



New Event “Dinosaur Island” Premieres at Thanksgiving Point

This brand-new summer event brings dinosaurs to life in the Ashton Gardens

LEHI, Utah (May 25, 2022) – **Thanksgiving Point** is excited to partner with **Dino Don, Inc** for the summer event **Dinosaur Island**, held in the Ashton Gardens. Featuring over 25 life-sized dinosaurs, immersive elements, play areas for kids, and more, this summer festival will transform the Ashton Gardens into a thrilling adventure from May 28 through August 27, 2022.

Dinosaur Island will primarily feature life-sized, animatronic dinosaurs produced by Dino Don, Inc. Dino Don, Inc produces the largest and most accurate exhibitions in the animatronic dinosaur market. The dinosaurs move, roar, and even interact with each other. Placed throughout the 50-acre Ashton Gardens, guests will get to watch dinosaurs come to life throughout the entire summer.

Dinosaur Island also offers:

- **Dinosaur fossils, molds, and models** from the Museum of Ancient Life’s collection on display throughout Thanksgiving Point’s venues. Ancient plants, insects, and other ancient wildlife will also be on display.
- **Dino Dash 5k** on August 13, 2022. This 5k runs through Dinosaur Island during the cool morning hours.
- **Special tours** through the Ashton Gardens with Thanksgiving Point Paleontologist Rick Hunter.
- A **Dig Quarry play station** where children can dig and discover dinosaur bones like a real paleontologist.
- **Dinosaur and adventure-themed movies during the Outdoor Movie Series**, including *Jurassic Park* (1993) and *Dinosaur* (2000).
- **Live paleoart from local artist Kaitlund Zupanic** in the Ashton Gardens on June 9, 16, and 23 from 10:30 am to 4 pm.
- **Special lecture from “Dino” Don Lessem on July 1.** Don Lessem is a known expert on dinosaurs, owner and founder of Dino Don, Inc, author of over 40 books, excavator of some of the largest dinosaurs in the world, and even an advisor to Steven Spielberg’s *Jurassic Park*. Immediately following the lecture, *Jurassic Park* will be streamed to the public at the Waterfall Amphitheatre.
- **Interactive and themed elements**, including mist machines, an “active” volcano, a Tsunami Escape Zone, and more.
- **Dungeons and Dinosaurs** by lantern light in the Ashton Gardens brings the popular role-playing game to life. There will be four Dungeon Masters and 24 spots available for participants ages 16 and up. Tickets are \$15 per person, with the first campaign on June 24 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm.
- **Dino Detective** merch package, featuring a branded drawstring backpack, binoculars, a vinyl sticker, an acrylic pin, and a custom map with a scratch-off revealing various dinosaurs and how they “survived” Dinosaur Island.

While Dinosaur Island is primarily located at the Ashton Gardens, themed elements will be located throughout the Thanksgiving Point property and at all other venues (Museum of Natural Curiosity, Museum of Ancient Life, Butterfly Biosphere, and Farm Country). Fossils from the Museum of Ancient



Life's collection will be on a limited-time-only display throughout these venues. All educational programming will also focus on dinosaurs and ancient life throughout the duration of Dinosaur Island.

Dinosaur Island will be open in the Ashton Gardens from May 28 to August 27, 9 am to 8 pm, Monday through Saturday. The Ashton Gardens are located at 3900 N. Garden Drive in Lehi, Utah.

Dinosaur Island is a time-ticketed event and guests are encouraged to purchase their tickets in advance. Tickets are \$24 for adults, \$21 for seniors (ages 65+), \$19 for youth (ages 13-24), and \$17 for children (ages 3-12). Children 2 and under receive free admission. Thanksgiving Point members also receive free admission to Dinosaur Island.

For more information and to reserve tickets, please visit thanksgivingpoint.org.

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About Thanksgiving Point

Thanksgiving Point is a community-owned nonprofit with the mission to bring the joy of learning and wonders of the natural world to life through world-class experiences that engage, delight, and inspire. Created in 1995 by Alan and Karen Ashton, Thanksgiving Point is a center of community engagement and welcomes more than two million annual visitors to visit, dine, play, and explore together. Thanksgiving Point is located at 3003 North Thanksgiving Way in Lehi, Utah. For more information, call 801.768.2300 or visit thanksgivingpoint.org.

About Dino Don, Inc

Dino Don, Inc is an exhibit company founded by "Dino" Don Lessem, a world authority on dinosaurs. For nearly 30 years, Dino Don, Inc has partnered in artifact loans with organizations across the globe. Over 10 million people have viewed it's exhibits, known as the largest and most accurate exhibitions in the market. For more information, visit dinodoninc.com

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