

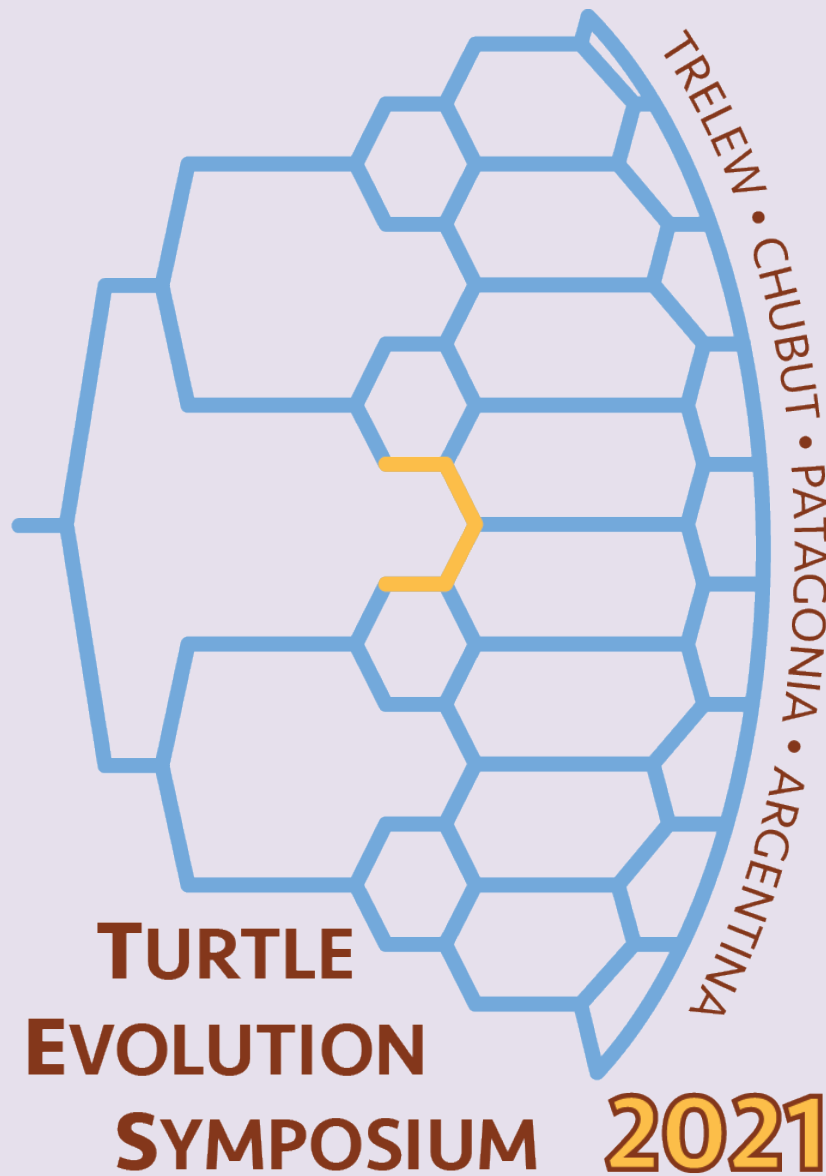


Turtle Evolution Symposium 2021

November 10 – 13, 2021



Grupo Patagónico
de Investigación sobre
el Origen y Evolución
de Tortugas



First Circular

Publication Date: March 2020

Museo Paleontológico Egidio Feruglio

Trelew, Chubut, Patagonia, Argentina

Welcome Message

Following the 2018 Turtle Evolution Symposium that took place in Tokyo (Japan), the Turtle Community Group (TCG) voted to have the next meeting in Trelew, one of the most important cities of Chubut Province, in Patagonia, Argentina. The Symposium will take place during November 2021 at the Museo Paleontológico Egidio Feruglio, a prominent paleontological institution in Argentina.

We are grateful for your choice and delighted for having the opportunity to receive you in Trelew. We promise that we will do our outmost best to provide a well-organized and memorable symposium.

