

LET'S PLAY IN **SAN JUAN** WHILE WE SEARCH FOR **INGENTIA!**

*The Adventures of Lunasauria,
Zonda and the Crew*



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WHILE WE SEARCH
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THE ADVENTURES OF LUNASAURIA,
ZONDA AND THE CREW



Universidad
Nacional
de San Juan



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SECRETARÍA DE
CIENCIA, TECNOLOGÍA
E INNOVACIÓN



*To all the kids
that collaborated with this Project,
especially Fermín,
who inspired us and taught us that
if you can dream it, you can make it.
A gigantic THANK YOU!*

FOREWORD



HI KIDS!

When I was a girl, one of my favourite pastimes was to search for dinos in my house backyard. Now, I look for them in the province of San Juan! After finishing school, I went to College, and since then, I have been a Paleontologist...

If you ever wondered what dinosaurs ate; how large the world's largest dinosaur was; at what speed the *Velociraptor* ran, let me tell you that you have made the same questions that we, scientists, pose!

And have you ever pondered if humans lived alongside the giant dinosaurs? In fiction, everything is possible, but in scientific terms, we know that this couldn't have been possible. Do you know why? Because the oldest hominid (group which humans belong to) skeleton known to-date belonged to a human-being that lived in Africa about 3 million years ago... and the last giant dinosaurs disappeared

about 65 million years, when there was great volcanic activity on the Earth and a mega-meteorite fell in Central America.

This means that more than 60 million years went by between the extinction of the giant dinosaurs and the appearance of humans on our Planet. But during this long interim, there were other types of animals, such as mammoths or glyptodonts, those giants that shared the Earth with the first members of the human race...

But... in this magical tale everything is possible! In this story, Sol and Lauti - a girl and a boy of flesh and blood just like you and me - seek, play and even speak with two saurians: *Ingentia prima*, the first giant dinosaurs in the World, and *Lunasauria*, a very adventuresome pterosaur!

Pterosarback-riding and traveling with the wind, our friends embark on a super fun adventure around San Juan, in search for *Ingentia*, who, despite being huge, can't be found anywhere... Come and join us in this search for *Ingentia*!

Cecilia Apaldetti, Ph. D.

October, 2019

CHAPTER 1



The background is a stylized landscape illustration. It features a range of mountains in the distance, rendered in shades of blue and purple. The foreground is a rocky, uneven terrain with various shades of blue, green, and brown. The overall style is reminiscent of a digital painting or a textured print.

INGENTIA...
WHERE
ARE YOU?

She woke up with a start, feeling a tickle on her nose. She rubbed her eyes and, while opening them, she saw him: her loyal friend... her adventure side-kick forever.

Lunasauria sat up and Zonda, the wind, fluttered around her. The warm and lively wind giggled and said:

“You finally woke up, Luna! I have been blowing for hours to see if you could hear me.”

“Zonda! What’s the problem? It’s early,” answered *Lunasauria* still sleepy.

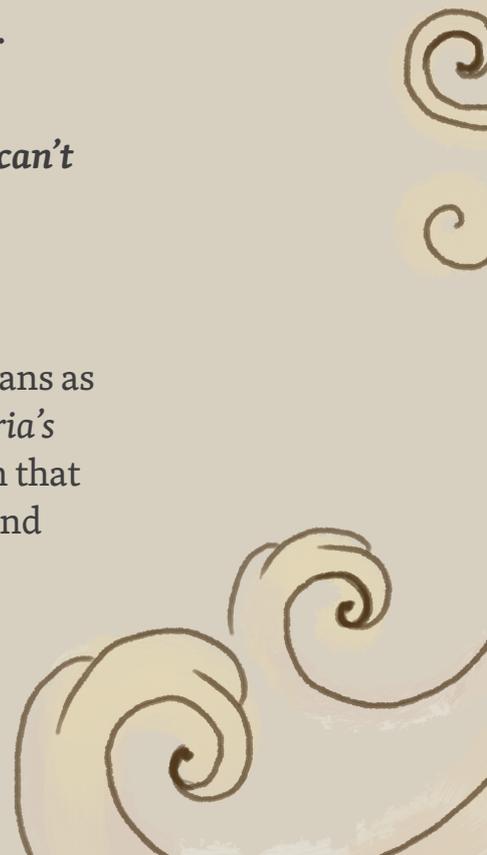
“Cousin Ingentia is gone.”

“What do you mean ‘she’s gone’? We went to bed exhausted last night, after hours of playing hide and seek.”

“I mean COUSIN INGENTIA IS GONE, Luna. I can’t find her anywhere.”

“That’s weird!” said *Luna*. ***“Ingentia is so big. How come you can’t find her? Let me help you.”***

So, the pterosaur and her windy friend started to look for her around the huge *Valle de la Luna* (Moon Valley), known by humans as *Ischigualasto* Provincial Park. Zonda always joked that *Lunasauria*’s surname was “*Ischigualasto*”, even though she didn’t come from that place. They had already learned this in a former adventure to find out the origins of this orphan saurian.





The wind and the pterosaur searched all around *Ischigualasto*, but *Luna*'s cousin was still missing. It was very strange because *Ingentia* wouldn't normally do this kind of things... What had made her go away? Or -maybe- was she hiding? It was a real mystery.

“Couuuussssiinnn!!!” shouted *Luna*, forming a kind of megaphone with the tips of her impressive wings.

“Ingentiaaa!!!” yelled *Zonda*, worried about the missing cousin.

Since he was the eldest, *Zonda* was in charge of looking after these two naughty saurian-girls. They had already caused him lots of headaches! They weren't bad girls... They were just a bit daring for their young age. And their favorite pastime was flying all over San Juan. *Zonda* always travelled with them and helped to cover up their adventures.

But this time, they had dared to go beyond the boundaries that the older saurian allowed. The girls had persuaded Zonda to explore this magic Triassic land, where they could always play Bocce Ball, climb the *Barrancas Coloradas* (Coloradas Cliffs), build sandcastles and sculpt them with patience.

Those who had bravely ventured into the place before recommended seeing *El Hongo* (the Mushroom), getting into the *Submarino* (the Submarine) and, why not, playing hide and seek at night in the moonlight.

Of course, our obedient and, at the same time, intrepid crew had already tried that, and then some. When the moon hid behind the clouds, they were completely exhausted and, little by little, they fell into dreamland...



An illustration showing a hand knocking on a window pane. The window is part of a structure with a grid of wooden beams. The background is a warm, orange-brown color, suggesting an indoor setting with sunlight filtering through. The hand is positioned on the left side of the window, with fingers spread as if knocking.

“COOOUUUSSSINNN!!!” insisted an exhausted *Lunasauria*

“We have to find her now. Remember the three of us are participating in the Carrusel del Sol (Sun Parade) that takes place in a few days. There is no time to lose. I will ask for help at the site Museum,” proposed Zonda.

With a quick start, Zonda disappeared among the rock formations and plains until he reached the William Sill Site Museum, located in the National Park. As he couldn't go inside, he started to knock here and there on the windows... then to whistle and bang all around! With a naughty face, he caught everybody's attention.

Sol and Lauti, who were in *Valle Fértil* for a summer camp in February, were the first who noticed him. That day, they were on an excursion in Moon Valley. Zonda, Sol and Lauti had been great mates for a long time, and chance had it they would meet again that day. The kids saw their friend, Zonda, who winked at them, so they opened the Museum window slightly to ask what he needed.



CARRUSEL DEL SOL (THE SUN PARADE)

Each year during the *Fiesta Nacional del Sol* (National Sun Festival), there is a magnificent float parade at the traditional Sun Parade, an integral part of the National Sun Festival.

The floats, which represent the 19 departments of the Province of San Juan, parade down the main street of the *Costanera Complejo Ferial San Juan* (Costanera San Juan Fair Center), located in *Chimbas*.

