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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Discover the Treasures of the Natural World at ArtScience Museum

*An interactive treasure hunt for young visitors runs
alongside star specimens on show for the first time in
Southeast Asia*

SINGAPORE (22 November 2017) – Uncover a treasure trove of priceless artefacts and invaluable specimens that have shaped our understanding of the natural world at ArtScience Museum’s latest exhibition – *Treasures of the Natural World*. Opening on 25 November, the exhibition showcases over 200 of the star objects from the world renowned Natural History Museum in London. Showing in Southeast Asia for the first time, these unique treasures have been hand-picked from over 80 million specimens, representing the best of the museum’s collection.

The exhibition takes visitors on a voyage of discovery, through the centuries, from the Enlightenment of the 18th century, through to the present day, showing how pioneering explorers, collectors, and scientists revolutionised our understanding of nature.

Exhibition highlights include a handwritten extract from Charles Darwin’s *On the Origin of Species*, a magnificent sabre-toothed cat, a Martian meteorite, a mysterious ‘cursed’ amethyst, and a selection of Alfred Russel Wallace’s collection of insects from his Malay Archipelago expedition to Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia. The riveting stories behind each treasure are told within the exhibition, with selected treasures brought vividly to life through special effects.

“ArtScience Museum is delighted to partner with the Natural History Museum in London, to present the most extraordinary items from their collection for the first time in Singapore. Together, we have created an exhibition that invites visitors to embark on their own expedition of exploration and discovery, encountering the objects that fired the imaginations of scientific pioneers. Through the interactive treasure trail designed for children, and our programming efforts, we also highlight the importance of the science that the Natural History Museum is engaged in today. The treasures we are showing hold the keys to unlocking the potential of the future through the mysteries of the past,” said Honor Harger, Executive Director of ArtScience Museum, Marina Bay Sands.

“Visitors will depart with a sense of the immense value of natural history collections as they discover for themselves the wonder and curiosity that led natural history pioneers to explore the natural world. British naturalist Alfred Russell Wallace who went to Singapore in the mid-nineteenth century to study the countries diverse fauna was one of these trailblazers, and

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specimens from his expedition form part of the *Treasures of the Natural World* exhibition. I hope that visitors enjoy viewing some of the most iconic and scientifically valuable examples of the Natural History Museum's collections," said Sir Michael Dixon, Director of the Natural History Museum, London

Treasure Trail for Children

Threading through *Treasures of the Natural World* is an interactive treasure hunt specially curated by ArtScience Museum to engage children, families and schools. Interactive activities are incorporated to each of the five themed sections of the show. Combining art and science, the treasure hunt adds interactivity and immersion to the exhibition, ensuring it is accessible to visitors of all ages.



Cabinet of curiosities at first gallery, Building Nature's Treasure House

The first stop of the treasure hunt is located in the *Building Nature's Treasure House* gallery. It is designed to spark inquisitiveness, as visitors explore a cabinet of curiosities. The multi-sensory cabinet features tactile drawers, a sound box, a peep hole, a light box, an excavation drawer and kirigami drawers. It is inspired by Sir Hans Sloane, whose vast private collection of natural history specimens formed the basis of the British Museum and later, the Natural History Museum.



Where's Wallace? at Treasures of the Mind

The second stop of the treasure trail is located within the *Treasures of the Mind* gallery. It shines a spotlight on British naturalist, Alfred Russel Wallace, and his contributions to the

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study of evolution. *Where's Wallace* is a large wall graphic which invites visitors to find Wallace and 18 hidden collectibles which are inspired by both Wallace's life and his collection displayed within the gallery. It also features the famous Wallace Line, the faunal boundary line drawn in 1859 by Wallace separating the eco-zones of Asia and Wallacea.



Specially constructed tall ship at Treasures of Exploration

The third gallery of the exhibition, *Treasures of Exploration*, tells the stories of those who not only had a brilliant mind, but a brave heart and daring spirit. It showcases Captain James Cook's first voyage to Australia and New Zealand, Captain Robert Falcon Scott's expedition to reach the South Pole and HMS Challenger's 1872 exploration of the deep oceans. Each expedition yielded vital scientific evidence which was only attainable as these explorers dared to be pioneers. In this section of the show, visitors can board a specially constructed tall ship, and dream up their own epic voyage as an explorer.



Interactive activity at Treasures of Life are Everywhere



Close-up of tiger and orangutan die-cuts

The fourth section of the show, *Treasures of Life are Everywhere*, reminds us that the beauty and wonder of nature is also fragile and sensitive to change. Extinct creatures, such as the dodo, demonstrate the threat humanity poses to nature's treasures, and remind us of the vulnerability of animals in our own region. The interactive activity in the fourth gallery is inspired by ArtScience Museum's augmented reality project, *Into the Wild*, which raises awareness about the plight of critically endangered species within Southeast Asia. The activity enables visitors to create their own tiger and orangutan, and place their creations within a simulated rainforest.

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Digital laboratory at A Museum for A Modern World

The exhibition ends with *A Museum for A Modern World*, which provides visitors with a close look at the scientific pursuits and breakthroughs undertaken by the 350 research scientists working at Natural History Museum. The final interactive activity in the treasure hunt, is a digital laboratory that shows how scientists use natural history to solve problems facing us today.

Emphasising the immersive and interactive nature of the show, younger visitors are also invited to become one of nature's treasures, by dressing up as one of the animals featured in the exhibition.