We would like to continue our exchange of information with this **First Circular**, a document that contains some basic information about the Symposium, the Venue, and some initial travelling information that will, hopefully, help you to organize your trip efficiently.

Contact Information



tes2021@mef.org.ar [preferred method of communication]



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+54 0280 4432100, int. 136 [between 09:00 – 12:00 Argentinian ST (GMT -3)]

Organizers



Juliana Sterli, Independent Researcher CONICET | jsterli@mef.org.ar

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ATTENTION!



this little red turtle marks all new additions in the circular.

Turtle Community Group (TCG)



The TCG is a Google mailing list group that serves as a platform for sharing ideas, news, and research between the members of the paleochelonological community and to improve the communication between us. The TCG started in 2014 and currently contains 116 members from around the globe. Besides regular email, the TCG will be a main source of diffusion of news regarding TES 2021, so please consider subscribing. Note that after TES 2018 in Tokyo, it was decided that TCG will also form the platform for proposing and voting the next TES.

How to subscribe:

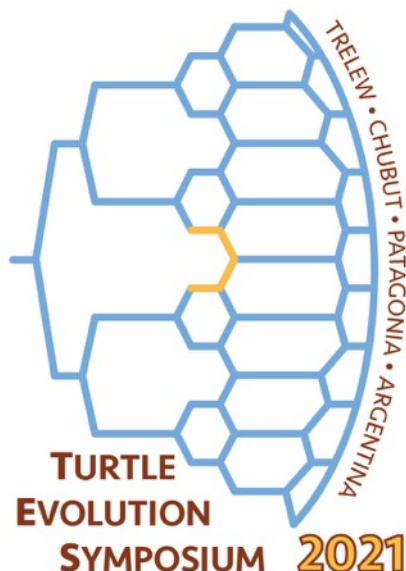
Option 1. Ask permission to subscribe at

<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/turtle-community-group>

[see <https://support.google.com/groups/answer/1067205?hl=en> for more information]

Option 2. Send an email to Evangelos Vlachos at evlacho@gmail.com

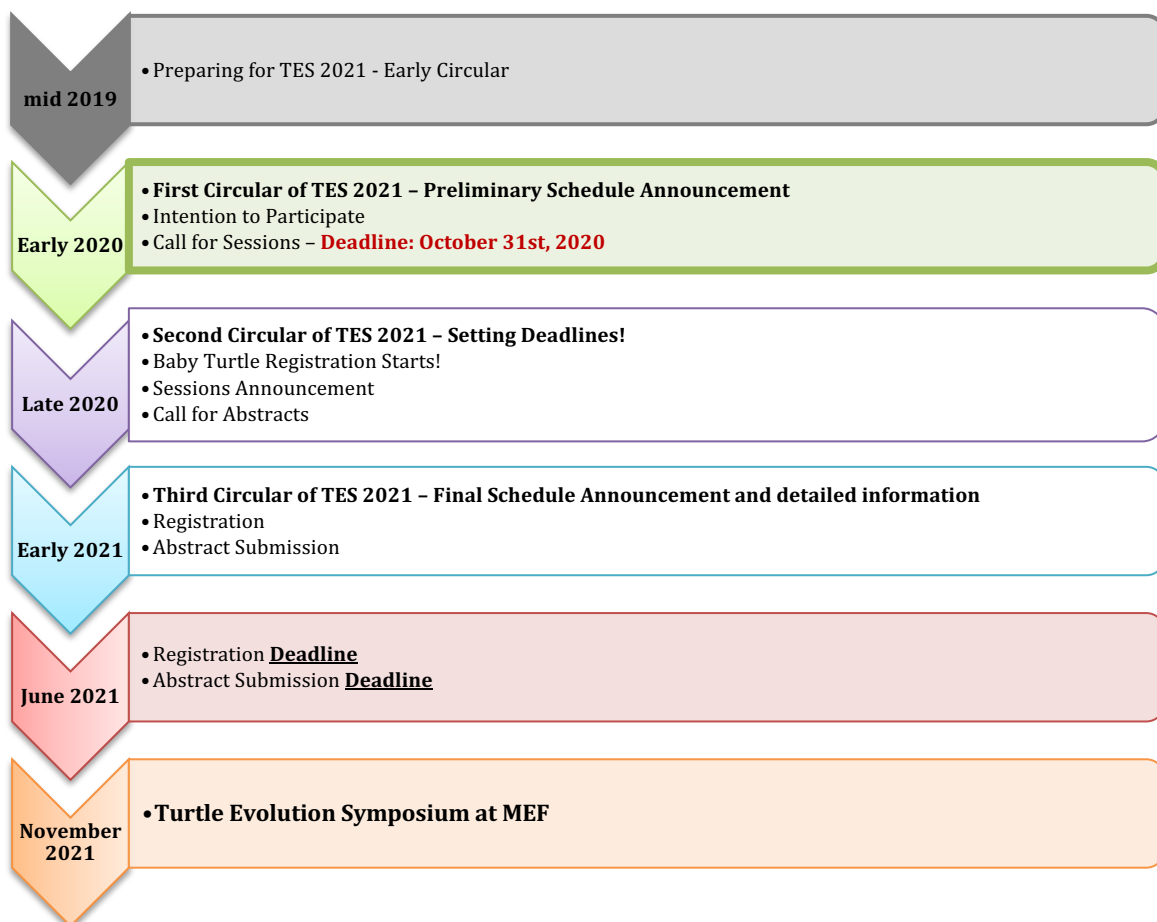
About the logo:



