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You can look and touch in this Dinosaur Exhibit

Ryden Wilkinson, 3, and his mom Tiffany Wilkinson of Joshua Tree have fun dressing up like dinosaurs at the "Hatching the Past" exhibit at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum June 7.

YUCCA VALLEY — Take a trip back to prehistoric times with the Hi-Desert Nature Museum at the latest exhibit. “Hatching the Past” shows a dinosaur’s life cycle using dinosaur paintings and fossilized dinosaur eggs and skeletons.

“We have real eggs on exhibit, which is really neat,” Vanessa Cantú, museum registrar and exhibits coordinator, said. “It’s fairly uncommon that you get real eggs in an exhibit, especially at a museum this size.”

The best part about the family-friendly exhibit is the fact that not everything is behind glass. Visitors are welcome to touch most of the items in the exhibit, including the dinosaur egg castings.

“Those are great because people can actually touch them,” Cantú said about the castings, “and that’s been received really well by our visitors. We get a lot of kids who come into the museum and they, of course, are the ones who like to touch things.”

Other interesting aspects of the “Hatching the Past” exhibition are the paintings, which are different than the usual dinosaur image. These paintings depict dinosaurs with various, vibrant colors, as opposed to what is normally shown.

“Those are really beautiful,” Cantú said. “It’s essentially a new representation of dinosaurs, something that we can, perhaps, get used to.”

The exhibit opened May 30 and has been well-received by the public. According to Cantú, the amount of people visiting the museum has “gone up tremendously since we’ve had the exhibit, which is great.”