

In the footsteps of dinosaurs

The Camins de Dinosaurios is a different way of visiting the Region of Valencia, finding out about its extensive and varied palaeontological heritage. Palaeontological sites, museums and collections spread across the territory that will help you discover and enjoy the exciting world of dinosaurs.

Come and find the ancestors of the dinosaurs and their footprints in Bejis, with the most important Middle Triassic site in the Region of Valencia. Discover the large sauropods from the end of the Jurassic at Alpuente museum and the traces of the huge carnivores that lived with them at the Corcolilla site. Find out about Castelló's first dinosaur, the Morelladon, in Morella. In Cincorres, you can visit a site with perfect replicas of dinosaur bones, and you can learn about these giants from other parts of the world at MUPE in Elche. In Millares, you can walk alongside the footprints of the last dinosaurs that set foot in the Region of Valencia, and in Agost you can see for yourself the marks of the impact that caused the extinction of most of these animals.



Palaeontological sites

Barranco de Vallivana Ichnological site - Morella

Here you will find a trail of around 25 three-fingered ichnites that belonged to theropods that moved along the shore of a lake. The site, set up for your visit, is part of the Lower Cretaceous (135 million years ago).

Access: next to an abandoned section of the N-232 road, 17 km from Morella.

Dinomanía Parc Cultural and Palaeontological Site - Cincorres

This scientific complex disseminates the rich geological and palaeontological heritage of Cincorres. It has three types of resources: the Museum Collection, the Ana palaeontological site and the 3D Biblosaurus (digital catalogue with 3D models of dinosaur bones and footprints). You can also follow dino-routes through the municipality

Access: by the Pajares de San Luis road from Cincorres.



Bejís Ichnological Site

In this enclave, you can see three ichnites on the top of two layers of red sandstone (a type of rock) from the Triassic, the era before the Jurassic. A stone block fallen at the foot of the path contains two other five-fingered footprints belonging to the same track, remains of invertebrates and currents.

Access: from the Bejís tourist office (Carretera de la Estación s/n).

Cañada París II Ichnological Site - Alpuente

This is an important site with footprints from the transition from the Jurassic to the Cretaceous. The ichnites are organised into two main trails, practically parallel, in a north-south direction: one track of around eight metres in length from a sauropod, and a second group of footprints about six metres long from a medium bipedal theropod.

Access: Camino de la Virgen from Alpuente.



Corcolilla Ichnological Site - Alpuente

This is one of the best places in the Region of Valencia to observe dinosaur footprints; there are more than a hundred in a small, very accessible space. Declared an Asset of Cultural Interest in 2006, you can also take guided tours here.

Access: CV-350 road next to La Almeza.



Tambuc Ichnological Site - Millares

This ichnites site includes more than 400 footprints scattered on the bed of the Rambla del Tambuc. They date from more than 80 million years ago and belong to ornithopods and theropods that travelled along the coastal plains. The numbers found indicates that it must have been a place of passage highly frequented by these giants.

Access: by the CV-580 road from Millares, around 17 kilometres away.

Capa Negra or K-T Boundary Site - Agost

Near Agost (Alicante), there is an outcrop of rocks of international importance where you can see the impact of the great meteorite that fell on the Yucatan peninsula (Mexico) and caused the extinction of most of the dinosaurs 66 million years ago. These traces, a visible dark line, represent the abrupt change between the Cretaceous and Paleogene periods. It has been declared a Natural Monument of the Region of Valencia.

Access: by the CV-827 road leaving Agost.

Routes

Camins de Dinosaurios

Follow the trail of the dinosaurs that inhabited the Region of Valencia and find their large-scale replicas spread throughout the area! Near these giant sculptures you will always also find something else to do, such as visiting a museum, exploring a palaeontological site or walking short distance footpaths:

From north to south...

- Vallibonavenatrix cani – Vallibona
- Allosaurus fragilis - Morella
- Baryonyx walkeri - Cincorres
- Rausuquios - Bejis
- Losillasaurus giganteus - Aras de los Olmos
- Dacentrurus armatus - Alpuente
- Struthiosaurus - Millares
- Clirainosaurus - Agost



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Losilla Geological Route (Valencia)

In Losilla de Aras, Valencia, you can follow a fun trail that covers different locations related to geology and the appearance of a dinosaur named after the town, the losillasaurus giganteus, a large long-necked herbivore discovered in 1989; there is a giant replica of it on the path.

The tourist office in Aras de los Olmos (C/ Iglesia, 2), can explain all the details about this route.

Chera-Sot de Chera Geological Park (Valencia)

Its almost 70 square kilometres include a record of all the events that have occurred in the Sistema Ibérico over the last 150 million years, including the extinction of the dinosaurs. You can choose different possible routes.

The adventure begins at the Visitor Centre, where you can visit its collection of fossils, minerals and models.



Museums and museum collections

🌐 MUPAL: **Alpuente** Palaeontological Museum

Located in the old Hermitage of Santa Bárbara, this museum is home to bones and fossil remains from the many important dinosaur sites found here. It has a clear educational approach to inform in a clear, fun way about the spectacular findings in the municipality.

- **C/ Av. San Blas, 17. Alpuente (Valencia)**
www.museopaleontologicoalpuente.net



🌐 The Universitat de **Valencia** Natural History Museum

This is a new facility at the University that brings together in a single space the most important of its 32 scientific collections. Related to dinosaurs, you will find collections on the Triassic (before the Jurassic), micropaleontology and European vertebrate fossils.

- **C/ del Dr. Moliner, 50. Burjassot (Valencia)**
www.uv.es/museuhn

🌐 Big History **Aras de los Olmos**

Big History in Aras de los Olmos is a centre for scientific and environmental dissemination in collaboration with the Universitat de Valencia that, in addition to astronomical observation, houses an exhibition of palaeontological remains, including the *Losillaurus*, the region's largest dinosaur.

- **C/ Molino Marqués s/n. Aras de los Olmos (Valencia)**
www.bighistory.es

🌐 Natural Science Museum of **Valencia**

This museum enables a journey through natural history with special attention paid to the Region of Valencia. It consists of 5 areas: knowledge and technology, prehistoric mammals, histories of life and evolution, molluscs and ecosystems of the municipality of Valencia.

- **Jardines de Viveros, C/ del General Elio, s/n. Valencia**
www.valencia.es

🌐 **Requena** Municipal Museum

This contains a Natural Science collection dedicated to the area's ecosystems and geology. You will find fossils, rocks and minerals from the different eras present in the comarca.

- **C/ Carmen, 8. Requena (Valencia)**
www.turismorequena.es

🌐 Espai Vallibonavenatrix – Vallibona Fossils in **Vallibona**

The Espai Vallibonavenatrix – Fòssils de Vallibona is a small collection of the different fossil remains that have been found here; highlights include two sea urchins and the dinosaur *Vallibonavenatrix*, described for the first time in Vallibona. The exhibition space is located on the first floor of the old cooperative building and has two rooms in which you can admire the different fossils.

🌐 Temps de Dinsaures in **Morella**

This museum is a journey to the centre of the earth; you can explore the exciting world of geology and palaeontology through its collection of fossils from the Cretaceous period excavated in Morella. You can also enjoy a spectacular palaeontological collection in which the Morelladon stands out, a dinosaur similar to the Iguanodon discovered in the municipality.

- **Costa del Trinquet, 4. Morella (Castelló)**



🌐 **Bejís** Museum

Thanks to its extensive collection, you can discover the history and customs of this inland village, the footprints left by dinosaurs as well as archaeological remains found in different sites in the area, among which Phoenician and Roman objects stand out.

- **C/ Carretera Estación, s/n. Bejís (Castelló)**
www.bejis.es

🌐 **Forcall** Museum Collection

Its collection of marine invertebrates from the Els Ports comarca stands out, with specimens from the Jurassic and the Cretaceous, featuring *ammonoids* preserved in iron oxides. You can also see the archaeological section on medieval Forcall and the Ibero-Roman city of Lesera.

- **Contact the town council in advance. Pl. San Miguel, 6, Forcall (Castelló)**
www.forcall.es

🌐 Museo de la Baronía in **Ribesalbes**

This space receives the latest palaeontological developments from around the world and is constantly being updated. You will be able to see how the world has changed since ancient times and discover "La Rinconada", one of the best lower Miocene lacustrine deposits in the world, located in the municipality.

- **C/ Escuelas, 20, Ribesalbes (Castelló)**
<https://museobaroniaribesa.wixsite.com/museobaronia>

🌐 Juan Cano Forner Palaeontology Museum Collection - **Sant Mateu**

This private collection contains some 5,000 marine and terrestrial fossils from all geological eras, with the highlight being its spectacular collection of ammonites. It is recommended to take the guided tour with its director, Juan Cano.

- **C/ de Barcelona, 23. Sant Mateu (Castelló)**
<https://turismosantmateu.es>

🌐 **Cintorres** Permanent Museum Collection

This museum is home to fossils from the Ana site, located in the municipality. In the building, the Palacio de Sant Joans, you will find three rooms dedicated to the excavation process, the biology of dinosaurs and a simulation of a palaeontological laboratory.

- **C/ San Joaquín, 1. Cintorres (Castelló)**
www.cintorresdinomania.es



🌐 **Onda**Natura

This revolves around Onda's nature and the enormous Sierra Espadán Natural Park, with an interesting and extensive collection of palaeontology and minerals in which you will discover the rich ecosystems of the past (paleohabitats) that existed in this comarca.

- **C/ la Cosa, 2. Onda (Castelló)**
www.ondaturismo.es



/ Some of our protagonists

■ **Allosaurus**, the most abundant predator.

This is the carnivorous dinosaur of which the most remains have been found worldwide. It could reach 10 metres in length and was characterised by the pronounced crests over its eyes and its sharp teeth.



■ **Baryonix**, the terror of the river.

It inhabited aquatic areas during the Lower Cretaceous and fed mainly on fish thanks to its elongated snout and large front claws. It reached 9 metres long.



■ **Rauisuchian**, the king of the Triassic.

It predated the dinosaurs and was also related to crocodiles. Up to six metres long, it was the great predator of the Triassic period, around 230 million years ago.



■ **Losillasaurus**, the giant of Losilla de Aras.

This large Jurassic sauropod was discovered in the Valencian town of Losilla de Aras in 1989. The specimen was 20 metres long, but it is believed that they could grow larger.



■ **Dacentrurus**, an armed herbivore.

This is the first stegosaurus, a 7-metre-long, 5-tonne herbivore that lived at the end of the Jurassic. It had a series of plates and spikes on its back and a small head.

■ **Struthiosaurus**, an armoured dinosaur.

Dating to the late Cretaceous, it had a large number of protective plates on its upper body. It measured 2 metres in length and weighed more than 100 kilos.



■ **Lirainosaurus**, a small titan.

This is one of the smallest known long-necked herbivores, around 6 metres in length. It lived in the Late Cretaceous, 75 million years ago, making it one of the last known dinosaurs.

🌐 'Paleontològic i de les Ciències de **Alcoy**' museum

This space contains pieces from the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods, and highlights include the first *Prognathodon* tooth discovered in Castalla (Alicante), pieces of ammonites and fossils from the Sierra de Mariola Natural Park. It has a section dedicated to Natural Sciences and an area for temporary exhibitions.

- **C/ Els Tints, 1-6. Alcoi (Alicante)**
www.alcoyturismo.com

🌐 MUPE: **Elche** Palaeontological Museum

More than 1,200 fossils and reconstructions with which you can travel the amazing history of life on our planet. The lower floor is dedicated to palaeontology in general, and the upper floor to the surrounding area's geological history. The collection includes specimens of trilobites, ammonites, a mosasaur (marine reptile) and dinosaur replicas.

- **Pl. de Sant Joan, 3. Elche (Alicante)**
www.cidarismpe.org

🌐 **Rojales** Archaeological and Palaeontological Museum **Rojales**

This museum is divided into two spaces. The palaeontology area displays the territory's evolution through the testimonies of countless beings that lived in the area millions of years ago. On the other hand, the archaeology area covers the cultural evolution of the places around Rojales.

- **Pl. de España, 1. Rojales (Alicante)**
<https://museosderojales.es>



8 words you need to know to be a dinosaur expert

Ichnites: the footprints of dinosaurs left embodied in the rock.

Sauropod: large, long-necked herbivorous dinosaur.

Theropod: large, bipedal carnivorous dinosaur.

Bipedal: walking on two legs.

Palaeontology: science that studies life in the past through fossils.

Site/deposit: place where minerals, rocks or fossils are found naturally.

Cretaceous: division of time that began 145 million years ago and ended 66 million years ago with the fall of the famous meteorite. Most of the known dinosaurs lived then.

Jurassic: the era between the Triassic and the Cretaceous, between 201 and 145 million years ago.