



At a glance

The power of London's Natural History Museum's collections meets the magic of the Wizarding World to produce a blockbuster turnkey touring exhibition.

Partnership between the Museum, the BBC Studios Natural History Unit and Warner Bros.

Immersive design transports visitors from a magical museum to an enchanted wilderness full of real and magical creatures.

Aims to inspire a new-found sense of wonder for the incredible diversity of life on Earth, and the need to protect our natural world.

Discover the parallels between the magical creatures described in the famous movies, and real animals.

Draw a mix of families with children aged 8+, adult fans of Harry Potter™ who grew up with J.K. Rowling's books and films, and those who are passionate about the natural world and its conservation.



Exhibition

Fantastic Beasts:™ The Wonder of Nature features specimens, artefacts and iconic props from:

- the Museum's world-leading scientific collections and library archives
- J.K. Rowling's Wizarding World, including custom-made models
- Original artworks from Bloomsbury Publishing
- the *Harry Potter™* and *Fantastic Beasts™* film series





Can make itself invisible



‘We want to show people that the natural world is just as amazing as the mythical, wizarding world.’

Clare Matterson
Executive Director of Engagement
The Natural History Museum, London

Zones

Throughout the exhibition, visitors follow the pages of *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*™ by Magizoologist, Newt Scamander.™

The exhibition is divided into three zones:

Zone 1: Inspired by nature

Explore how real animals may have inspired tales of mythical creatures such as dragons, merpeople, and unicorns.

Zone 2: In search of fantastic beasts

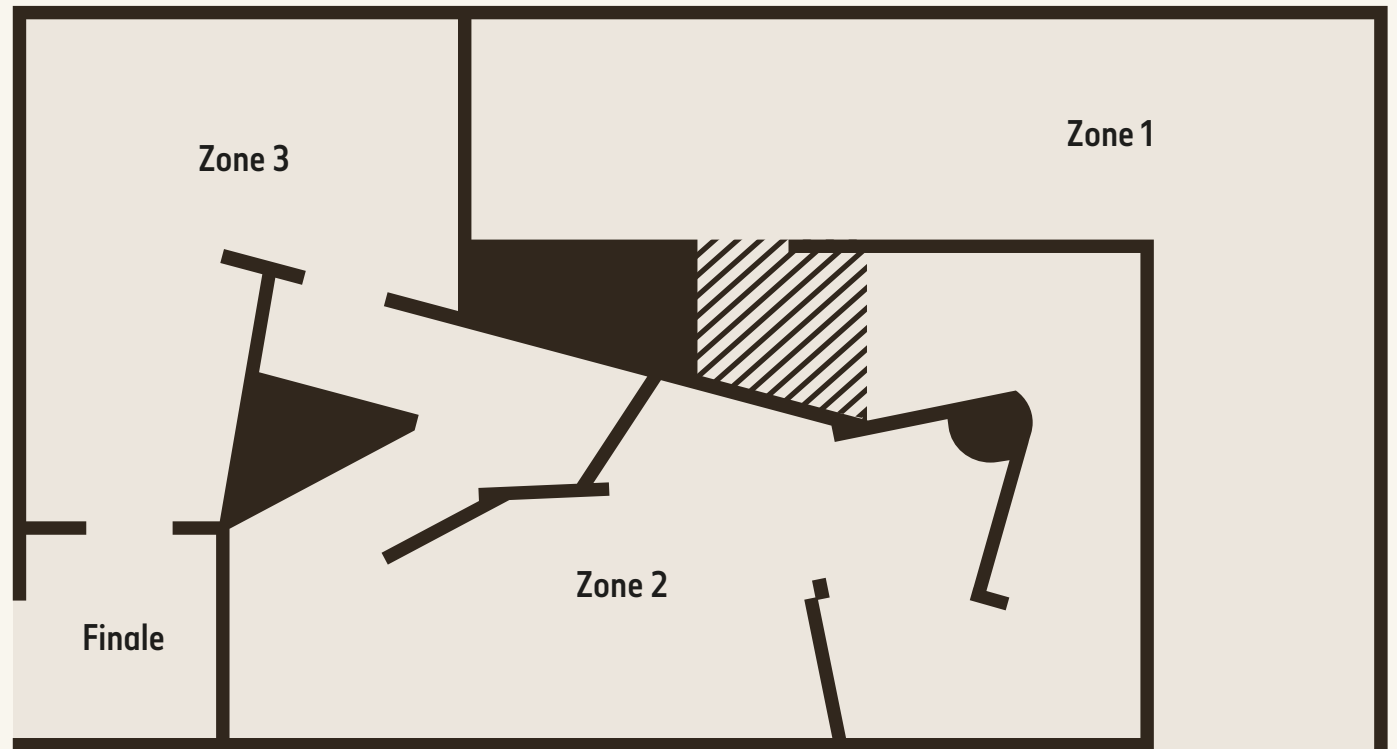
Draw parallels between the magical abilities of fantastic beasts, and those of real animals.


