

Archeological Site & Museum in Sangiran

Sangiran is one of the key sites for the understanding of human evolution. It illustrates the development of *Homo sapiens* from the Lower Pleistocene to the present through the outstanding fossil and artefactual material that it has produced.

The archaeological site of Sangiran has an area of 56 km². It is situated 15 km north of Solo. Administratively, some areas of the site belong to Sragen Regency, some others belong to Karanganyar Regency, Central Java. Astronomically this site is located at 7° 25' – 7° 30' South Latitude dan pada 4° – 7° 05' East Longitude.

At the site, a modest museum existed at Sangiran for several decades before a modern, well-functioning museum and visitors' centre was opened in December 2011. The new building, a modern museum, contains three main halls with extensive displays and impressive dioramas of the Sangiran area as it was believed to be around 1 million years ago. There are four centers at different places within the overall Sangiran site:

- Krikilan: the existing site with the main visitors center and museum.
- Ngebung: to contain a history of the discovery of the Sangiran site.
- Bukuran: to provide information about the discovery of prehistoric human fossils at Sangiran.
- Dayu: to present information about the latest research.

The current museum and visitors' center has three main halls. The first hall contains a number of dioramas which provide information about the early humans and animals which existed at the Sangiran site around 1 million years ago. The second hall, which is more extensive, presents much detailed material about the wide variety of fossils found at Sangiran and about the history of exploration at the site. The third hall, in a separate impressive presentation, contains a large diorama which provides a sweeping view of the overall area of Sangiran, with volcanoes such as Mount Lawu in the background and humans and animals in the foreground, as it is imagined to have been around 1 million years ago. Several of the presentations in this third hall draw on the work of the internationally-known paleontological sculptor Elisabeth Daynes.

The museum is open from 8.00am to 4.00pm each day except for Mondays when the museum is closed.