Each float shows the identity of the department it represents and, all together, contribute to build the general *leitmotiv* assigned that year to the National Sun Festival. The floats reflect the local culture in a colorful way, combining music, dance, textures and color to celebrate the generosity of the sun on this land.

“Thank goodness you saw me! We need you right now for another adventure. Luna’s cousin, Ingentia, is missing! We need to find her soon because we are taking part in the Sun Parade next week.”

“Of course, we will help you, Zonda. That’s what friends are for,” said Sol. **“But, who is this Ingentia?”**

“She is a mega-dinosaur, cousin of my friend Luna, who is a saurian as well but, unlike *Ingentia*, *Lunasauria* can fly,” explained the wind. **“You probably know a lot about saurians, don’t you? Can you help us find her? We have to hurry and look for her all around the province at once!”**

The kids were very excited about the adventure, but first they had to ask their teacher for permission to help Zonda. Besides, they couldn’t forget their augmented reality (AR) glasses to avoid getting lost during the expedition. They explained the situation to the teacher. The Sun Parade needed *Ingentia* and they really wanted to help find her. The teacher, who was well acquainted with the story of cousin *Ingentia* and called her *Ingentia prima*, as all adults did, told them she had to ask their parents first.

The teacher called their parents to ask for their permission. Fortunately, she came back all smiles because the kids had been allowed to help. She asked them to behave and obey Zonda, and added that once they got back to San Juan, they would have to tell the class all about their adventures and show them pictures of the places they visited during this mission.

So, Zonda and the kids walked to *Lunasauria* and the wind introduced them. She was standing by the Mushroom, a gigantic rock formation known as El Hongo in Spanish.

“Wow! What incredible wings!!!” said Sol, amazed.

“Do you like them?” asked *Lunasauria* blushing. **“They are this big thanks to an extension in one of my fingers, which supports this wing-shaped membrane.”**





“That’s so cool! I’m sure you can glide very high with those gliders you have, Luna!” added Lauti smiling.

“Hahaha, but these ‘gliders’ are a part of me,” laughed the saurian. ***“Besides, when I travel with Zonda, I can fly really far. We are a great team, aren’t we, my dear Zonda?”*** said Luna.

“Of course we are! Luna and I have shared thousands of incredible adventures. But now, we need you for this special mission, my human-friends,” explained Zonda.

And without hesitation, Zonda bent down, as he usually did when he wanted to have fun, and invited the kids to move down his back, just like on a slide in the air. Immediately, Sol and Lauti climbed onto Zonda’s hands and he placed the children behind his huge head. From that position, the kids slid down his back, shrieking with laughter.

“Wow! This is great! I’m goooing, Lunaaaa. Catch meeee!” begged Lauti.

“You rock, Zonda! I missed sliding down like this, without feeling that I’m going to fall!!!” yelled Sol.

“Hahahahaha! This is so much fun!” laughed Luna.



After a while, Zonda remembered they had a very important mission to accomplish and proposed:

“¿What do you think if we make the most of all these dry leaves I am carrying here in my belly, and throw them from the air as leaflets?”

“Say what?” Sol wanted to know more.

“Leaflets are printed sheets of paper with advertisements which are handed out on the street. This time they will be environmentally friendly leaflets, made with recycled tree leaves, haha!” explained Zonda.

“And what are you going to write on them?” asked Lauti.

“We can draw Ingentia on them and include our social media contact information, so whoever sees her can let us know,” suggested Zonda.



SAN JUAN, LAND OF DINOSAURS

This region was the habitat of dinosaurs, thus the name “Land of Dinosaurs”. Many dinosaur fossils from the Triassic Period of the mesozoic Era have been found at *Ischigualasto*, in the Department of *Valle Fertil* and at *Balde de Leyes*, Department of *Caucete*. The moon valley (popular name of *Ischigualasto*) was declared a Natural World Heritage Site by the UNESCO in 2000.

LOCATION

Northwest section of the Cuyo Region and to the west of the Republic of Argentina. It has 19 departments.

CHARACTERISTICS

89,651 km². Mountainous landscape, desert areas and fertile valleys. Dry and desert-like weather.



“Great idea! Leeet’s do that! Kids, get some markers from your backpacks and let’s draw *Ingentia*, as many times as possible,” suggested Luna.

After a while, the kids had prepared hundreds of leaflets with the picture of cousin *Ingentia*. Then, they started organizing the expedition. There was no time to lose, and while they prepared their things for the trip, they wondered where they could start the search and what might have caused *Ingentia* to leave overnight, literally.

“I think she may have been hot and decided to go for a swim in a river or lake,” thought Lauti.

“Mmmm, perhaps, but last night was cool,” said Lunasauria.

“She could have gone to look for her mom... She might have been missing her,” guessed Zonda.

- **Let technology help us!**—suggested Sol
- **Yes! But, where?** —asked Lauti.
- **At the Observatory!**—answered Sol.
- **You're right! We were there on a school outing last year!** — exclaimed Lauti.

The group of detectives was now ready to go and *Lunasauria* asked the kids to climb on top of each of her wings. So, Lauti and Sol happily grabbed *Lunasauria's* wings and couldn't wait to fly through the sunny skies. While they were getting settled, *Luna* pronounced her magic words:

High, high, high
Let's fly
Low, low, low
Let's go
And all together
Let's move on!



She told the kids that, when she was little, her classmates always laughed at her very long fourth finger, which supports her wings. Who would have thought that such a finger, where the membrane of her wings is, would now be useful for carrying the crew on such a noble mission?

Zonda also remembered that, when he was young, his friends, the trade and antitrade winds, mocked his clumsiness, eagerness, and drive. He was notorious for being awkward and impulsive. In his childhood he suffered a lot because of this.





THE ZONDA WIND

CHARACTERISTICS

A hot and dry wind that blows in the center-west region of Argentina, more precisely, through The Andes mountain Range. It belongs to a group of winds that descend from the mountain ridge to the valley or plain, mainly between May and November.

ORIGIN

The Zonda wind is produced by the rise of humid air from the Pacific Ocean towards The Andes mountain Range and the subsequent fall of a mass of cold air that gets hotter and loses its humidity while descending.

BENEFICIAL EFFECTS

Thanks to the snowfall caused by the wind on the mountains, a valuable amount of water is obtained. When the snow melts in spring and summer, rivers become very active and descend from the mountains to the dams in valleys, to later feed crops, industries and population.

Lauti wanted to cheer his friends up:

“At school we learnt that we are all different and we must respect and value our differences.”

“To avoid practical jokes or bullying, we should leave the bullies alone and not put up with their behavior or laugh at their ‘jokes’. The teacher told us that if bullies have no ‘partners in crime’, they stop,” said Sol with a serious expression.

Quite surprised, Luna and Zonda looked at them and suggested sharing these ideas with their classmates when they went back from this super-mission.

**LOOKING FOR *INGENTIA*...
MOVING HEAVEN,
EARTH...
AND WATER**

They had no time to spare. Zonda puffed his powerful lungs and they all headed rapidly to their first destination in the southwest of San Juan: the Observatories of “El Leoncito” Astronomical Complex, known as CASLEO for short. The kids adjusted their AR glasses to operate them through voice commands and found the most direct way to get there on Google Maps.

“Look, our province looks like a couch!” said Sol wittingly.



“We are now going from Valle Fertil, where Moon Valley is, to Calingasta. There, we’ll be able to borrow a telescope and search for Ingentia,” explained Lauti.

“All aboooooard!” roared Zonda excitedly.

“Yiiiiipeeeee!” shouted Luna, full of excitement.

They all laughed amused. On the way, the young detectives projected holograms with information from the *Pampa El Leoncito* and the Observatories of *Calingasta*, which are located there due to its amazingly clear skies.



PAMPA EL LEONCITO

LOCATION

Pampa El Leoncito or *Barreal Blanco* is located in *Barreal, Calingasta*. It is an impressive white plain 18 km long and 6 km wide. It is around 1900 m.a.s.l. and, together with The Andes mountain Range, provide a breathtaking view.

