



**GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR**  
**MINISTRY FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE, SPORT & LEISURE**  
310 Main Street  
Gibraltar

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**New Museum Galleries and Museum Open Day**

The Gibraltar Museum will soon boast a new wing dedicated to natural history and prehistory. The wing will be officially inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Gibraltar, the Hon P. R. Caruana, Q.C., on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2009, at 1930 hours. During the course of his visit to the museum, the Chief Minister will also be shown new library and study facilities that have been added as part of the overall refurbishment.

The new wing is based around the rich fossil and artefact collections which have been built up over the last two decades through a painstaking process of excavation in Gibraltar's caves. Many of the specimens on exhibit have not been seen by the public before. The new wing tells the story of climate change and how this has affected the landscapes and animals that have lived in Gibraltar over the last 50 thousand years.

There are several layers of stories that are told in the new wing and one of them is that of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century naturalists who came to the Rock, either as military officers or clergy, and opened a window of exploration of Gibraltar and the surrounding countryside. The displays include a wide range of unique photographs, built up over the last seven years by Museum Director Clive Finlayson and his team. And there are a few surprises along the way which will make this new wing a major element of the museum's educational facility. The new wing will be open for all to see on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June, Museum Open Day.

This year the open day coincides with the start of the Gibraltar Spring Festival. The museum will open its doors at 10am and will close at 6pm. The new wing will be the highlight of the day but there will be additional activities. Among these will be the popular experimental archaeology workshops and a street theatre presentation. This will be a production of "The Tortoise and the Hare" which will be performed in the square by the Cathedral of St Mary the Crowned. Other activities will include a treasure hunt but another "first" will be the presentation of a specially-produced traditional 19<sup>th</sup> Century Gibraltarian Woman's dress which will include the familiar red cloak which appears on many paintings of the time. The dress has been thoroughly researched by museum staff and has been created by Mrs Priscilla Sacramento. The complicated process of dressing and undressing will be demonstrated at intervals during the day.

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**Note to Editors:** For further information please contact Marie Mosquera at the Gibraltar Museum on 200 74289. Alternatively, email: [museumpr@gibraltar.gi](mailto:museumpr@gibraltar.gi)