

# Chile to ask British Museum to return extinct mammal remains

November 5 2018

---



Chile is asking the British Museum to return the remains of the long extinct melodon

Chile announced on Sunday that it will ask the British Museum in London to return the remains of a mylodon, an extinct mammal that

lived in Patagonia about 10,000 years ago.

Minister of National Assets Felipe Ward will travel in two weeks to London for talks over the [remains](#) of the ground sloth that roamed in the southern region shared by Argentina and Chile.

"We hope to have talks with the [museum](#) authorities... and seek to repatriate the mylodon's remains; these are bones and skin that are in storage, not even being exhibited," Ward told reporters.

The remains of the mylodon were taken to Britain in 1897 for research but were never returned to Chile, according to officials.

The mylodon was an ancestor of the sloth that measured about 2.5 meters (more than eight feet) and weighed about 3 tons.

German settlers discovered in 1896 remains of the mammal in a cave now known as "the cave of the mylodon," in the region of Magallanes, about 3,500 kilometers (2,175 miles) south of Santiago

On the trip to London, Ward will be joined by a delegation seeking the return of a statue important to the [indigenous people](#) of Easter Island, part of Chile.

They want to sculpt a replacement for the museum and recover the original, which was stolen from the island in 1868 by the English ship Topaze.

It is estimated that this moai, as the statues are known, was created between the year 1,000 and 1,600.

Chile also plans to ask the Kon-Tiki Museum in Oslo to return a large collection of historical pieces from Easter Island.

© 2018 AFP

Citation: Chile to ask British Museum to return extinct mammal remains (2018, November 5)  
retrieved 27 April 2024 from

<https://phys.org/news/2018-11-chile-british-museum-extinct-mammal.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.