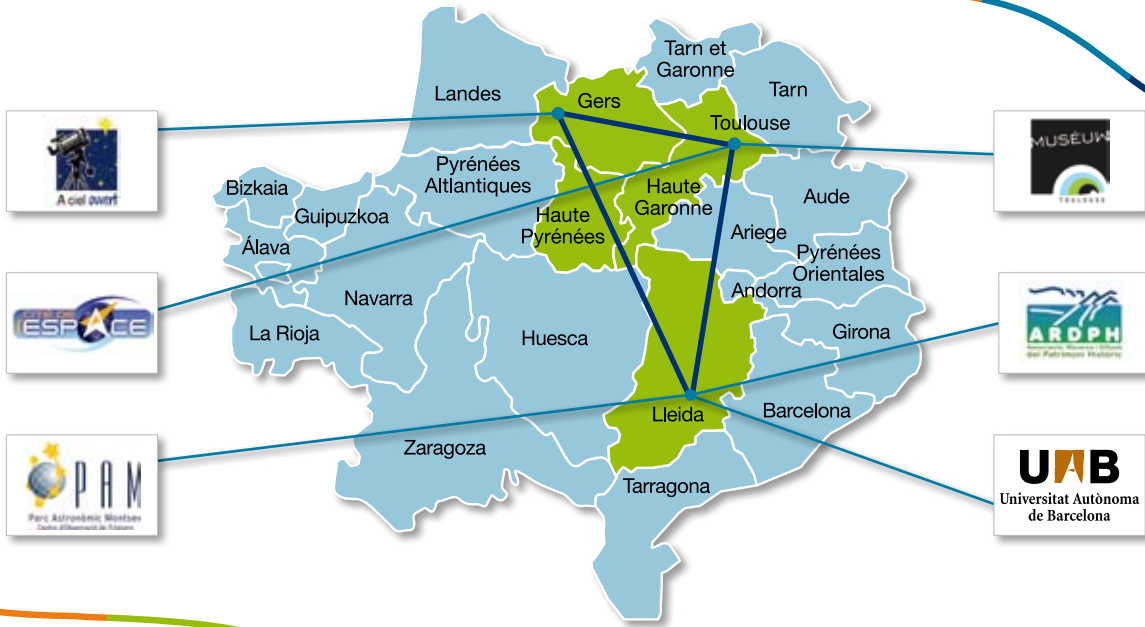




Learn and discover in touch with nature



Origins Road

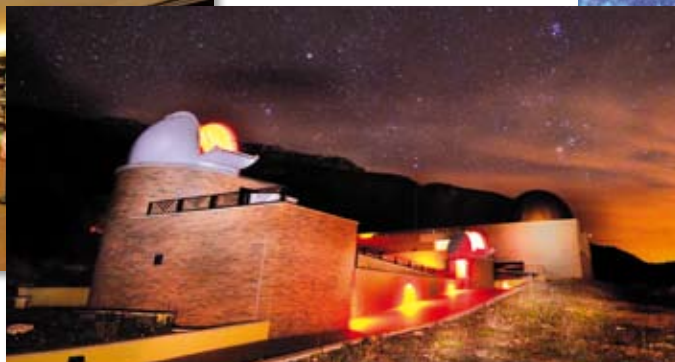


The “**Origins Road**” offers you a journey of discovery through the **Pyrenees** in search of our Origins: the origin of the Universe, of the Earth and of life, of the ecosystems and of human life itself in this region.

The “**Origins Road**” consists of 6 anchor points on both sides of the Pyrenees, each of which offers different activities that will answer questions about our Origins.

- **Origins of the Universe:** observing and interpreting the sky, planetarium shows, and holiday camps for young people with the opportunity to visit permanent and travelling exhibitions.
- **Origins of life and the region’s ecosystems:** science camps at a palaeontological site and a visit to the part of the site open to the public and to the travelling exhibition.
- **Origin of human settlement in the Pyrenees:** experimental work in simulated archaeological sites and iPad guided tours of prehistoric settlements.

**Let’s begin!**



Photograph by: Jordi Bas

## Centre d'Observació de l'Univers-Consorci del Montsec (Àger, la Noguera)



The **Centre d'Observació de l'Univers** (COU) Observatory in Àger, in the district of Noguera, Lleida, is a large, multi-purpose facility where the visitor can watch films in full dome format and enjoy total-immersion virtual environments. It is the only planetarium in the world with a retractable dome that reveals the sky uncovered, allowing guided observation of the stars.

The COU takes advantage of the unique characteristics of the location's sky for observing the Universe (it has the clearest sky in Catalonia). It is also set in an environment that allows us to learn about planet Earth's evolution from the geology of the **sierra del Montsec** that surrounds it.

