



Photography by Martin Lipman.

This February, “Planet Ice” Invites Guests to Venture into Earth’s Chilling Past

ATLANTA, GA — Jan. 15, 2026 — Fernbank announces its first special exhibit of 2026, “Planet Ice,” which invites visitors to chill out with the coolest story on Earth through an immersive exhibition revealing the powerful influence of ice in shaping our planet and human history. On view from Feb. 7–May 3, 2026, the exhibit reveals a time when massive glaciers dominated the land and ancient creatures roamed wild, taking visitors on a fascinating journey across 80,000 years of Earth’s history.

“Planet Ice” explores ice and adaptation through immersive storytelling, interactive displays and over 100 specimens, artifacts and models. Visitors will view impressive megafauna, including the woolly mammoth, mastodon, cave bear, giant beaver and the American lion. Guests can explore how the Ice Ages shaped lands now hidden beneath oceans; learn how humans have responded to changing climates and ice retreats; understand how certain animal species adapted to survive and are still seen today; and get a greater understanding of these now-vanished cold realms.

This exhibit also uses augmented reality combined with artifacts and models to educate guests on life and survival in an arctic climate. Visitors will enjoy two “magical moments” that create the illusion of a woolly mammoth and American lion emerging from a snow-filled landscape.

Authentic tools and other artifacts used by the Tuniit (Dorset) and Thule-Inuit peoples in Canada’s Arctic will also be on display. Life-like sculptures of a Neanderthal adult and child are also features, providing evidence for how humans adapted to cold environments over time.

“Through dramatic Ice Age megafauna and cultural artifacts, “Planet Ice” encourages guests to explore how life has both changed and endured over time,” says Maria Moreno, Fernbank’s Manager of Public Programs. “With this lens, we can look more closely at the connections between past ice ages and the world we live in today, as well as the future.”

Visitors will be inspired to reflect on how during a time of climate change, the loss of ice could affect species,

infrastructure and ecosystems. “Planet Ice” reenforces the idea that we are still living in an ice age, though the planet is changing.

In addition to visiting “Planet Ice,” guests are invited to view the giant screen film, “Titans of the Ice Age,” opening on the same day, Feb. 7, 2026, in the Giant Screen Theater. Narrated by actor Christopher Plummer, this film transports audiences 20,000 years into the past, immersing them in the Pleistocene Ice Age. Through stunning depictions of monumental glaciers, fierce ancient predators and the early humans who survived 10,000 years before modern civilization, this era is vividly brought to life. “Titans of the Ice Age” recreates Ice Age animals such as dire wolves and saber-toothed cats, while following the compelling story of Lyuba, a baby woolly mammoth, and her family as they journey in search of food across frozen, predator-filled landscapes.

Together, the exhibit’s artifacts, models, and visuals paired with the film’s dramatic storytelling give guests a rich understanding of life during the Ice Age and its impact on our planet.

Planet Ice: Mysteries of the Ice Ages is created by the Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Canada and is made possible thanks to the support of Tour Partner Polar Knowledge Canada. Planet Ice is sponsored locally by Isdell Family Foundation. Additional support is provided by the Frances Wood Wilson Foundation.

Titans of the Ice Age is a production of Giant Screen Films and D3D Cinema, in association with The Field Museum, Chicago.

Related Programming

Fernbank will host the family-friendly Discovery Day, “Planet Ice Chill-abration,” from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7, to celebrate the opening of “Planet Ice.” Additionally, there will be daily showings of “Titans of the Ice Age” in the giant screen theater. All of this related programming is included with general admission and is free with CityPASS. For more information, please visit FernbankMuseum.org.

Tickets

General admission tickets include three floors of exhibits in the natural history museum, choice of one giant screen film, and 75 acres of nature explorations in Fernbank Forest and WildWoods. Fernbank After Dark, WildWoods: AGLOW and other Museum Nights events are available at a separate ticket price. Fernbank is located at 767 Clifton Road NE in Atlanta, minutes from midtown Atlanta and downtown Decatur.

General admission tickets are \$25.95 for adults, \$24.95 for seniors, \$23.95 for children ages 3-12, free for children ages 2 and younger, and free for Fernbank Members. These prices are for tickets purchased online at FernbankMuseum.org. Tickets not purchased in advance are offered onsite, if available, at a higher price.

More information is available at FernbankMuseum.org.

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About Fernbank

Fernbank is one of the most popular and iconic cultural destinations in Atlanta. Known as Atlanta's Science and Nature Experience, Fernbank invites guests to discover a World of Wow through an expansive natural history museum, 4-story giant screen theater, and 75-acres of nature adventures in WildWoods and Fernbank Forest. One of the oldest not-for-profit conservation organizations in the country, Fernbank was founded in 1939 to preserve Fernbank Forest, the largest urban, old growth, Piedmont forest in the United States. The museum and giant screen theater opened as "a school in the woods for nature studies" on Oct. 5, 1992, and is today known for its giant dinosaurs, hands-on STEAM* programming, immersive experiences, and year-round nature exploration. Visit fernbankmuseum.org and follow @fernbankmuseum on Facebook, Instagram, X, YouTube and TikTok for more information. *Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics.