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Fernbank Unearths Sunken Treasures, Ancient Seas

The temporary exhibit will run from Oct. 4, 2025 – Jan. 11, 2026

ATLANTA — This fall, Fernbank Museum invites visitors on an unforgettable journey beneath the waves with “Sunken Treasures, Ancient Seas.” This collection of artifacts reveals hidden wonders of shipwrecks in the Mediterranean, offering a unique glimpse into past civilizations dating back as far as 5th century BCE. Opening Oct. 4, this immersive exhibit explores the world of underwater archaeology through recovered artifacts, dioramas and modern science.

Fernbank Museum is the first institution to present “Sunken Treasures, Ancient Seas,” an exhibition featuring original objects recovered in the deep coastal waters off Sicily, Italy. These artifacts, which come from commercial and naval vessels that once traveled the Mediterranean, will include jewelry, coins, serving vessels, metal ingots, soldier helmets, bronze and marble statuary, amphorae, and more. Detailed models of a Roman warship and cargo ship will also be on display, providing visitors with a unique view of how goods and people were once transported in this complex trade zone, as well as the military history of the region.

Immersive technology is utilized in this exhibit to allow us to reconnect to the past and witness the delicate process of locating, excavating and restoring ancient artifacts. The exhibit employs high-definition video and compelling storytelling to illuminate life as it may have been in the days of the ancient Roman empire. A video installation lets us witness the delicate, cutting-edge process of excavating and restoring an ancient, submerged mosaic floor. Fernbank has also created a submersible underwater photo opportunity, which will allow guests to envision themselves from the viewpoint of what it might be like to explore a shipwreck.

“Sunken Treasures, Ancient Seas” explores ancient artifacts recovered from beneath the waves, shedding light on cultural practices, maritime trade and even military history in the Mediterranean,” said Dr. Bobbi Hohmann, Fernbank’s Vice President of Programming & Collections. “We’re excited to be the first venue to host this exhibit and be able to share these stories with our guests.”

“Sunken Treasures, Ancient Seas” is on view from Oct. 4, 2025 – Jan. 11, 2026. It will be open daily and for select after-hours events, giving guests the chance to explore the mysteries of the deep in a nighttime setting. This exhibit is included with General Admission and is free with CityPASS. For more information, please visit FernbankMuseum.org.



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Organised by Contemporanea Progetti in collaboration with the Regione Siciliana - Soprintendenza del Mare di Palermo, Italia (Italy).

Related Programming

Fernbank will host the family-friendly Discovery Day, "Dinosaur Trick or Treat," from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 25, which will have additional information relating to "Sunken Treasures, Ancient Seas." This programming is included with general admission.

Tickets

Exhibits, films and Discovery Days are included with daytime general admission and with CityPASS. General admission tickets include three floors of exhibits in the museum, choice of one giant screen film, and 75 acres of nature explorations in Fernbank Forest and WildWoods. Fernbank is located at 767 Clifton Road NE in Atlanta, minutes from midtown Atlanta and downtown Decatur.

General admission tickets vary by date and program, starting at \$23.95 for children, \$24.95 for seniors and \$25.95 for adults, and include a film in the Giant Screen Theater. Tickets purchased online are discounted. Members receive free general admission. 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.