CHARACTERISTICS

At night, *Pampa El Leoncito* is covered by a sky full of stars, one of the clearest in the world. The characteristics of the ground and the constant wind, known as “*El Conchabado*”, which blows at around 80 km/h, make this place an incredible destination.

WIND KARTING

Wind Karting is the favorite sport in this area. The wind karts can reach 120 km/h approximately, thanks to the strength of the wind. Wind Karting is a very fun sport to enjoy with friends and family.





On the way, they all sang:

*Let's play in San Juan
While Ingentia isn't around
Let's play in San Juan
While Ingentia isn't around
Are you around?*

They repeated the question, which lingered in the air, with no response whatsoever...

"Where are you, you naughty cousin of mine?" thought Luna aloud.

"Are you looking for other giants like yourself?" wondered Lauti.

"Don't be afraid, we will find you!" said Sol, enthusiastically.



Halfway on their journey, Zonda opened the flap of his belly and, little by little, spread all the leaflets that they had prepared to find *Ingentia*. The dry leaves got stuck in Lauti's and Sol's hair, which made them laugh out loud. The leaflets flew all over the place on the way...

After a while, the explorers started getting photos of several animals on their social media, with users asking whether those critters could be *Ingentia*.

"This one cannot be her. Its tail is too short, and it barks," thought Lauti.

"This one neither. It is only one foot tall, and it cackles!" laughed Sol.

"Mmm... How about this one? It looks like a lizard, but it's barely over six and a half feet long, and *Ingentia* is over thirty feet long! Impossible," pondered Lauti out loud.

None of the animals in the pictures looked like *Luna's* cousin. They weren't even close! They had to keep on searching... Finally, the crew landed on a white and cracked plain, and a twister of colors welcomed them.

After getting off the saurian-plane

A twister welcomed them

A twist to the left

A twist to the right

*Please,
stop twisting so much!*



“What is this? I can’t open my eyes!” cried Lauti.

“It must be a Herrerasaurus, one of our fastest saurians. It is related to the Velociraptor from the northern hemisphere,” said Zonda, who was already used to the dust.

“Can I see it?” asked Luna wearing Lauti’s goggles. ***“I don’t think it’s a dinosaur. This strange creature has metal wheels and is carrying a person.”***

“Aha! I know what it is! A wind kart! I visited this place some years ago with my family,” added Sol.

Little by little, the dust settled and they confirmed it. Those karts sailed the earth, like horses in the wind, but these had wheels and multicolored sails. It was a true sight to see the wind karts speeding over that magical plain!

Luna was still shocked and Sol said:

“Come on! Let’s get on one of these magical karts and fly towards the closest Observatory to see if we can find Ingentia!”

“Yes,” replied Lauti. ***“We must find her now because our teacher will be waiting for us at school in a few days!!!”***

“And remember,” interrupted Zonda ***“that Ingentia, Luna and I have been invited to the Sun Parade in Chimbas next week! We must find her as soon as possible to teach her the choreography of our troupe.”***

“And why would Ingentia disappear like that all of a sudden? It is not like her to do that” thought Zonda aloud.



“Let’s go to the Observatory and borrow a telescope to see if we can find her. The organizers of the Fiesta Nacional del Sol (National Sun Festival) will tell us off if Ingentia is not there for rehearsals!” warned Lunasauria.

So, everybody left quickly for one of the CASLEO Observatories and Sol projected a hologram to know more about the place and see where the entrance was, to talk to the astronomers.



PROVINCIAL OBSERVATORIES

Astronomical tourism is becoming increasingly popular in San Juan, since the province has one of the clearest skies in Argentina. San Juan also has privileged weather conditions and geography that favor around 300 sunny days (or very clear skies at night) a year.

1- CASLEO OR “EL LEONCITO” ASTRONOMICAL COMPLEX

Located in *Barreal, Calingasta*, within “*El Leoncito*” National Park, it is the largest astronomical observatory in Argentina and has an optical reflector telescope. This 215-diameter and 75-tons telescope was named after Jorge Sahade: one of the first astronomers in Argentina. The Observatory belongs to the Argentine Nation and depends on the CONICET and on three National Universities: Cordoba, San Juan and La Plata.

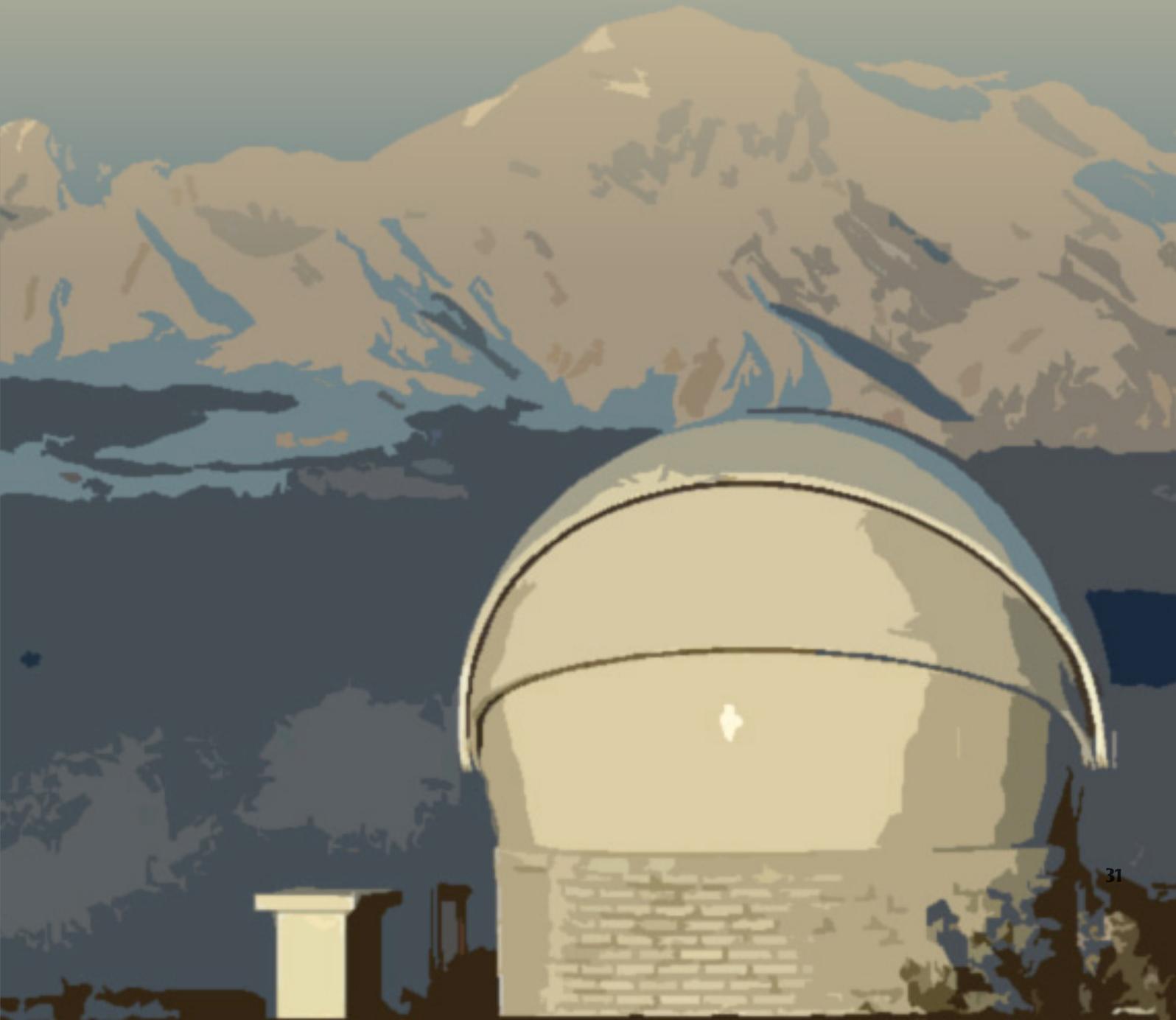
2- “FÉLIX AGUILAR” ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY (ACRONYM IN SPANISH, Oafa)

This provincial observatory depends on the School of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences of the National University of San Juan. Programs of astronomical observation, research, teaching and scientific communication are carried out in this Observatory. It is located in Chimbas, San Juan.

