



**MUSEUM of
NORTHERN
ARIZONA**

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Model of small armored dinosaur goes on display at Museum of Northern Arizona

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — A life-size skeletal model of *Scutellosaurus*, one of the earliest known armored dinosaurs, is now on display next to the *Dilophosaurus* model at the Museum of Northern Arizona.

To help visitors compare the two ancient creatures, new interpretive panels and a selection of *Dilophosaurus* fossils have also been added to the “Age of the Dinosaurs” exhibit in the museum’s Geology Gallery. Fossils of both Early Jurassic dinosaurs were discovered in northern Arizona.

Scutellosaurus lawleri lived about 190 million years ago. A small plant-eating dinosaur, it featured rudimentary armor formed by triangular and diamond-shaped scutes, or osteoderms, along its back. Its name means “little-shielded lizard.” Weighing around 22 pounds, it was likely prey for the much larger *Dilophosaurus wetherilli*, a meat eater that could weigh up to 1,500 pounds.

Scutellosaurus fossils were found in the Kayenta Formation on the Navajo Nation. Later, the species was identified and named in the 1980s by Edwin H. Colbert, while he served as the museum’s honorary curator of vertebrate paleontology.

To create the new skeletal model on view, cast maker Gaston Design Inc. referenced *Scutellosaurus* fossils from the Museum of Northern Arizona collections.

The Museum of Northern Arizona is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with extended hours until 7 p.m. on Thursdays. Children ages 9 and younger receive free admission. Northern Arizona residents can receive reduced \$10 Sunday admission through 2026.

For more information about exhibitions and programs, visit musnaz.org.

About the Museum of Northern Arizona

Founded in 1928, the Museum of Northern Arizona (MNA) preserves and celebrates the natural and cultural heritage of the Colorado Plateau. Through its exhibitions, educational programs, research, and community events, the museum fosters a deeper understanding of the region’s art, science, and people. Located near the foot of the San Francisco Peaks at 3101 N Fort Valley Road in Flagstaff, the museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with extended hours until 7 p.m. on Thursdays.