The Origin and Evolution of the Turtle Shell,
a combination of a cladogram and an abstract turtle shell, symbolizing the appearance of the turtle shell as a product of evolution.

It is colored with the colors of the Argentine flag—sky blue, golden yellow, and brown—with an abstract *Sol de mayo* in the middle and its 32 rays in the form of clades.

Timeline



Preliminary Schedule

Please check the relevant section below for further information regarding each day of the Symposium. Note that this schedule is **preliminary** and might be modified.



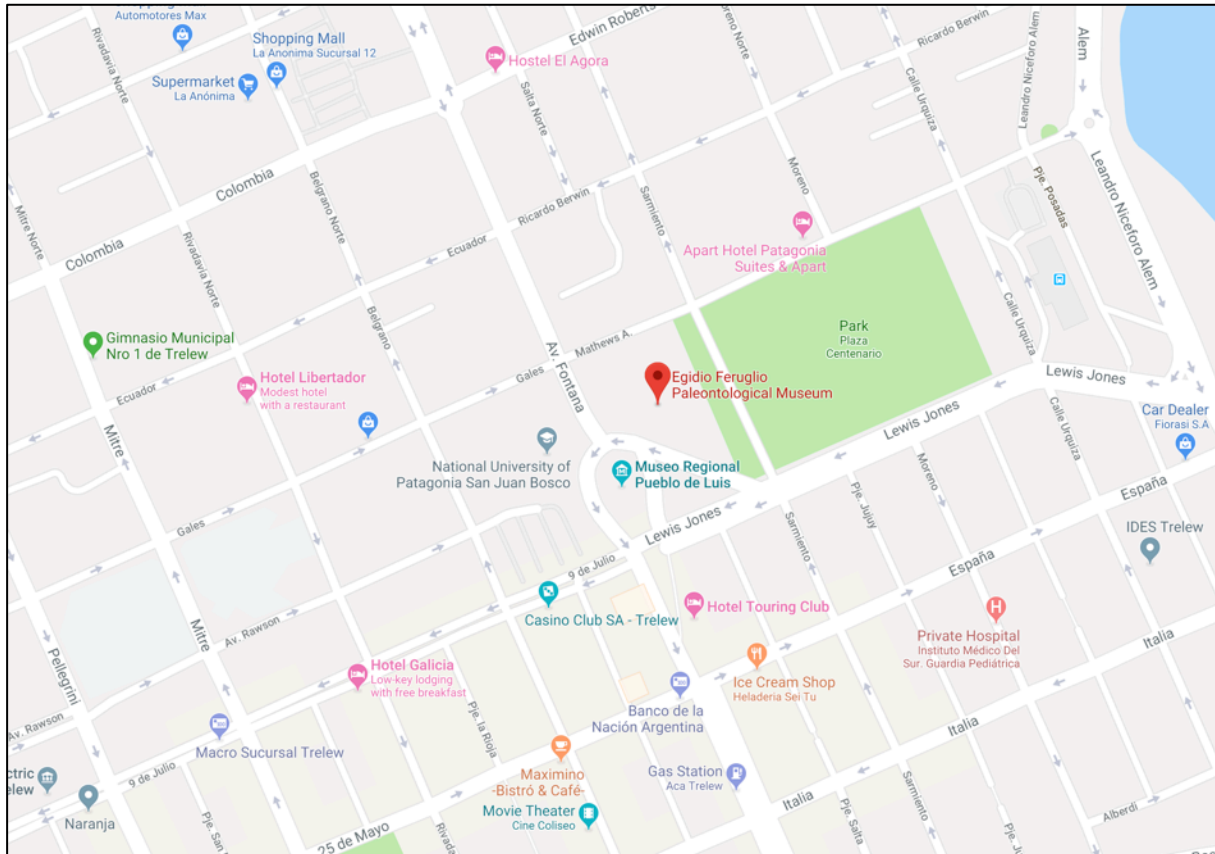
November 2021								
Mon 08	Tue 09	Wed 10	Thu 11	Fri 12	Sat 13	Sun 14	Mon 15	Tue 16
<i>Previous activities (optional, not included in the main fee)</i>		Main Symposium				<i>Post-Symposium Field Trip (optional, not included in the main fee)</i>		
> Workshops > Organized Tourism > Visiting Collections	Visiting Collections	Main Sessions	Main Sessions	Daily Field Trip	Arrival to the site	Main Field Trip Activities	Activities	
	Registration	Poster Sessions	Poster Sessions				Return to Trelew	
	Ice-Breaker Party	Main Sessions	Main Sessions	Farewell Party	Activities			
	Keynote Presentation	Keynote Presentation	Keynote Presentation		camping	camping		