<http://www.montsec.cat>

<http://www.parcasrastronomic.cat>



## **Centre d'Estudis del Patrimoni Arqueològic de la Prehistòria (Bellaterra, Barcelona)**

The **Centre d'Estudis del Patrimoni Arqueològic de la Prehistòria** of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (CEPAP-UAB) is a research unit that brings together specialists in prehistory and education. Its work focuses on the study of the behaviour of prehistoric human groups by recovering and analysing the technological and cultural artefacts produced in sites in the Pre-Pyrenees and eastern Africa.

As part of the CEPAP'S scientific education programme, the Palaeolithic site of la Roca dels Bous, situated in the Pre-Pyrenees of Lleida, is being equipped with interactive museum facilities, which are supported by Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

<http://cepap.uab.cat>

<http://www.larocadelsbous.cat>





## Associació Recerca i Difusió del Patrimoni Històric (Sant Llorenç de Montgai, la Noguera)



The **Associació Recerca i Difusió del Patrimoni Històric** is an Association whose purpose is to promote public awareness of the heritage sites in the Pre-Pyrenees of Lleida. Its work consists of providing support for current archaeological research projects and publicising both the results of these projects and the heritage sites themselves.

The creation and management of the Educational Archaeology Park of Sant Llorenç de Montgai, which is visited by more than 4,000 school children a year, is an important part of this work. By organising many participative activities, the Association also encourages mutual understanding and collaboration between archaeological research, local organizations and the general public.

<http://arkeotic.org>





## Cité de l'Espace (Toulouse, Haute-Garonne)

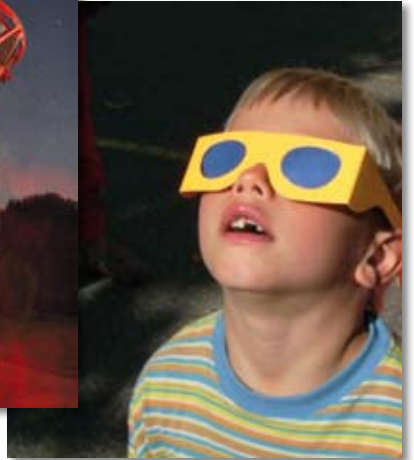
The **Cité de l'Espace** is a theme park devoted to astronomy and space, situated in Toulouse. The **Cité de l'Espace** organises exhibitions, a Planetarium show and an IMAX film, and offers a tour of the Park and numerous animations. It has about 270,000 visitors each year.

As part of the Origins project, a travelling exhibition on the subject, coordinated by the **Cité de l'Espace**, will first be shown by each of the institutions participating in the project before touring the Pyrenees region.

The project's permanent exhibitions include two sections:

- The first deals with the origins of life on earth and the search for extra-terrestrial life;
- The second looks at the origins of the stars, the galaxies and the birth of the Universe.

<http://www.cite-espace.com>



## À Ciel Ouvert (Fleurance, Gers)

The Association **À Ciel Ouvert** (ACO) provides information and educational activities related with the sciences of the Universe, principally astronomy, but also geology and palaeontology. Every year it organises activities aimed at different sectors of the public: adults (courses, discovery weekends, educational trips), children (courses, camps, workshops) and students (discovery classes, workshops).

The Association has been classified as a “Centre of Scientific Culture” by the Midi-Pyrénées Region.

For 21 years **À Ciel Ouvert** (ACO) has been organizing the Fleurance Astronomy Festival, which is visited by 10,000 people every year and plays a major role in developing the area’s tourist industry.

It also collaborates with Ferme des Étoiles and Hameau des Étoiles, holiday centres that offer accommodation and restaurants. **À Ciel Ouvert** (ACO) has excellent facilities for astronomical observation and many educational resources.

Hameau des Étoiles has an observation dome for viewing the Universe.

Together with **Cité de l’Espace** and the Pic du Midi, it belongs to the network “Midi-Pyrénées, pays des Étoiles”.

<http://www.fermedesetoiles.com>





## Toulouse Museum (Toulouse, Haute-Garonne)

The **Museum of Natural History** has recently reopened with the slogan **Science and Awareness of Life**, with 3,000 m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition space devoted to the natural and human sciences. In these halls, Zoology, Botany, Ethnography, Geology, Palaeontology and History demonstrate the relationship between **Human Beings, Nature** and the **Environment**.

The Museum's many activities give visitors a real taste of participating in scientific research. In **Montréal-du-Gers**, the Museum is carrying out a **palaeontological excavation** in the most important site discovered in France for a century. So far it has uncovered fossils of more than 90 different species of vertebrates, of which 4 are species new to Science.

The facilities are suitable for visits by **all sectors of the public**, and **holiday accommodation** for teenagers and **introductory courses** for university students are also available.

<http://www.museum.toulouse.fr>



## TOURIST PASSPORT




Origins Road

[www.originroad.com](http://www.originroad.com)



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de Barcelona



*Invirtiendo en nuestro futuro  
Investir dans notre avenir  
Invertint en el nostre futur*