, oh, 17.

There are more hands-on activities in the Naturalist Center, where younger visitors can examine fossils and play dino-themed games. It's not quite as comprehensive as the old [Dinosaurs: Ancient Fossils, New Discoveries](#) installation that had a model of a Microraptor and trophy wall of mounted dinosaur skulls. But there is that giant T. Rex skeleton in the lobby and who can resist a visit with Claude, the albino alligator whose ancestors lived with actual dinosaurs?



'Dinosaurs Alive!' poster - 3D awesomeness not pictured



Claude: The closest you will get to the real thing at the Academy.



Petrified dinosaur poop. What could be more appropriate?

Jurassic in the Park: Programs and Activities

Dinosaurs Alive! 3D Show

See the earliest creatures of the Triassic Period to the monsters of the Cretaceous brought to life in the 3D show Dinosaurs Alive! The show, which will play daily in the Forum Theater, follows renowned paleontologists as they discover new fossils and uncover evidence that dinosaur descendants are still among us, and features realistic and scientifically-accurate computer-generated dinosaurs. Seats are limited and show passes are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Visit the Forum Theater to pick up 3D show passes.

Sharks to Dinosaurs: A Walk Through Time

Daily at 12:00 p.m.

Uncover the Earth's ancient history and learn about the sharks, tortoises, and dinosaurs that first appeared millions of years ago as you explore the Academy's exhibits. Step back in time and discover the unique adaptations these amazing species developed for thriving and surviving on a planet that was very different from our modern world.

KQED Dinosaur Train

Sunday, October 14 from 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

On Sunday, October 14, celebrate a day of discovery at the Academy with KQED and Buddy the T-Rex from Dinosaur Train. Bring a camera and a curious spirit and join Buddy as he explores the museum and greets visitors. Take the Nature Trackers Challenge and become a member of the Dinosaur Train Nature Trackers Club, a community of young children, families, and educators committed to learning about nature and protecting the environment.

(All photos by Carol Vaziri)

<http://blog.sfgate.com/parenting/2012/10/04/jurassic/#more-4097>