EXHIBITS

NORMAN WHALEN EXHIBIT
A display celebrating the life and work of Norman Whalen, whose academic career studying the Palaeolithic of Arabia began after a decorated military career in WWII, and two decades as a priest in the US State of Arizona. In Saudi Arabia, Whalen worked closely with the Saudi Arabian Department of Antiquities and Museums, studying and publishing key 'early man' sites, such as Shuwayhittiyah and Dawadmi. In the 1980s, he synthesised his fieldwork in Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman, and Jordan to focus on migration out of Africa, making technological links with classic East African sites. Whalen’s pioneering fieldwork and publications have laid a strong foundation for future Palaeolithic work in the Arabian Peninsula, yet his work has not been widely recognised in the international literature.

SAUDI COMMISSION FOR TOURISM AND ANTIQUITIES (SCTA)
The SCTA was founded in 2000 with the aim of preserving the culture and heritage of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Many of the archaeological treasures of Saudi Arabia are largely unknown to many countries around the world, which prompted SCTA to acquaint the world with the heritage of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

LITHICS FROM SAUDI ARABIA
Lithics (stone tools) provide the vast majority of evidence for ancient human behaviour. This exhibit features recently collected artefacts from the fieldwork of the Palaeodeserts Project in various parts of Saudi Arabia. These original discoveries, which have never previously been displayed, provide important new evidence on some of the major debates in archaeology. The artefacts presented range from Lower Palaeolithic handaxes to Neolithic arrowheads. The material demonstrates the importance of Saudi Arabia in understanding long-term change in human societies and particularly how early populations responded to environmental changes.

PLEISTOCENE FOSSILS FROM SAUDI ARABIA
Fossils of Pleistocene vertebrates are rare finds in the Arabian Peninsula. In November 2013, the Palaeodeserts Project, working with the Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities, conducted excavations at Ti’s al Ghadah in the Nefud desert. The exhibit showcases a selection of the vertebrate fossils recovered during this field season and includes species such as elephant, a large cat and oryx. The specimens were found within sediments laid down by a Pleistocene lake deposit and are the subject of ongoing scientific analysis.