



Spending a Day With Sue at the Space Center

While visiting the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, AL, I had a chance to tour the traveling exhibit “SUE.”

No dinosaur in the world compares to SUE – the largest, most complete, and best preserved *Tyrannosaurus rex* (from the Greek and Latin for Tyrant Lizard King) ever discovered. The skeleton measures forty-two feet long nose to tail, and 13 feet tall at the hips.

The specimen was named after Sue Hendrickson who discovered the remains weathering out of a hillside on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation in the badlands of South Dakota on August 12, 1990.

“Sue” lived during the Late Cretaceous Period, about 67-million-years-ago. The estimated living weight when it was alive is about 7 tons and just the skull weighs 600 lbs. The skull is 5 feet long with a brain cavity just large enough to hold a quart of milk. Sue has 60 teeth, each one 7 ½ to 12 inches long. It was a carnivore (meat eater), but no one knows for sure if it was a male or female.

After ownership disputes were settled, the fossil was acquired at auction in October 1997 by The Field Museum in Chicago, IL, for \$8.36 million.

