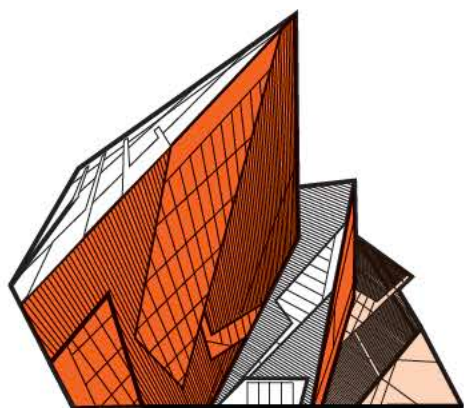


CLIMATE CHANGE

Hike the ROM
Trail Guide



Walking is one of the most sustainable forms of exercise for our bodies. What better way to get your daily steps in than with a Hike the ROM that helps us deepen our understanding of our footprint – and more – on the planet.

Climate Change is not just for our time. Environmental changes have been recorded throughout our planet's history. Whether you encounter evidence of natural extinctions, human made objects, or records of human interaction, take time to enjoy this Hike about our climate while getting in your daily steps.

This Trail guides you through the Museum, stopping at objects and specimens that speak to climate change. Take your time with the trail and enjoy not only the stops, but the collections in between.

Not sure where to start?

ROM Map Guides are a good source for gallery locations.

ACCESSIBILITY: Hike the ROM trails are designed to accumulate steps through a walking trail and includes stairs. Accessibility routes may require a visitor to backtrack through a gallery, use an elevator, or need Security's assistance with the use of ROM lifts.

TRAIL FINISH



FINAL STOP



LEVEL 3 – EUROPEAN ROTATING EXHIBITIONS DISH WITH ONE SPOON WAMPUM

This wampum belt resembles one created for the Great Peace of Montreal (1701), which ended the Beaver Wars (remember Stop #3). The treaty's messages – live sustainably, share resources, and leave enough for others – are as relevant today as they were centuries ago.

YOU'RE
HALFWAY
THERE!



6

LEVEL 2 – BIODIVERSITY BLACK FLY EGGS

ROM research shows that biting black flies have only arrived in Canada's Arctic Archipelago since the 1950s, and are moving north as the zone warms. This is potentially dangerous for animals like caribou and nesting birds, on which the flies feed.

Head back to the Bat Cave and turn left into Hands-on Biodiversity. Go to the back, up the steps, then turn left. Your next object is hidden in the wall case right beside the snakes display.



2

LEVEL 1 – KOREA BUNCHEONG JAR WITH DRAGON DESIGN

This style of 18th century ceramics celebrates small flaws that may be a result from kiln firing challenges during the "Little Ice Age" (~1500 - 1850 CE), when the Northern Hemisphere cooled by ~0.8°C.

Return to the Rotunda entrance and head into First Peoples. Stay on the right and move halfway down. The next object is in a case facing the wall.

LEVEL 1 – CURRELLY LAVA (PAHOEHOE)

Let's start in Currelly at the case with lava inside. Volcanic eruptions play a role in shaping historical climate trends by blocking sunlight (short term cooling) and adding greenhouse gases to the atmosphere (long term warming).

Head to the China galleries and turn left. Go to the far end and into Korea. The next object is large and sits in a case facing the wall.

TRAIL STARTS
HERE



12

LEVEL 3 – EUROPEAN ROTATING EXHIBITIONS TRINITITE

These glass pieces were formed by the world's first nuclear explosion (Trinity Test, New Mexico, 1945). The record of plutonium from global nuclear weapons testing is considered a key first marker of a proposed new geological epoch, the "Anthropocene".

Our final stop is also in this exhibition space. Can you find the last object on the trail?



11

LEVEL 3 – EUROPEAN ROTATING EXHIBITIONS COAL (LIGNITE)

Burning fossil fuels increased after WWII. While global emissions are still high, progress is being made at local levels. Ontario phased out coal powered electricity in 2014, eliminating regional smog days.

Stay inside the exhibition space. Can you find the display with our next objects? **Hint:** They're very small.



10

LEVEL 2 – EARTH'S TREASURES CRITICAL MINERALS, CRITICAL CHOICES

Critical minerals like these are mined intensively to support our move to a "net zero" society. Take a look to see how you can minimize mining impacts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Leave the gallery and head to European Rotating Exhibitions on Level 3. Enter the exhibition **Crawford Lake: Layers in Time** (it's free!) and find the case containing the bag of coal.



9

LEVEL 2 – BIODIVERSITY MUSKELLUNGE (ESOX MASQUINONGY)

A metre-long muskellunge like this one was caught in the Toronto harbour in 2022 – the first such catch in 30 years! Then in 2024, nesting bald eagles appeared in the city for the first time in its recorded history. Signs that our actions have positive effectson wildlife.

Leave Biodiversity, and move down the Rotunda stairs, and into Earth's Treasures. Our next stop is a display at the front of the gallery... closer than you think!



8

LEVEL 2 – HANDS-ON BIODIVERSITY NATURALIZED GARDEN

Local actions help ecosystems be more resilient. Climate *adaptations*, like adding native plants (such as these) to our gardens, provide a safe refuge for vital – and vulnerable – local insects.

Move into Biodiversity and back down toward the rhinoceros. Our next stop is across from the black flies case (Stop #6).



7

LEVEL 2 – HANDS-ON BIODIVERSITY FEEBLE CAPPED RUSSULA

Climate change takes many forms. The health of Canada's boreal forests depends on select fungi that trade nutrients and carbon with tree roots. Higher carbon dioxide levels alter that balance: the fungi can then become parasites that weaken forest health.

Move back out of the gallery. Our next object is on the wall on your left as you leave.



5

LEVEL 2 – DAWN OF LIFE TRILOBITE

This tiny trilobite lived on the sea floor 295 million years ago. Trilobites thrived for more than 250 million years and had at least 22,000 species. Alas, none survived the "Great Dying" End-Permian extinction.

Exit the gallery and head up the Rotunda stairs into Biodiversity. Keep left of the rhinoceros. Our next object is in the case with the Woodland Caribou.



4

LEVEL 2 – DAWN OF LIFE CORAL ASSEMBLAGE

391 million years ago, much of today's Ontario lay beneath a shallow sea, filled with coral reefs. 252 million years ago, the "Great Dying" End-Permian extinction (caused by planetary warming) eliminated 90% of marine life, including all corals.

Continue to the back of the gallery. The next object is very small and displayed inside the red wall.



3

LEVEL 1 – FIRST PEOPLES STRETCHED BEAVER PELT

The "Little Ice Age" increased European demand for beaver pelts, which changed the landscape and drew Ontario into the Beaver Wars. The Great Peace of Montreal ended the war in 1701.

Exit the gallery and go up the stairs to Dawn of Life. Move half-way down and into a curved display on the left. Find the next object in the "Life on the Devonian Floor" section.



CLIMATE CHANGE



Congratulations, you did it!

We hope you've enjoyed hiking this trail.

Be sure to spend some time
visiting the galleries and exhibitions
during your visit.

Interested in learning more?

Visit rom.ca/climatechange

Take our **Climate History, Climate Hope** Tour.

Visit the Information Desk on Level 1 for dates and times.

Become a Member

Membership offers unlimited Museum access to visit galleries and exhibitions. Visit the Membership desk at the entrance and ask us how you can turn your admission ticket into a membership today.

joinROM.ca

The logo for the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), consisting of the letters "ROM" in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font.