To keep in mind while planning your trip:

- It will not be possible for the participants of the Symposium to work in the collections of MEF during the main part of the TES (i.e., between Nov. 10–13, 2021)
- Plan your arrival to Trelew **before** Nov. 10, 2021. This is recommended to avoid missing the start of the conference due to last-minute changes in flights.

Venue

The TES 2021 will be hosted at the Museo Paleontológico Egidio Feruglio (MEF), at the heart of Trelew, the second largest city of Chubut Province, in Patagonia, Argentina. Detailed information can be found online at <http://mef.org.ar/home/>



The Paleontological Museum Egidio Feruglio (MEF) is a center for scientific activities, one of its kind in South America. Delineated by a modern and unconventional design, MEF's innovative work is reflected both in its exhibitions as well as in its products and services. Interpretive tours tell the story of the life forms that lived in Patagonia through a time travel of millions of years into the past.

The beginnings of the Museum

The Museum opened its doors on December 28, 1990 in a modest house: an old furniture retail store of 700 square meters. At that time worked only three people, the director, a paleontological technician and an administrative employee. But the interest of scientists and neighbors made possible a sustained growth of the new museum. They had a great desire to stimulate and developed research in the region! In the search for new resources that enabled the achievement of this new objective, in 1990, the Egidio Feruglio Foundation was born. The Foundation, together with the National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET) and the Municipality of Trelew, constitute the institutional support of the MEF, with a non-government organization management. Soon after, the Provincial Tourism Authority declares the new museum as a "Provincial Tourist Interest" and an agreement authorizing the MEF to develop prospecting, extraction, recovery and touristic value of the paleontological heritage of the Province of Chubut was signed. Since then, the work of its researchers placed the MEF as a leader in the field of Paleontology in Patagonia.



Trelew

Trelew is located near the Atlantic coast and has nearly 100,000 inhabitants. It was founded on October 20 1886, by the Welsh settlers in Patagonia. The city is named after Lewis (Luis) Jones (Trelew= Tre--town in Welsh—and Lew—an apocope for Lewis—meaning “the town of Lewis”) and still preserves to the day, together with its surrounding townships and villages (like Gaiman) the Welsh heritage.

