

Introduction to the ROM

The Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) is Canada's largest museum, of both natural history and world cultures. Opened in 1914, the ROM currently holds six million objects in its collections with over 30 galleries showcasing art, archaeology and natural science. Located in Toronto, Canada's largest city, it is one of North America's great museums, a research institution of international renown and a leading cultural attraction for the city, province and country. The Royal Ontario Museum is an agency of the Government of Ontario.

Galleries and Exhibition Spaces

World Culture Galleries

- A.G. Leventis Foundation Gallery of Ancient Cyprus
- Bishop White Gallery of Chinese Temple Art
- Daphne Cockwell Gallery of Canada: First Peoples
- Galleries of Africa: Egypt
- Gallery of Greece
- Gallery of Korea
- Gallery of the Bronze Age Aegean
- Joey and Toby Tanenbaum Gallery of China
- Matthews Family Court of Chinese Sculpture
- Patricia Harris Gallery of Textiles & Costume
- Prince Takamado Gallery of Japan
- ROM Gallery of Chinese Architecture
- Samuel European Galleries
- Shreyas and Mina Ajmera Gallery of Africa, the Americas and Asia-Pacific
- Sigmund Samuel Gallery of Canada
- Sir Christopher Ondaatje South Asian Gallery
- Wirth Gallery of the Middle East

Natural History Galleries

Bat Cave
Gallery of Birds
James and Louise Temerty Galleries of the Age of Dinosaurs
Reed Gallery of the Age of Mammals
Life in Crisis: Schad Gallery of Biodiversity
Teck Suite of Galleries: Earth's Treasures
 Vale Inco Limited Gallery of Minerals
 Gallery of Gems and Gold
 Canadian Mining Hall of Fame Gallery
 Barrick Gold Corporation Gallery

Hands-on Galleries

CIBC Discovery Gallery
Patrick and Barbara Keenan Family Gallery of Hands-on Biodiversity

Exhibition Spaces

Garfield Weston Exhibition Hall
Herman Herzog Levy Gallery
Roloff Beny Gallery
Samuel Hall 🏰 Currelly Gallery

Iconic Objects

Among the six million artifacts in the Museum's collections 16 have been chosen as Iconic Objects, based on their cultural importance, rarity and contribution to international scholarship. Sixteen of these objects are on display and are augmented with video kiosks to highlight their significance: Totem Poles, made of western red cedar, these four totem poles were carved by the Nis_ga'a and Haida of the Pacific Northwest Coast and display crests commemorating family origins, rights, privileges, achievements, and experiences; the painting The Death of General Wolfe, considered a significant representation of a pivotal moment in Canada's history; The Paradise of Maitreya, one of the most well-preserved Yuan dynasty temple wall paintings; Tomb Mound of General Zu Dashou ("Ming Tomb") the esteemed defender of the Ming dynasty; the rare White Rhino at the entrance to the Schad Gallery of Biodiversity; "Gordo" the 90-foot-long Barosaurus; the Parasaurolophus walkon, the most complete example of the duck-billed hadrosaur; Burgess Shale, an extensive collection half-billion-year-old fossils from the Cambrian Explosion; the Light of the Desert, a giant 900 carat cerussite gem and the world's

largest faceted cerussite; the Tagish Lake Meteorite, containing some of the oldest and most primitive organic material dating back to the formation of our solar system; Bust of Cleopatra VII, a rare Ptolemaic granite bust; Statue of Sekhmet, a magnificent example of Pharaonic sculpture; the ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead, at a remarkable five metres in length, it is one of the most outstanding in the world; the Earl of Pembroke's Armour, made in the Greenwich Royal Workshop by Erasmus Kyrkenar, one of the great master armourers; Kunti sculpture "Blue Lady" created by artist Navjot Altaf in 1999; and the Striding Lion Terracotta Relief that once adorned the palace of King Nebuchodnozzar II in Babylon.

Mandate

The ROM's dual mandate of World Cultures and Natural History combines a universal museum of cultures with that of natural history, offering a breadth of experience for visitors from all around the world. Carved in stone in 1933 on the Museum doors along Queen's Park is the inscription "The record of nature through countless ages" and "The arts of man through all the years."

Our vision: To inspire wonder and build understanding of human cultures and the natural world.

Our mission: To be a world leader in communicating our research and collections to increase understanding of the interdependent domains of cultural and natural diversity, their relationships, significance and preservation.

We value: Life-long discovery and learning using our research and collections. Respect for people: visitors, staff, volunteers and partners. Effective communication, innovation and action.

Visitors

Annual attendance is approximately one million visitors, with March Break traditionally being the busiest week of the year. The ROM's Education and Programs department welcomes 150,000 School Group visits annually. Courses, lectures and special events are an additional draw for visitors to the Museum, with some of the offerings related to temporary exhibits while others are perennial favourites such as Summer Club for kids or family-oriented programming during ROM for the Holidays. The ROM's website currently attracts over four million visitors annually. The ROM's Outreach programs of Travelling Exhibits and Travelling Education Kits are enjoyed by nearly half a million people in over a 150 communities.

Education

The School Visits program offers curriculum-related programming for school groups from junior kindergarten to secondary school, including at University level. Classroom and gallery lessons, taught by ROM Teachers, explore diverse themes such as mathematics, classical studies and language, or

Canadian and world studies. There are six classrooms, a state-of-the-art Digital Gallery and the main Library in the Learning Centre located on Level 1.

Collections and Research

Since the founding of the ROM in 1912 (opening in 1914), the Museum has continually added to its holdings of artifacts and specimens through acquisitions, donations and fieldwork. The Museum's diverse collections contain approximately six million objects.

The ROM is also an important research institution where curators continue to make new discoveries, enhance knowledge of our collections, and make new information available to the public. The ROM's Laboratory of Molecular Systematics enables the Museum to conduct DNA based research. ROM curators publish papers in peer reviewed academic journals, write academic books, monographs and exhibition catalogues, and regularly contribute to popular magazines, newspapers and TV shows geared to general public audiences.

In keeping with the ROM's dual mandate to study world cultures and natural history, projects range from the study of Palaeolithic archaeology in China, 18th century furniture production in Montréal, the origin of species of cichlid freshwater fishes in Guyana, the stunning discovery of new Burgess Shale fossil deposits to the finding of the oldest known nesting site for early Prosauropods dinosaurs in South Africa. There are 42 Curators at the ROM divided between the departments of World Cultures and Natural History.

ROM Governors

The ROM Governors raise and manage funds in support of the Museum's highest priorities and is overseen by the ROM Board of Governors. Each year, the ROM Governors grants funds received from gifts and endowment earnings to help the Museum maintain the highest standards of acquisitions, collections management, gallery and exhibition development, research and education, facilities, and public programming. The ROM Governors also offer annual giving programs such as the Royal Patrons' Circle, Young Patrons' Circle for the under age 45 set, and organizes exclusive programming and special events for donor members. The Renaissance ROM Campaign, launched in 2002 and running until the end of 2009, is the largest and most successful cultural fundraising campaign in Canada's history.

Department of Museum Volunteers

The Department of Museum Volunteers (DMV) are active as Museum Guides, offering regularly scheduled tours in English and French; providing international travel opportunities through ROMtravel; presenting annual lectures and raising funds for the Museum. The DMV has 600 members and is supervised by a volunteer President and Board of Directors.