Programmes over opening weekends of *Treasures of the Natural World*

In conjunction with the opening of *Treasures of the Natural World*, visitors can participate in a series of complementary programmes starting from the weekend of 25 November.

ArtScience Museum will be gathering leading conservationists, naturalists, educators and curators to expand our understanding of the diversity of life in a rapidly changing world for *Conversations: Underlying Nature*, held on the opening day of *Treasures of the Natural World*.

Event:	Date and time:	Venue:	Description:	Remarks:
Conversations: Underlying Nature	25 Nov (Sat), 2pm	Expression Gallery, Level 4	Natural history is essential to expanding our understanding of the diversity of life in a rapidly changing world – a 4.5 billion year old story that is continuing to unfold. It is deeply marked by human curiosity and longing, representing our attempts to make sense of nature. Yet it also reveals our complicated relationship with it, exposing our hopes, fears, and questions about our place in natural world. Speakers include:	Free on a first-come-first-served basis, subject to capacity. Register in the lobby.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Susan Holmes (Lead Interpretation Developer of Treasures of the Natural World, Natural History Museum); - Dr David Middleton (Director of Research and Conservation & Keeper of the Herbarium, Singapore Botanic Gardens); - Daniel Tham (Curator (Exhibitions, Research & Publications, National Museum of Singapore); - Dr John van Wyhe (Senior Lecturer, Department of History, Fellow of Tembusu College, National University of Singapore); - Ann Ang (Poet and educator); - Dr Ben Horton (Professor, Asian School of the Environment, College of Science, Nanyang Technological University); - Sabrina Smith (Community Engagement Director, Earth Observatory of Singapore); and - Honor Harger (Executive Director, ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands). 	
Curator's tour	25 and 26 Nov, 11.30am and 5pm		<p>Join us for an unmissable Insights Tour, conducted by one of the team from Natural History Museum, London. Be guided through the exceptional specimens and artifacts in the exhibition while excavating the unbelievable stories these treasures hold.</p>	<p>Suitable for all ages.</p> <p>Complimentary to ticket-holders of <i>Treasures of the Natural World</i>.</p> <p>Limited to a maximum of 25 pax.</p> <p>Stickers will be distributed at 11.25am at entrance of the exhibition.</p>

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ArtScience on Screen	6 Dec – 10 Jan	Expression Gallery, Level 4	A programme of family-friendly films that celebrate our thirst for adventure and our desire to explore the great unknown. Follow some of the least likely heroes: a dare-devil archeologist and a haphazard museum night-guard, as well as some of our most important natural history icons, David Attenborough and Charles Darwin.	Free admission. Check ArtScience Museum's Facebook page for more details.
Public guided tours	2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Dec, 11.30am 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Dec, 11.30am and 5pm		Join us for an engaging tour through the natural world with highlights handpicked from the prestigious Natural History Museum, London.	Suitable for all ages. Complimentary to ticket-holders of <i>Treasures of the Natural World</i> . Limited to a maximum of 25 pax. Stickers will be distributed at 11.25am at entrance of the exhibition.
Mandarin guided tours	16, 23 and 30 Dec, 2.30pm and 4pm			
Family Friday tours	1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Dec, 3pm			
A Day in the Life of an Ornithologist Workshop	1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Dec, 4.30pm		Have you ever wondered why eagles' talons are so sharp? Or why flamingos' feathers are so pink? Observe, experiment, record and role-play in this highly interactive, 'wings-on' workshop.	\$5 per participant. Up to 20 participants on a first-come, first-served basis.

Treasures of the Natural World will run from 25 November 2017 to 29 April 2018.

Tickets are available at all Marina Bay Sands box offices and website. Terms and Conditions apply. Tickets prices as follows:

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	STANDARD TICKET (SGD)	SINGAPORE RESIDENT (SGD)
Adult	\$17	\$13.60
Senior (65 years and above)/ Student/ Child (2-12 years)	\$12	\$9.60
Family package (2 kids & 2 adults)	\$46	\$36.80

For more information on the exhibition, please visit
<http://www.marinabaysands.com/museum/treasure.html>

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About Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd

Marina Bay Sands is the leading business, leisure and entertainment destination in Asia. It features large and flexible convention and exhibition facilities, 2,560 hotel rooms and suites, the rooftop Sands SkyPark, the best shopping mall in Asia, world-class celebrity chef restaurants and an outdoor event plaza. Its two theatres showcase a range of leading entertainment performances including world-renowned Broadway shows. Completing the line-up of attractions is ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands which plays host to permanent and marquee exhibitions. For more information, please visit www.marinabaysands.com

About ArtScience Museum

ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands is Southeast Asia's leading cultural institution that explores the interrelationship between art, science, technology and culture. Featuring 21 galleries totalling 50,000 square feet, the iconic lotus-inspired building has staged major exhibitions by some of the 20th century's key artists, including Leonardo Da Vinci, Salvador Dalí, Andy Warhol and Vincent Van Gogh, as well as major exhibitions which explore aspects of scientific history.

About Natural History Museum, London

The Natural History Museum welcomes more than five million visitors a year and is a world-leading science research centre. Through its unique collection and unrivalled expertise it is unlocking answers to the biggest challenges facing the world today. Helping to tackle issues such as food security, the eradication of disease and the management of resource scarcity, the Museum is actively studying the diversity of life and the delicate balance of ecosystems to ensure the survival of our planet. www.nhm.ac.uk

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For hi-res images:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B--fqz4_MUxrM0N5d2tfNXUzR0k (Credit to Marina Bay Sands and Natural History Museum, London)