For 21 years, he kept his theory secret.
Discover the man and his revolutionary theory that changed the world.

This exhibition illuminates the story of Charles Robert Darwin, the iconic naturalist, geologist, and thinker whose groundbreaking ideas on evolution by natural selection were a critical turning point for science and culture. Experience a unique glimpse into his intellectual and personal world to discover how this reluctant revolutionary profoundly altered our view of the natural world and our place in it.

“We can no longer imagine a world without Darwin, and this exhibition...helps us understand why.”

— American Scientist
Live animals (optional), taxidermy specimens, and realistic models, such as the blue-footed booby and Galápagos tortoises.

Immersive recreated environments, complete with soundscapes, transport visitors on Darwin’s journey.

Interactive media stations and videos explore concepts such as homology, adaptation to environment, and natural selection.

See period objects and replicas of Darwin’s notebooks and documents. Examine a recreation of Darwin’s study at Down House.

Dynamic exhibits and video interviews with leading scientists reveal Darwin’s continuing impact on science and society today.

Exhibition Themes:

The World Before Darwin
Surrounded by period illustrations, an antique display case of skeleton mounts characterizes the scientific landscape of the early 19th century.

Early Life
Explore Darwin’s family heritage and early life through replicas of letters, photographs, and personal items, as well as a video biography narrated by the naturalist’s great-great-grandson.

A Trip Around the World
Retrace Darwin’s voyage and encounter flora and fauna he witnessed during five years aboard the HMS Beagle, including an immersive diorama of the Galapagos Islands.

The Idea Takes Shape: Natural Selection
See facsimile notebooks and letters charting the development of Darwin’s revolutionary ideas, as well as examples of species he studied.

A Life’s Work
Visit an elaborate reconstruction of Darwin’s study at his home, Down House, where he refined his theory of evolution.

Evolution, Today
Videos and interactive stations help visitors understand the principles of evolution, and present interviews with scientists on Darwin’s continuing impact today.

“The most in-depth exhibition ever mounted on Darwin.”
— CBS News

FIND OUT MORE:

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EXHIBITION CREDITS:
Darwin is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (www.amnh.org), in collaboration with The Field Museum, Chicago; the Museum of Science, Boston; the Natural History Museum, London, England; and the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada.

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The objects in this brochure represent the exhibition’s content at AMNH, and may not appear at all venues.

SPECIFICATIONS:

VENUE GALLERY SIZE:
7,000 – 8,000 ft²

VENUE CEILING HEIGHT:
12 ft recommended

CONSERVATION + SECURITY:
Low

STANDARD RENTAL LENGTH:
14 – 16 weeks