Zone 3: Protecting beasts under threat

Show how, like Newt Scamander,™ real conservationists around the globe are working to protect threatened species.

Finale

Real-world animals and fantastical creatures come to life in this uplifting and artistic outro.



 The explorer's hut

* Layout subject to change



Zone 1

Inspired by nature

Inspired by nature

You might recognize many of the magical creatures that Newt Scamander describes in *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*. People have told stories about dragons, hippogriffs, unicorns and sea monsters for thousands of years.

But what inspired the tales of these remarkable creatures? Could strange encounters with dinosaur bones, mammoth tusks and giant moles be behind such stories?

Step into our gallery of mythical beasts. Read Newt's accounts of these legendary creatures and discover their tangled connections with the natural world.



Zone 1 Inspired by nature



Recognisable props from the Warner Bros. films feature alongside real world objects.



Highlights

Visitors step into a gallery of mythical beasts and discover their tangled connections with the natural world.

Newt Scamander's costume (far right) as seen in the *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*,™ 2016. The protagonist of the film and the author of the book of the same name is a Magizoologist and carer of animals.

The Golden Egg

In the first task of the Triwizard Tournament, Harry Potter™ won a golden egg containing a secret riddle. It was not until Harry submerged it in water that he could understand the mer-song that revealed the egg's hidden message.

Dragon skull

In the film *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*,™ a dragon skeleton hangs from the ceiling of the Defence Against the Dark Arts classroom at Hogwarts.™ Its skull has spines, spikes and sharp teeth, which are typical features of many of the dragon breeds that appear in the wizarding world created by J.K. Rowling.

The History of Four-Footed Beasts and Serpents by Edward Topsell, 1658 (below) Dragons sit alongside real animals such as giraffes and rhinos in this 360-year-old book of natural history. Dragons are described as a type of serpent and the book includes several varieties from across the globe.





Zone 1 Inspired by nature

The explorers' hut prepares visitors for their expedition into the wild to discover more.

Interactives

Touch a replica narwhal tusk (below)

Narwhals have a single large tooth emerging from the front of their heads. Known as a tusk, it can grow up to three metres (10 feet) long. 'Unicorn horns', traded across Europe for centuries actually came from narwhals.

Listen to Siren songs (right)

Visitors open and close drawers and cupboards to hear mer-song from *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*.™ Visitors will hear a real animal call that sailors may have mistaken for Siren song.

+ Integrated lighting

+ Soundscape





Zone 2
In search of
fantastic beasts



Zone 2 In search of fantastic beasts

Visitors discover what real-world explorers and Newt need for their expeditions.



Zone 2 In search of fantastic beasts



Visitors meet the Mooncalves, made exclusively for the exhibition.

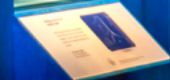
Demiguise

“The Demiguise is found in the Far East, though only with great difficulty, for this beast is able to make itself invisible when threatened and can only be seen by wizards skilled in its capture... Demiguise pelts are highly valued as the hair may be spun into Invisibility Cloaks.”

NEWT SCAMANDER



camouflage effective
NEWT SCAMANDER





Zone 2 In search of fantastic beasts

Visitors tempt the Niffler out with something shiny.