3- “CARLOS ULRRICO” CESCO STATION

This observatory depends on the Oafa and it is located at *El Leoncito, Barreal, Calingasta*. Its origins can be traced back to 1962, thanks to an agreement celebrated between two American universities: Yale and Columbia. Currently, it depends on the UNSJ, just like the Oafa.

The explorers entered through a secret door and Zonda, as usual, patiently waited outside while he picked some delicious apples that grew in that part of the province. There, an expert in the stars asked them:



“What are you looking for, visitors?”

“Our friend *Ingentia*, Luna’s cousin, is missing,”
explained Lauti.

“*Ingentia* is a huge dinosaur that was playing hide and seek in the Moon Valley and wooosshh! she disappeared while playing with her cousin,” added Sol.

“I see. She is *Ingentia prima*. I know her story and yours, *Lunasauria*,” said the astronomer.

“Can we borrow one of your telescopes to search for *Ingentia* in San Juan?” requested Lauti.

“Of course you can!” answered the astronomer. **“I am going to calibrate it so you can see the whole province.”**

“Excellent!” exclaimed the crew, in unison.

They spent a while adjusting the telescope towards all the cardinal points of San Juan. Three sites called their attention because they thought *Ingentia* could be there: the first was the *Interlagos* Route and the other two in the city center. As they couldn’t see clearly, they decided to continue the trip and check.

They couldn’t waste any more time! *Lunasauria* had already received a Whatsapp message from the organizers of the National Sun Festival to confirm their rehearsal time in 72 hours, and *Luna*, who was by then quite nervous, didn’t know what to answer.

The crew was ready for a new journey towards the impressive *Interlagos* Route. Zonda quickly puffed air out of his lungs and they were there in a minute. Sol and Lauti



were wearing their AR glasses and Sol, true to her leader-like spirit, exclaimed:

“Everybody stoooooop! We´re here!!!”

Zonda and *Lunasauria* stopped slowly and landed on the beach of the *Punta Negra* Dam, one of the three dams located along the *Interlagos* Route.

“Come on, team! We have to hurry! We must find Ingentia,” said Zonda.

“Yeeesss!!! I´ll go and search around those mountains to the west,” shouted *Lunasauria*.

“I´ll go with you,” said Lauti.

“Right, then Zonda and I will search on board of that boat. Maybe Luna´s cousin is there having a swim because it´s so hot,” stated Sol.

A while later, Sol sent a Whatsapp message to Lauti, to check for news. None of them could find *Ingentia* and, as it was getting dark, they decided to set up camp on a flat area and wait until the morning to continue the search in the City of San Juan.

They ate some apples they had brought from *Calingasta* and cereal they had in their backpacks. By the fire, Lauti and Sol gathered all the rubbish and put it in the bins. After a while, they all fell asleep, completely exhausted.



INTERLAGOS ROUTE AND CONNECTED DAMS

DESCRIPTION

The *Interlagos* Route runs through an oasis of successive dams, which have been artificially created to take advantage of the San Juan River. It extends for more than 100 km among the mountains that surround the amazing dams.

ACTIVITIES

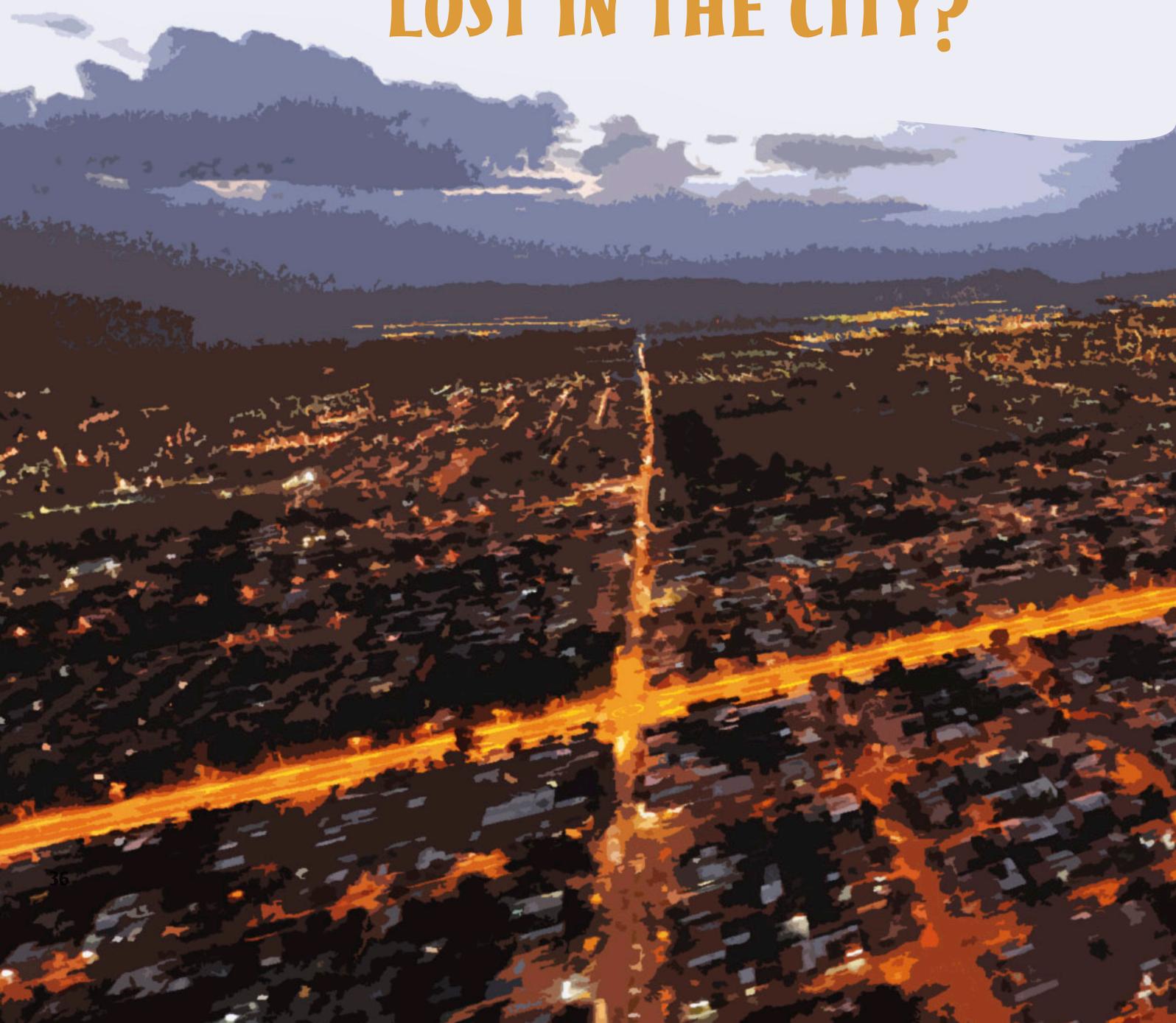
Several water activities like kayaking, windsurfing and sailing can be practiced in the dams. In the mountains nearby, mountain biking, trekking and enduro motorcycling are the favourite outdoor activities in this area. Camping is also possible at *Ullum* Dam, while *Punta Negra* Dam invites visitors to enjoy food and drinks in kiosks located on the shore.

DAMS

The *Interlagos* Route joins the *Ullum*, *Punta Negra* and *Caracoles* dams and connects the City of San Juan with the Town of Calingasta.

CHAPTER 3

***AN INGENTIA
LOST IN THE CITY?***



Luna woke up to her phone ringing. The organizers of the National Sun Festival were calling her to arrange the rehearsal schedule of the troupe “Zonda-Saurians” at the Sun Parade. Luna suddenly went pale... She didn’t know what to say.er.