Trelew is one of the most important commercial and industrial centers of the region.

Trelew is the main airport connection between Chubut Province and the capital Buenos Aires, via the Almirante Marcos A. Zar Airport (REL).

Thus, Trelew represents as well a touristic crossroad to the Andes Cordillera to the west, the Puerto Madryn and Peninsula Valdés (wildlife reserve) to the north, and Punta Tombo (biggest penguin reserve in South America).



Trelew



Gaiman



Puerto Madryn



Guanacos



Penguins



Sea Lions



Chubut River, typical landscape

Travelling to Trelew



The best way to reach Trelew is by plane. Trelew has an International Airport, called the Almirante M. A. Zar Airport (code: REL), with a newly-renovated Boeing 707 runway.

<http://www.aeropuertotrelew.com/en/>

There are several connections with direct flights between the Argentine capital, Buenos Aires and Trelew, from two domestic airports of the capital, J. Newberry Aeroparque Airport (AEP), and El Palomar (EPA); occasionally, flights operate from Ezeiza International Airport (EZE) as well.

The total flight time between Buenos Aires and Trelew is appr. 2 hours.

Aerolineas Argentinas usually operates the flights from EZE and AEP (please consult availability at <https://www.aerolineas.com.ar/>), whereas EPA operates with low-cost companies (e.g., <https://flybondi.com>).

Buenos Aires – Trelew flight connections in November 2019

(this is just to give an idea of the number and scheduling of connections; this is, of course, subject to change)

[Arrival]

From J. Newberry Aeroparque Airport (AEP) to Trelew (REL):

(direct flights) | 04:30 – 06:30 | 07:40 – 09:40 | 09:40 – 11:40 | 10:20 – 12:20 | 12:40 – 14:40 | 17:10 – 19:10 |

From El Palomar (EPA) to Trelew (REL):

(direct flights) | 12:55 – 14:55 |

[Return]

From Trelew (REL) to J. Newberry Aeroparque Airport (AEP):

(direct flights) | 09:00 – 10:50 | 13:55 – 15:45 | 19:50 – 21:40 |

From Trelew (REL) to El Palomar (EPA):

(direct flights) | 14:45 – 16:45 |

Besides, Trelew Airport has direct flights (during touristic season) to popular southern destinations, including El Calafate (in the Andes and the Perito Moreno Glacier) and Ushuaia (the southernmost city in the world). Therefore, your visit to Trelew and TES can be easily combined with some unique touristic activities.

