

**DINOSAURS ARE IN VOGUE.** Children and adults alike are attracted by these giants who, million of years ago, dominated the Earth. Talking about them, or watching them recreated in films, books or museums is an open door to imagination and fantasy. In Castilla-La Mancha you can enjoy those feelings closely. The sites of Lo Hueco and Las Hoyas, in the region of Cuenca, are an exceptional opportunity to get know that distant past. They both are setting of a great paleontological value that well deserve the name of **Atapuerca of Dinosaurs”**.



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**IV CENTENARIO  
DE CERVANTES**



**ROUTE OF THE  
THE DINOSAURS**





## ROUTE OF THE DINOSAURS

CUENCA

20 km

FUENTES

17 km

CAÑADA DEL HOYO

15 km

LA CIERVA



Paleontology Museum of Castilla-La Mancha in Cuenca.

South of Cuenca Mountains, around eighteen kilometres from the capital of the provincial capital, the town of Fuentes is located. In 2007, during the work to carry out the route of the high-speed train AVE Madrid-Levante, some pieces of dinosaur fossils were found. The subsequent research offered amazing results: almost ten thousand pieces were recovered. An exceptional heritage from the Upper Cretaceous, 72 million years ago. The environment is considered today as one of the most important sites in Europe. 'Epi', a replica of one of the Sauropods found, will welcome you at the entrance of the town. Its presence is an invitation to know the Interpretation Centre in Fuentes.

### PEPITO AND THE OLDEST FLOWER ON EARTH

The site of Las Hoyas is located around twenty kilometres away, in La Cierva. It is another sanctuary for palaeontology lovers. With over 130 million years, it has been researched for decades and more than 30,000 fossils have been found. Some of them correspond to animals which have not appeared in other parts of the world.

'Pepito' is the big star; an exclusive fossil under the scientific name of *Concaventator corcovatus* (the hunchbacked hunter of Cuenca). Its remains belong to the most complete articulated skeleton of a dinosaur ever found up to the present date in the Iberian Peninsula, and they are shown in the Paleontology Museum of Castilla-La Mancha, in Cuenca. In-depth details of the site are presented in the Exhibition Centre Cañada del Hoyo. In this town you can also visit a unique lake system, formed by seven lakes of different colours, which has been declared a Natural Monument. It is actually here where the first plant with flowers which coloured our planet has been discovered; the *Montsechia vidalii*.

Together with other smaller sites such as Beteta, Masegosa o Carrascosa, the 'Golden Triangle' of dinosaurs from Cuenca is completed with the site of Portilla, where thousands of fragments of eggshells have been found.

Site of Fuentes / Fossil of the oldest plant with flower on the planet/ Cañada del Hoyo.

Recreation of 'Pepito' at the Paleontology Museum of Castilla-La Mancha.

Not only does the route of the dinosaurs get you closer to the amazing memory of these animals, whose sudden disappearance still intrigue us, it is also a unique opportunity to enjoy the exceptional beauty of Los Palancares and Tierra Muerta, the largest natural monument in Castilla-La Mancha. There are settings of a great geological interest where the effect of water is clearly visible, dating back to the time when these spots were submerged underwater. Rounded depressions are plentiful, as a result of the sinking of cavern's ceilings. Hundred-year old pines and bushes grow in its hillsides.

### A 'JURASIC' MUSEUM

The Paleontology Museum of Castilla-La Mancha in Cuenca is a must-stop. It has more than 200 fossils of several animals and plants of different sizes, including the big dinosaurs such as titanosaurus, who inhabited Earth 70 million years ago. There is representation of fossils from the Paleozoic, as well as pieces of archaeological sites from Albacete, Ciudad Real, Cuenca, Guadalajara and Toledo. Furthermore, the museum has around 20 real-size reproductions.

Live with your friends and family this funny, didactic and unforgettable route. The dinosaurs from Castilla-La Mancha are waiting for you! 🦖