“Cousin, pleeeeeeeeeease, where are you?” Luna wondered in despair.

“Thank you for calling,” she finally managed to say. **“How about in three days, in the evening? Around 6 pm?”**

“Perfect,” answered the organizer. **“In three days’ time at 6 pm at the Chimbas festival site. See you then!”**



FIESTA NACIONAL DEL SOL (NATIONAL SUN FESTIVAL)

ORIGINS

The origins of the National Sun Festival can be traced back to the 1970s, as the main popular celebration of San Juan. As of 1993, it was declared “*Fiesta Nacional del Sol*”© and, since then, it has been a key festivity within the national and provincial artistic calendars, and one of the creative and cultural driving forces of the province.

DESCRIPTION

Each year, a different theme or *leitmotiv* makes the National Sun Festival a unique national and provincial event. Currently, it is celebrated at the Costanera San Juan Fair Center. This celebration takes place in February and involves the presentation of artists and cultural creations. Besides, the public can taste typical dishes and get to know more about the many cultural and productive industries of San Juan.

Luna was still pale. She woke the rest up and urged them to get going. They got ready in no time and headed to the city. Zonda puffed with all his strength and as quick as lightning they arrived at downtown San Juan. Sol and Lauti were wearing their augmented reality glasses and spotted a big brown lump to the south. Sol said:

“It’s her! There she is! Ingentiaaaa!!! I can’t believe it! It’s that brown thing we see there!!!” she cried enthusiastically.

“Are you sure, Sol? I believe she is that greyish spot next to that huge building,” said Lauti.

“Don’t worry, explorers. We will go down to check everywhere,” answered Zonda.

Little by little, they went down until they reached a square with a huge pond of crystal-clear waters. They were dazzled. Speechless. What Sol had seen was not cousin *Ingentia*... It was huge and brown but it wasn’t a dinosaur, for sure. What Lauti spotted wasn’t *Ingentia*, either. It had a curved shape, just like cousin *Ingentia*’s back, but it was made of metal and stretched across the street. It seemed to be floating, suspended in the air.

“It’s a magical bridge that joins the water and the sky!” yelled Lauti. ***“And it is floating over the street! I wonder how it was built!”***



CIVIC BRIDGE

CONSTRUCTION

Built and inaugurated in 2018 on Jose I. de la Roza and Las Heras Avenues, the new bridge joins the Bicentennial Square and the Civic Center.

DESCRIPTION

The metallic structure has reminiscences of railway bridges with arch-like tubular banisters which, stylistically speaking, links it to the old San Martín Railway Station, located nearby. It is 5 meters high over the avenue, allowing the circulation of all kinds of vehicles. At sunset, the Civic Bridge receives colorful illumination, highlighting its design, dimensions and height. All these characteristics make it a new icon among the City attractions.

The rest of the crew looked all around in amazement. They couldn't believe their eyes. Sol was still wearing her AR glasses and looked for more information to tell the rest:

“This is the Civic Bridge. It joins the Civic Center and the Bicentennial Square,” explained Sol, while pointing at the various sites. ***“And that magnificent, big, brown building is the Bicentennial Theater.”***

“Woowwww!” cried Luna, alooking at such an incredible view, with huge buildings and green area.

“It is amazing!” said Zonda. ***“I haven't been here for a while. This place used to be in ruins and abandoned! The city planners have done an incredible job.”***

“Let's have a look and take some pictures!” proposed Lauti.

“I want to go inside the theater and see if there's ballet. I love dancers and their perfect tutus!” said Sol.

Zonda knew he wouldn't be allowed to go inside the theater, so he invited Luna to go around the square with him and enjoy the show of jugglers and stilt walkers. While Luna and Zonda entertained themselves looking at their reflections in the water and making faces, Lauti and Sol went into the theater.

“Look, Lauti! Those pieces of paper hanging from the ceiling are musical scores from the Colón Theater in Buenos Aires. It is said that this Theater and Colón



BICENTENNIAL SQUARE

LOCATION

This green area is found in front of the Bicentennial Theater. It is surrounded by España, Las Heras, Córdoba and Ignacio de la Roza Avenues, in the City of San Juan. The Square is linked to the Civic Center by the Civic Bridge.

DESCRIPTION

This large area of 21,560 m² comprises a fountain, the old San Martin Railway Station, public restrooms, loading bays, the Civic Square with the fountain, the amphitheater, and the 10,000 m² eastern and western green areas, where palm trees, oak trees, acacias and pampas grass provide a special and unique framework to the dancing waters fountain.

ACTIVITIES

Several artistic and cultural activities take place in this area, inviting both the locals and tourists to enjoy this urban cultural center.

Theater are examples for the rest of the world. Let's explore Our Theater!" cheered Sol.

"Sure thing, my friend. This is amazing! I haven't been here before. I thought only grown-ups could come," said Lauti.

"No, not at all! Look, that's a group of students on a guided tour," said Sol, pointing at the class.

"Let's join the visitors and see if Ingentia is hiding somewhere here. You know she loves ballet, too. She must have heard classical music playing and came in through that big arc," continued Sol.

As it happened, the guide, who was a very nice man, invited them to go backstage, visit the rehearsal room, the props room, the staging room and costume design workshops of the impressive theater. The kids looked all around and couldn't believe their eyes. This was a real cultural treasure. But *Ingentia* was still missing.

Marveled, they left the theater and ran towards *Luna* and *Zonda*. They had to stick to the plan and find *Luna's* missing cousin. *Zonda* was chasing a green stilt walker dressed in a dinosaur costume, mistaking him for *Ingentia*, while *Luna* was dancing around with some kids.

"We must rush to the Museum of Natural Science! It's near here. We can probably get clues there about where Ingentia could be," figured Lauti.

"Another museum?" asked *Luna*, worried about whether she would be allowed to enter.





BICENTENNIAL THEATER

LOCATION

It is located at the junctions of España, Las Heras, Córdoba and Ignacio de la Roza avenues, in the City of San Juan.

DESCRIPTION

Inaugurated on October 21st, 2016, the Bicentennial Theater is a cultural center open to all kinds of artistic and cultural events: concerts, ballet, opera, and recitals, among others. The building has an outstanding architectural design that mixes the colors of the landscapes of San Juan, with an impressive arch that provides a framework for the main entrance. This cultural center includes 18,500 m² of indoor areas, comprising the main reception area for cultural exhibitions, the foyer, the U-shaped grand hall (which has capacity for 1,129 seated spectators and one of the best acoustics of the world), and the Auditorium (with 196 seats). The Theater also has classrooms, dressingrooms, rehearsal rooms and workshops. This magnificent building is considered the most important cultural center in inland Argentina.



INSTITUTE AND MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES (UNSJ)

LOCATION

It is located on España Avenue and Maipú Street, in the former venue of the Old Belgrano Railway Station.

DESCRIPTION

It is a unit of research and scientific production and communication that depends on the School of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences of the National University of San Juan.

ACTIVITIES

The aim of this scientific center is to develop research in the field of the Natural Sciences, spread the findings of the investigations and show such findings at the museum. Currently, the exhibition "*San Juan: tierra de dinosaurios*" (San Juan, land of dinosaurs), which shows the fossils of the Triassic Period using real-size sculptures, is open. This exhibition includes guided tours for the public and for school students.

“Oh, yes, in San Juan there are all kinds of museums,”
explained Lauti.

“Right! Cecilia, a scientist that visited us at school to talk about the dinos and saurians of San Juan, works there. I’m sure she and her team will help us!” said Sol enthusiastically.

As the Museum of Natural Science was nearby, they decided to walk north along España Avenue. They reached the museum in no time, and Zonda knocked on windows and doors until a security guard appeared through a crack in the door.

“Can I help you?” asked the security guard.

“We need to talk to Cecilia Apaldetti, the scientist. She knows a great deal about dinosaurs... We need to find Ingentia, Luna’s cousin, and we are sure she knows where Ingentia might be. We are running out of time!!!”
begged Sol.