Erumpent

"Writhing up to a tower,
the Erumpent may be mistaken
for a flower in a distance.
The Erumpent's horn can blow
everything from dust to mud, and
sometimes, it's just a horn with some
whispering in a quiet note. It's a magical
Erumpent number, and it's great, in
many, magical, magical ways, when
during the mating season."

NEW YORK, NEW YORK



Zone 2 In search of fantastic beasts

Visitors activate the Erumpent to see it perform its courtship dance.



Highlights

Visitors leave the mysterious museum behind and head off on an expedition into the unknown. They prepare to meet fantastic beasts with magical powers and to spot the animals that share their amazing abilities.

Exploring the natural world:

An explorer's kit (top left)

These leather walking boots were part of the equipment used by botanist Nicholas Polunin (1909–1997), who went on plant-collecting expeditions to the Arctic.

Curious collectors:

Adélie penguin (top right)

To nesting Adélie penguins, pebbles are highly prized items. Adélies collect as many stones as possible, piling them up to build their nests.

Teaming up for safety:

Dotted humming frog (bottom left)

This tiny frog makes its home in a tarantula's burrow. No one knows exactly why the two live together, but visitors will find out more!



Natural dancers:

Peacock spider (top)

Like a peacock displaying its feathers, a male peacock spider tries to impress a mate with its beautiful dancing on a miniature scale.



Elusive creatures:

Canada lynx (bottom left)

Well-adapted to cold northern forests, these secretive, solitary hunters are rarely encountered by people. In the United States, researchers found that lynx could be identified from DNA left behind in their snowy footprints.



Vanishing acts:

Common chameleon (bottom right)

When it comes to camouflage, chameleons only make small adjustments to the shade of their generally green or brown skin. Research shows that the bursts of red, orange and yellow seen in some chameleons are used to attract mates or scare off rivals rather than to help them hide from predators.





Erumpent musk
Demiguise handbag
Newt's British passport
Newt Scamander's magical case
(clockwise, left to right)

All props in the film, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*,TM 2016.

Interactives

Elusive creatures:

Mexican burrowing toad mating call

Like the magical Mooncalf, this mysterious toad spends most of its time hidden in its underground burrow. Scientists suspect it emerges only once a year, after heavy rainstorms when it comes out to breed. In this interactive, visitors pick from three sounds to follow and track down the elusive toad.

Curious collectors:

The Niffler and its burrow

Visitors should tempt the Niffler out of its burrow with something shiny. [See page 17](#)

Natural dancers:

Erumpent spray and mating dance

Spray musk to attract the Erumpent's attention. Newt used just a few drops of scent to catch the attention of a female Erumpent who had escaped into New York's Central Park Zoo in *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*.™ Newt then performed a mating dance to woo the Erumpent back into his magical case. [See page 18-19](#)

Teaming up for safety:

Bowtruckles

Visitors should approach with caution as Bowtruckles defend their trees. 'The Bowtruckle... is a peaceable and intensely shy creature but if the tree in which it lives is threatened, it has been known to leap down upon the woodcutter attempting to harm its home...' Newt Scamander™ in *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald*,™ 2018. [See page 20](#)

+ **Films** showing how real animals like octopuses can seem to 'disappear' like the magical Demiguise using camouflage, and how real animals like peacock spiders perform dances to attract a mate – like Newt does for the Erumpent.

+ **Soundscapes** of the wilderness and lighting that set the scene.

+ **Meet the Mooncalves** – atmospheric, viewing experience. Visitors will see these shy creatures under a full moon. [See page 15](#)

+ **Demiguise** – atmospheric, viewing experience. Visitors walk past a hologram to reveal the Demiguise that can make itself invisible when threatened. [See page 16](#)



Zone 3

Protecting beasts under threat



Highlights

When visitors have encountered fantastic beasts in the wild, they discover what they can do to save them. In this zone, visitors meet some of the Earth's most vulnerable animals and hear from remarkable people around the world who, like Newt, are working to ensure we value and respect the creatures that share our planet.

