

An anthropologist donates the most complete whale fossil found in Spain to Alcalá de Guadaíra

LOCATION: Alcalá de Guadaíra (Seville)

VTR: 1'40''

SUMMARY: The Palaeontologist Joaquín Cárdenas has donated the most complete whale fossil found in Spain to the Sevillian locality of Alcalá de Guadaíra. It is a five or six million years old cetacean which he found casually over forty years ago when he was still a young student. From then on he's been recovering pieces and over the past two years he has altruistically been working on cleaning and restoring the fossils alongside Ildefonso Bajo and Manuel Vicente Maestre, all of them members of the Spanish Paleontological Society. These remains were found along the shore of the Guadaíra River because millions of years ago the whole Guadalquivir basin was part of the sea. This prehistoric cetacean can be seen at the municipal museum where it will be displayed permanently along with other fossils found in the same location also donated by the palaeontologist.

VTR:

What you see here is the most complete whale fossil in Spain. It's around five or six million years old and it is on display at the Alcalá de Guadaíra museum, in the province of Seville. Its history is the one of these three palaeontologists, Joaquín, Ildefonso and Manuel; who have dedicated the last two years to clean and restore the remains of this ancestral cetacean completely altruistically.

ILDEFONSO BAJO

Palaeontologist

"The thing that motivated me the most? To be honest I wanted to see the cetacean's actual dimensions once mounted because we didn't have any idea at all of the size it could reach and we are simply anxious to find out."

And their curiosity has been satisfied with the finding of a three metre whale and more than a hundred pieces recovered from this location, along the shore of the Guadaíra River. It was Joaquín who found it simply by chance forty years ago when he was still a young student. But, what were the remains of this prehistoric whale doing in a small Sevillian river?

JOAQUÍN CÁRDENAS

Palaeontologist

"The whole Guadalquivir basin used to be part of the sea millions of years ago and was known as the Norbetic straight and here numerous whales along with sharks use to frequently pass through".

This generous donation given by Joaquín and the work of the rest of the team, have permitted the inauguration of this hall in the local museum where the whale will be displayed permanently along with other interesting prehistoric fossils.

To obtain more information or resolve issues contact us by telephone at 647 310 157 or through e-mail at info@historiasdeluz.es