The guard let them in and told the paleontologist she had visitors.

“Dr. Apaldetti, these explorers need to ask you something.”



Dr. Cecilia, who looked after million-year-old bones but did not cure colds or the flu, welcomed them smiling. She remembered Sol and Lauti and their enthusiasm for learning about dinos and saurians that day at school. Another great scientist and paleontologist, Dr. Ricardo Martinez, was next to her and he also greeted the crew.

“Well, tell us what brought you here,” asked Dr. Martínez.

“We lost Ingentia, Luna’s cousin, in Ischigualasto, a few days ago,” said Zonda.

“Yes, we have been looking all over for her for a few days now, and can’t seem to find her yet. We went to Pampa El Leoncito, the Observatories, the Interlagos Route, and the Bicentennial Theater, but there is no trace of this intrepidinosaur!” added Lauti.

“And we have no time to lose, because Zonda, Ingentia and I are part of the Sun Parade and...we can’t participate without Ingentia!” shouted Luna.

“Right, I think we can help you!” said Dr. Apaldetti, calming the pterosaur down. ***“Please, sit down and we will show you some maps on the computer.”***

Everyone sat in a circle. It was the first time Zonda was allowed to come indoors, on condition that he be quiet. The scientist opened her laptop and projected an image on the wall that read: *Balde de Leyes*.

“In this very place there are a lot of Ingentia’s cousins and Luna’s relatives, as well. It’s the land of the first giant dinosaurs of the Triassic period,” continued Dr. Apaldetti.

“Ingentia is probably there, visiting her relatives,” added Dr. Martínez.

“I think they can communicate through the vibrations produced by their huge steps when they walk. Maybe Ingentia put her ear on the floor and let her relatives guide her,” speculated Sol.



The scientists smiled and showed them a lot of other pictures and images of *Ingentia*'s relatives. They also gave them interesting information about these dinosaurs and of *Luna*'s flying relatives too, the famous pterosaurs. *Luna* looked around in amazement and Zonda looked at her quite moved. In the process of searching for *Ingentia*, *Luna* was about to find out a lot about herself and her origins! In previous adventures, Zonda and *Luna* had looked for flying reptiles like *Luna* all over San Juan, but they could never find any. And now, in this search for *Ingentia*, *Luna* was about to find her relatives as well!

The scientists showed them a picture of a newly-born baby saurian. She was *Lunasauria*'s cousin and they had called her *Albasaura*. Even though she was very young, she was already famous since she was the first new-born from the



BALDE DE LEYES

ORIGIN AND LOCATION

Balde de Leyes, as a geological formation, is part of the marayes-El Carrizal basin. It is located to the southeast of the Province of San Juan, in Caucete. This basin is correlated with the Ischigualasto-Villa Union basin and both form part of a series of continental rift basins (tectonic plates) that developed on the west border of Pangea, during the early mesozoic era.

PALEONTOLOGICAL SITE

Since the researchers of the UNSJ discovered the first giant dinosaur that lived on Earth during the Triassic Period (*Ingentia prima*), Balde de Leyes has become a paleontological site of international relevance. More outstanding fossils are being found in this area, providing for further classifications and taxonomies that contribute to paleontology around the world.



ptero-family in this once southern, land-locked region. Meanwhile, Zonda and the rest of the team listened to the explanations in amazement.

Later, the scientists invited the explorers to go all over the museum for a night tour using flashlights. Following the lights that seemed to be floating stars on the museum sky-like ceiling, the crew learned about the history of the dinosaurs that once lived in San Juan. They were eager to learn even more. When the tour finished, Dr. Cecilia said:

“Early in the morning, we are leaving for an expedition to Balde de Leyes. If you want, you can join us. You can go by air, and we will go by land.”

“Yeah!!! Awesome!!! I love the idea, Doc!” said Sol excitedly.

“I saw some beautiful gardens outside. We can camp there overnight, and get going early tomorrow,” dared say Zonda, after being silent for a long time.

“Excellent idea!!! Can we borrow these flashlights, Dr. Martínez?” asked Lauti.

“Of course. Besides, we need to take them to Balde de Leyes. We will need them because we’ll be camping there, too. Don’t forget to take your hats, sunscreen and water! It’s the desert! We’ll take brushes and GPS. Do you like campfires?” Dr. Ricardo wanted to know.

“Absolutely! Campfires are cool! And we know a lot of songs to sing along and have fun!” exclaimed Sol.

Very early the following day, they all headed to *Balde de Leyes*. The scientists had already calibrated their augmented reality glasses with the GPS, so the explorers wouldn’t get lost. The scientists’ pick-up trucks were all ready to leave. And when Dr. Martínez said so, the team set out to find *Ingentia* by land and air.

TOWARDS BALDE DE LEYES!



The journey to *Caucete*, where *Balde de Leyes* is located, was uneventful. It was a typical San Juan morning with cool weather and clear skies. It anticipated a very hot afternoon, very typical of February. The land explorers arrived almost together with the air crew. Quickly, Dr. Apaldetti showed everyone the path proposed by her GPS for the search for *Ingentia*. She shared the route with the kids and they started walking.

The road indicated was a difficult one and only 4x4 pick-up trucks could travel it. After a few hours on the challenging road, the crew was really tired.

“How about taking a break?” suggested Dr. Martínez. ***“We need to drink water and eat something healthy and energizing.”***

“Thank you, Doc! I am exhausted” exclaimed Sol.

“Good, let’s find a nice place in the shade to sit,” suggested Luna.

As there were few trees around, they sat by a mountain, the shadow of which was projected on the dry ground. Once sitting, they decided on the next steps to follow.

“OK crew, it’s important to be patient and stay positive. These expeditions are not easy,” indicated Dr. Apaldetti.

“You are right, Ceci! Oops! Sorry, I mean, Doctor,” said Lauti.

“No, no. ‘Ceci’ is fine. You can call me ‘Ceci,’” said, the scientist smiling.



“So, now we’ll be getting close to a key area, where not long ago we found some of Ingentia’s relatives who live here. When we get closer it is important to be quiet and calm. The members of Ingentia’s family are huge! But they are very nice and friendly,” explained Dr. Apaldetti.

“Excellent, Doc! We’ll take it easy!” promised Zonda.

They started singing on their way:

***Let’s play in San Juan
While Ingentia isn’t around***

Ingentia, are you around?

Is that her?

No worries,

Dear Ingentia,

We’ll find you somewhere!

Suddenly, they heard a familiar voice from far away.

“SSSHHHHH! Silence, crew!” said Zonda, whose ear was well trained for even the most imperceptible of noises.

“Ingentia, can you hear us?” asked Dr. Martínez.

“Isi masu sauqui tu,” said the faraway voice.

“Did you hear that!? I think it is Saurian language, but I can’t understand it very well,” added Luna.

“Yes, I think it’s her!” cried Dr. Cecilia.

“What a thrill!!!” yelled Zonda.

Full of expectation, they continued asking questions to the mysterious voice, and it answered strange things, but the sound was getting louder and louder. Just around the corner, they could see a veeeeery loooong tail of iridescent colors.

“That seems to be Ingentia. We mustn’t scare her away,” whispered Dr. Apaldetti.