Saving a species:

Kākāpo (top left)

Just as Newt brings the wizarding world's population of Graphorns back from the brink of extinction, visitors will learn about the intensive breeding programme to save this species of flightless parrot in New Zealand.

Threatened by trade:

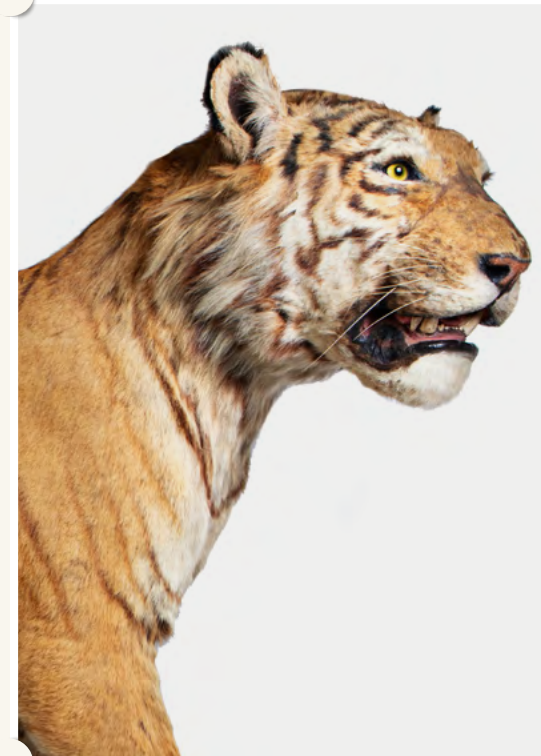
Sunda pangolin (bottom right)

The same hard scales that protect Pangolins from predators are also highly sought after as ingredients in some traditional medicines, although there is no scientific evidence of their healing properties.

Protecting dangerous beasts:

Caspian tiger (top right)

As forests shrink and cities expand, large predators such as tigers are encountering people ever more frequently. As with the Zouwu, these confrontations can be dangerous for humans and big cats alike.



Threatened by trade:

Erumpent horn (top right)

A prop from film, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows™ – Part 1*, 2010. On display to the public for the first time. In the wizarding world, the large, sharp horns of Erumpents are used as ingredients in potions.



Threatened by trade:

Occamy egg (bottom right)

A prop in the film, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them,™* 2016. Newt writes that the magical Occamy lays eggs with shells made of the 'purest, softest silver'. In *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them,™* Newt tells his friend Jacob that Occamy nests are targeted by hunters who steal their valuable eggs.



+ **Three films** – visitors will see parallels between Newt Scamander™ and real scientists and conservationists working to protect animals under threat.



Finale





Finale

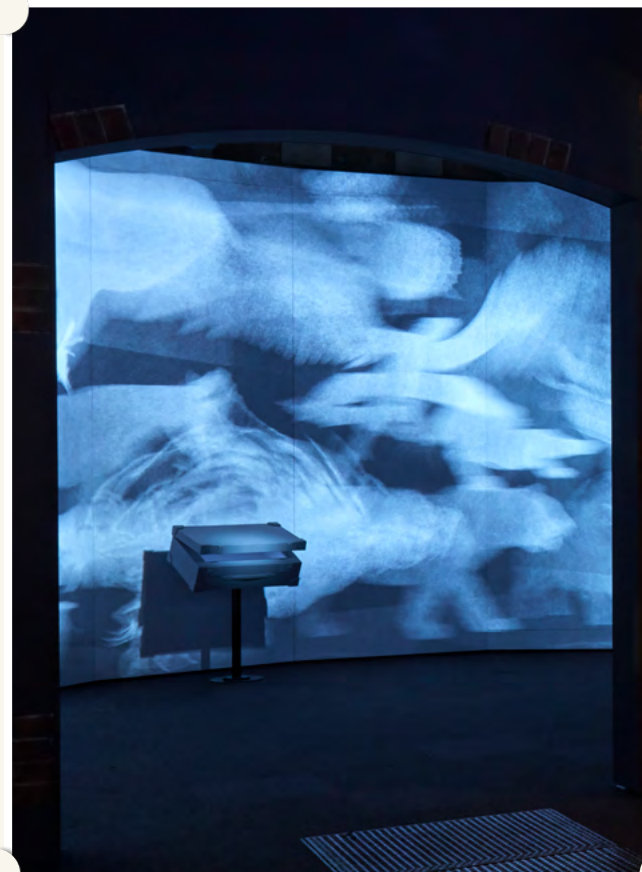
A spellbinding experience for visitors as particles become real animals and magical creatures.