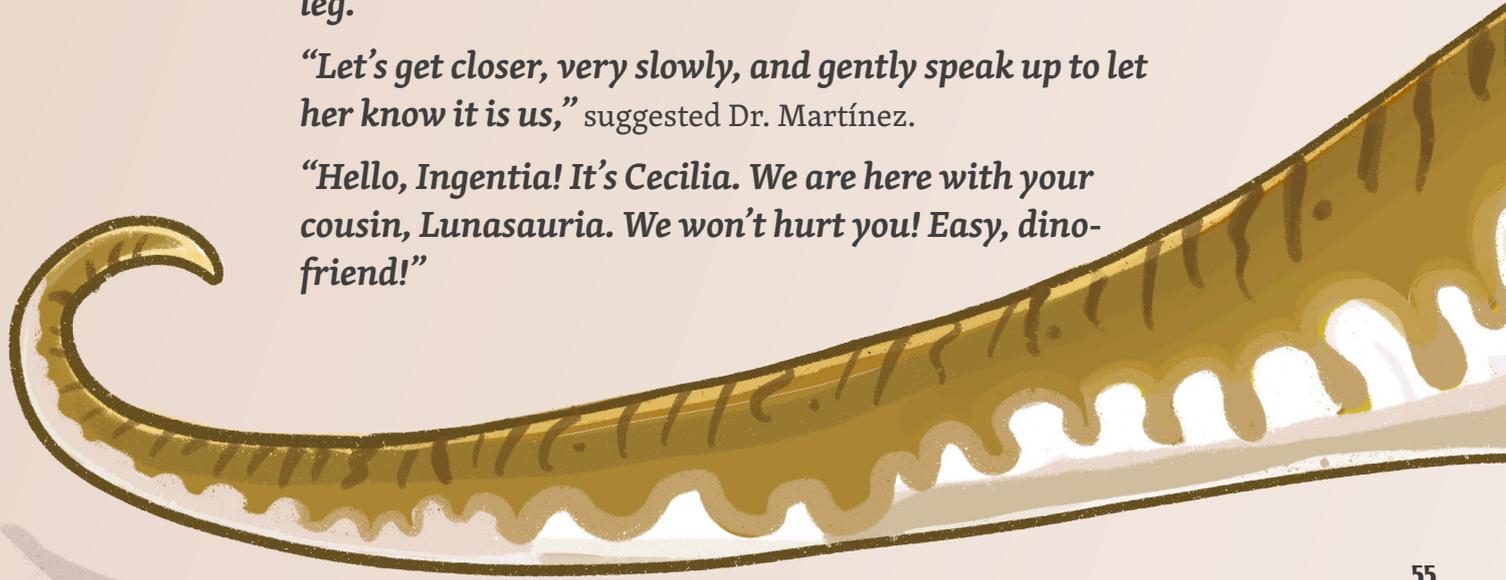
“Oh my gosh! She is really huge!” said Lauti in a very low voice.

“What a saurian! Ingentia is gigantic!” said Sol.

“It’s my cousin. I’m completely sure,” said Luna, fluttering around. ***“She has the volcano-like birthmark on her right leg.”***

“Let’s get closer, very slowly, and gently speak up to let her know it is us,” suggested Dr. Martínez.

“Hello, Ingentia! It’s Cecilia. We are here with your cousin, Lunasauria. We won’t hurt you! Easy, dino-friend!”



Startled and a little confused, *Ingentia* turned and saw the group. She squinted trying to focus on Dr. Apaldetti's face. Her voice was familiar, but she couldn't remember when or where she had heard it before.

"Isi masu sauri tu," said *Ingentia* in Saurian language ***"What are you doing here, so far away?"*** she asked a little scared.

"My dearest cousin!!! You got lost in Moon Valley and since then, we have been looking for you. What happened?"

"Luna! My dear Luna! It's true. I left without letting you know! I'm sorry! While we were playing hide and seek that night I ran into a small dinosaur, Eoraptor, and his gang. They were really mean to me. They made fun of my size and weight and I felt bad and cried. To calm myself down I started to walk... and I got as far away as I could."

"Awww! Really? Mean dinos! I know who they are! They will listen to me when I get back to Ischigualasto"
declared *Lunasauria* furiously.

Neither Zonda nor the kids had intervened yet. Sol and Lauti were still shocked by *Ingentia*'s size. Sol whispered something to Lauti related to *Ingentia*'s big feet, which were meant for running faster. But Zonda remained silent and absorbed in his own thoughts. Lauti climbed onto him, hugged him and asked:

"Everything fine, my friend?"



INGENTIA PRIMA

THE FINDING

Ingentia prima was found at the paleontological site known as Balde de Leyes, to the southeast of San Juan. This discovery has meant a revolution for the existing theories regarding when dinosaurs started to become giant. Up to that moment, it was thought that gigantism took place during the Jurassic Period of the Mesozoic Era, but, the finding of *Ingentia prima* placed giant dinosaur dimensions 30 million years before: in the Triassic Period of the Mesozoic Era. The fossils discovery took place in 2015 during a campaign carried out by researchers of the UNSJ.

DESCRIPTION

The species is between 237 and 201 million years old and it is among the first giant sauropods. With an approximate weight of 10 tons and a length of 8 to 10 meters, it is three times larger than the biggest dinosaurs of its period, the Triassic. When the finding was released, in 2018, it had a huge international impact. Currently, *Ingentia prima*'s fossil are displayed at the Institute and Museum of Natural Sciences of the UNSJ, in the City of San Juan.

And when he looked at him closer, he noticed that Zonda's eyes were teary.

“What is it, Zonda, my friend?” insisted the kid.

“I’m happy and relieved. I didn’t tell you, but I thought we would never see Ingentia again. There are many poachers around and I was scared for her...”

“Right, that’s true. I hadn’t thought about that,” said Sol feeling relieved.

“Luckily, Ingentia traveled at night and could hide under the starry night sky and her companion and guide, the Moon!” sighed Zonda, in relief.

“The Moon? A guide? Come on!!!” said Lunasauria.

“Yes, the moon changes every seven days and guides travelers,” explained Zonda.

“Well, well, I think we should go on,” pointed out Dr. Martínez, who had been checking *Ingentia*'s health and she was in perfect conditions to continue.

Ingentia led the team and soon they reached the area where her saurian-relatives lived. There were many dinos related to our current birds, as well as saurians who were related to crocodiles, lizards and turtles of all shapes, sizes, and colors. They were all busy eating some giant lettuce leaves which Dr. Apaldetti called “tree ferns”. *Ingentia* introduced them:

“Family, listen up!!! Your attention, please! These are my friends, Lunasauria, Zonda and these two kids are...”

“Sol and Lauti!” exclaimed Sol, while she greeted the saurians and dinos.



“They’ve been looking for me, because they were worried when I disappeared the other night,” explained Ingentia.

“Yesss, veeerry worried,” said Luna, relieved.

“Besides, and I don’t want to be rude, but I hope you remember, Ingentia, that tomorrow we have a rehearsal for the Sun Parade and, without you, we can’t do anything! You are the showpiece of our float representing Caucete and you’ll carry us all!” exclaimed Zonda.

“Ohhh, you are right!!! I had completely forgotten!” admitted Ingentia.

“That’s fine, cousin. Don’t worry! You are safe and sound and we have found our family!!! We have to celebrate tonight,” proposed Luna thrilled.

“Of coooooourse!!!” yelled Sol, happily.

“Yes!!! Tomorrow will be another day. We will go to the rehearsal in Chimbas and everything will go back to normal,” breathed Zonda, relieved.

The scientists organized the camp and the rest helped to set up the tents and start the fire. They had a guitar and could sing songs by the campfire when the sun set. The dinos and saurians lay down forming a giant protective circle around the humans and the Zonda wind started dancing and blowing softly, still thrilled by the encounter.

“Team, team, team, let me know where you have been!”

Ingentia wanted to know.

“Ah, cousin, we’ve visited some awesome places in San Juan!!!”

The kids have thousands of pictures! Look!!!” said Luna.

“Wow!!! Incredible places!!! I hope you invite me to see them some day,” said cousin *Ingentia*, enthusiastically.

“Sure thing! There are still thousands of other places to discover in San Juan,” commented Zonda, who knew every single inch of this land.

Sol grabbed the guitar and improvised a song:

Are you hiding?

Are you hiding?

Ingentia?

Ingentia?

Finally, we found you!

Finally, we found you!

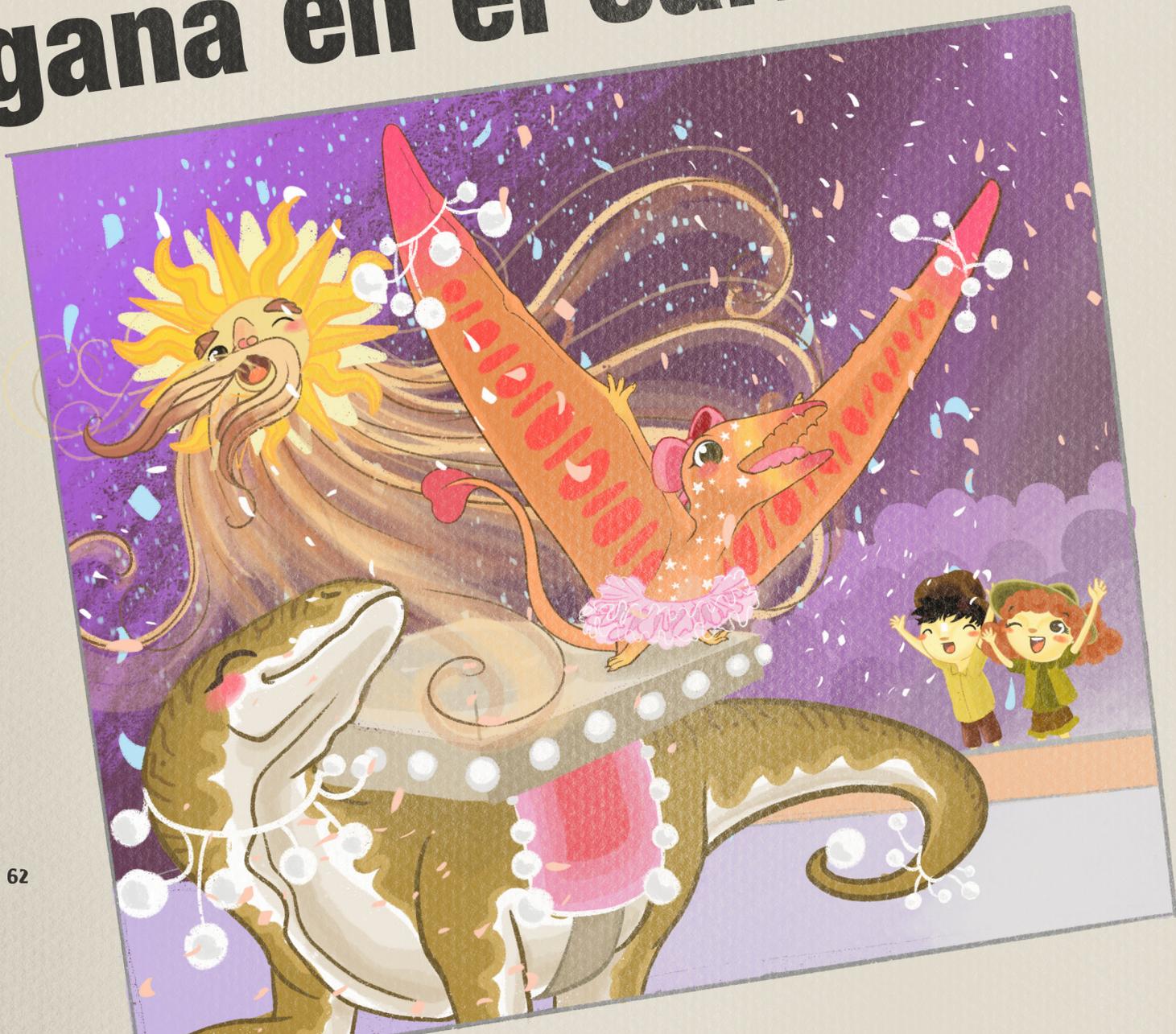
In San Juan,

In San Juan

They all laughed, clapped and danced to the music. The party continued for some time while they ate a barbecue by the fire. It was getting late and the scientists suggested going to bed. The following day they had to continue their journey and *Lunasauria*, Zonda and *Ingentia* had to go to the rehearsal in Chimbas, after leaving Sol and Lauti at home.

...

Carro "Zonda-Sauria" gana en el Carrusel del



EPILOGUE

“Wake up, Luna! We won, we won!!!” shouted Zonda, absolutely ecstatic.

“What?! What is it? It’s very early, Zonda. What did we win?” asked Luna with her eyes still closed.

“First prize!!!”

“I don’t understand. Let me wash my face...”

“We won first prize with our ‘Zonda-Saurians’ float at the Sun Parade. Everybody is talking about Ingentia. No one can believe she dances so well. They said we were great, too. We’ve been described as the best aerodynamic team. Hahaha!”



CUECA CUYANA

ORIGIN

A musical and dance genre that is part of the Argentine folklore and is also related to the *zamba*. Its origins can be traced back to the *zamacueca* from Peru, which later entered from Chile to the Cuyo Region, by the end of the 18th century.

DESCRIPTION

The *cueca cuyana* is a rhythmical and elegant dance, always accompanied by a guitar. It is danced in couples, with simple steps and soft stamping of the feet. While dancing, the dancers move their handkerchiefs in the air, forming circular figures, typical of this courtship dance. Famous cuecas: “La Juguetona” by Buenaventura Luna; “Las dos Puntas” and “Entre San Juan y Mendoza” by Carlos Montbrun Ocampo.

“Come on! Really?” asked Luna while she rubbed her eyes.

“Of course, check out the online newspapers. Everybody is talking about our float!!! And the typical cueca we danced to was great!”

“Amazing, I can’t believe it! If only they knew all we had to do before the parade. Hahaha!” laughed Luna.

“Look at this picture. Sol and Lauti are here with their families at the Sun Parade, and Sol is winking at us. These kids are awesome!!!” said Zonda.

“Let me seeeee!!! Yes, totally. It’s them!” shouted Luna excitedly.

“Wake Ingentia up and tell her. She won’t believe it!”

And the three of them walked away singing and dancing this song...

If you’re willing to discover my San Juan

If you’re willing to discover my San Juan

If you’re willing... If you’re willing...

Come and join us in adventures!

If you’re willing,

If you’re willing,

To have fun!





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Diseño de encuestas sobre hábitos de lectura y reconocimiento de destinos turístico-culturales de San Juan en alumnos de primaria

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Implementación de encuestas en escuelas primarias de gestión pública y privada de San Juan

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delPoncho)

Crédito por fotografías de fondos de página

Dirección de Promoción, Secretaría de Turismo, Ministerio de Turismo y Cultura de la Provincia de San Juan.

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“I loved the book! I learned a lot about many places in San Juan. And what I didn’t like was the bullying the dinosaur suffered”

Lupe | 8 years old

“I loved it! I learned a lot about San Juan that I didn’t know. The adventures were very interesting and the dinosaurs were the best!”

Benjamin | 9 years old

“Cool book because of the dinosaurs, and because I learned a lot while going through the adventures!”

Fermín | 8 years old

“I loved it, because I learned a lot about San Juan and it was great fun! The parts I enjoyed most were when they finally found Ingentia, and when Zonda announces they had won the Sun Parade competition. Also when Ingentia starts talking to the scientists like this: ‘Isi masu sauqui tu’”

Serena | 9 years old

What is unknown cannot be loved. Our land, our place in the World, our identity, our paleontological discoveries; they all entail getting to know and consciously choosing them as crucial issues in our lives. Dinosaurs raise passions among children and here they bridge the gap between fun science learning, adventures around San Juan, its landmarks and major cultural events. This Research Project precisely seeks to generate aesthetic joy and curiosity in those who read the printed book, the e-book, and/or listen to the audio-book about San Juan and the paleontological discoveries carried out in this province. The project is based on the principles of Multimodality (Kress, 2003, 2005) and Transmedial Storytelling (Jenkins, 2006) that conceive present-day communication as based on various communicative channels (images, literary texts, informative texts, sounds and incidental music, among others). All these elements have been successfully combined in this Project thanks to the interdisciplinary work of a great team.



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