Highlights

A **projected animation** of magical particles, emerging from a case like Newt's, which take the form of animals and Fantastic Beasts,[™] running on a looped sequence.

A **musical soundscape** featuring sounds of Fantastic Beasts[™] and real animals.





Exhibition specifications and details

What's included

Developed as a turnkey package for display spaces between 750 sqm / 8,000 sqft and 1,000 sqm / 11,000 sqft, the exhibition consists of the following components:

- Approximately 100 objects including about 65 specimens from the NHM collections.
- Approximately 28 props from the Wizarding World and custom-made props from the original prop makers for the Fantastic Beasts™ films. Works on paper by The Bloomsbury Group.
- Setworks, mounts, display cases and AV equipment. (AV equipment all to UK standard and voltage).

- Graphic panels and labels in British English and files for local translation and printing.
- 21 interactives and viewing experiences: 6 hands-on interactives, 5 atmospheric and viewing experiences, 3 soundscapes, and 7 digital experiences, including 5 natural history films.
- A selection of related retail and publishing products available to purchase as an optional extra.
- Support and installation by the Natural History Museum's team.

Hosting venues are responsible for:

- Hire fee
- Shipping costs
- Costs for site visit by NHM staff
- Insurance (shipping insurance + insurance during the display period)
- Installation and de-installation travel costs for NHM team
- Local marketing, staffing and ticketing
- Costs related to translation and printing

* Exhibition objects are subject to change. All contents to be confirmed with each hosting venue based on local security and environment conditions, and operational requirements.

Retail

The Fantastic Beasts:™ The Wonder of Nature retail collection features a range of carefully selected products showcasing the beautiful exhibition artwork, a selection of the most recognisable Beasts from the franchise, some very cuddly plush toys from the Museum's wholesale range, and much more.

Exhibition-exclusive ranges (in English language) and generic merchandise will be available to purchase as optional retail stock from the Museum's Retail team and direct from suppliers.







THE HUMAN IMPACT



Many animal species have been reduced to very low populations and are on the brink of extinction because of human activities such as poaching and the illegal trading of animal body parts. Tusks, horns, skins, feathers and bones are all considered valuable commodities. Animals are exploited for their perceived commercial value – they are killed for their meat or to make fashion items, trinkets or medicines. Helmeted hornbills, elephants, rhinoceroses and pangolins, to name a few, have been the victims of the cruel trade in ivory, meat, and horns and scales for unproven ‘medicinal’ cures. Vaquita porpoises have suffered devastating losses in their numbers at the hands of illegal fishing. In fact, this now rare creature may well be extinct by the time you read this.

Like Newt, scientists and conservationists are working hard, often against the odds, to help protect vulnerable, rare and endangered species from overexploitation and to prevent their extinction. Their job isn’t easy. Restoring a healthy population after a species has been reduced to a small number of individuals is a challenge. Intensive breeding programmes are helping to increase the numbers of some animals, for example, the New Zealand kākāpō parrot. In the wizarding world, Newt manages to rescue the last breeding pair of Graphorns in existence.

Increased public awareness and education have played an important role in reducing the demand for animal parts. However, more still needs to be done. Protecting an endangered species also requires the support and collaboration of governments, law enforcement agencies and local communities. Targeted campaigns using posters and other media platforms help to raise awareness of the real threats endangered animals face and to generate support for conservation efforts. And with the advances in technology, scientists are able to track and monitor vulnerable species, providing invaluable research for the continued protection of the amazing creatures with whom we share our planet.

Elephants are hunted and either killed or maimed for their ivory tusks. Many welfare organisations and charities work tirelessly to protect these incredible animals, and to try to end the unnecessary and cruel ivory trade.





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