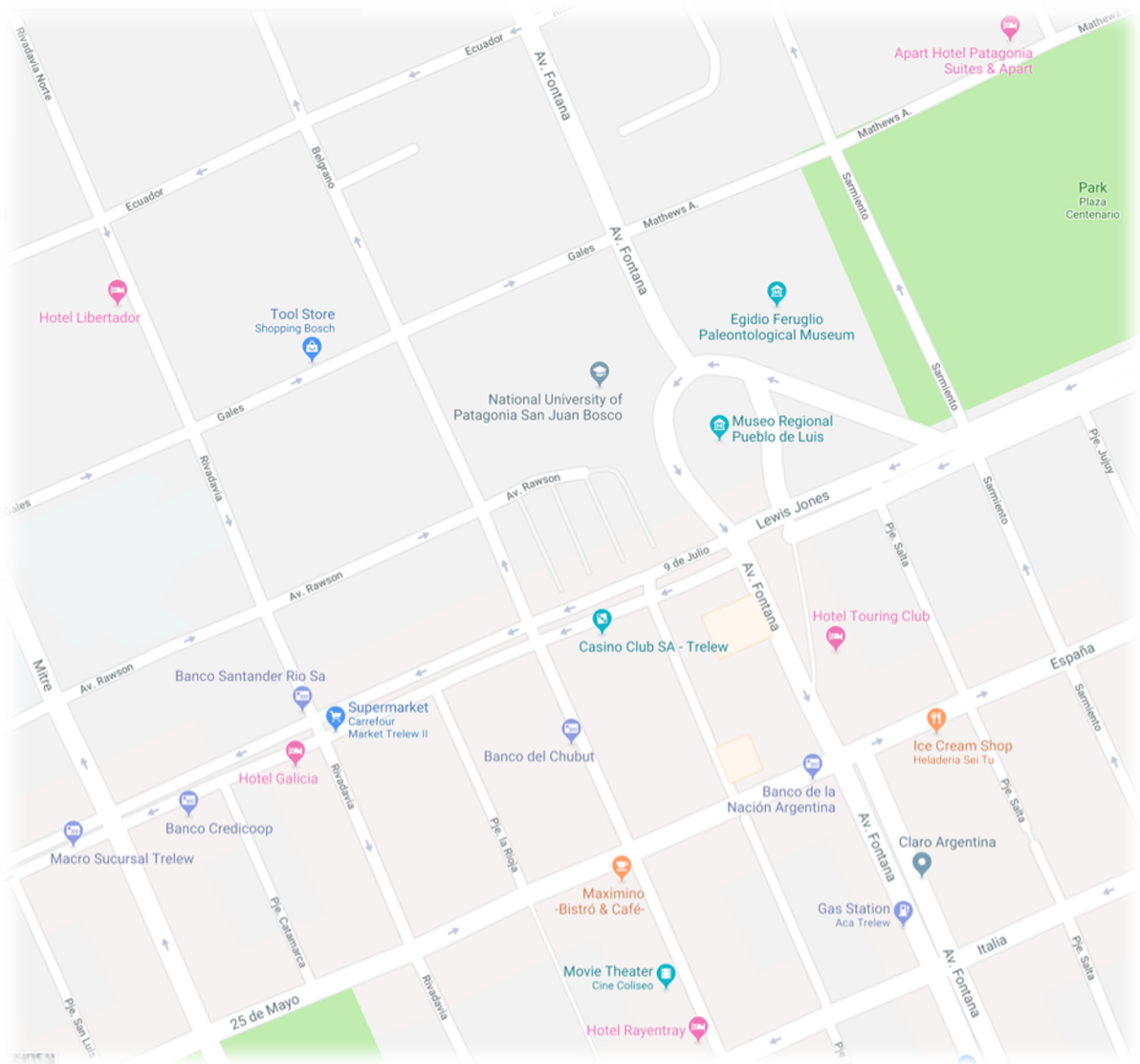
Besides plane, Trelew can also be reached via bus and car, but be prepared for a long roadtrip!

In any case, we are always at your disposal to help you organizing your trip and stay, so please do not hesitate to contact us.

As a plus, Trelew Airport contains a small exhibition of MEF fossils and other exhibits!



Accommodation in Trelew



There are several accommodation options around MEF, including:

Patagonia Suites and Apartments (<https://patagoniansuites.com/>),
Hotel Libertador (<http://hotellibertador.com.ar/>),
Hotel Touring Club (<http://touringpatagonia.com.ar/>),
Hotel Galicia (<https://www.hotelgalicia.com.ar/>), and
Hotel Rayentray (<http://www.rayentraytrelew.com/>)

all within 5 – 20-minute walking distance from MEF.



Preliminary Schedule — Detailed Information



November 2021								
Mon 08	Tue 09	Wed 10	Thu 11	Fri 12	Sat 13	Sun 14	Mon 15	Tue 16
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The information that appears in this section is preliminary and will be confirmed with the publication of the 2nd Circular in late 2020.

Previous Activities

We strongly recommend planning your arrival in Trelew a couple of days before the start of the TES2021. We offer optional

Workshops. We will offer daily (i.e., 6–8 hr with break) workshops for the participants of TES2021 with some the following topics: Cladistics and their application in paleontology; Basic Graphic Design for Scientists; Zoological Nomenclature; Open Databases and Diversity.

Organized Tourism. We will offer guided excursions in popular touristic places in the region, including Peninsula Valdés (whales, sea lions, orcas, penguins, guanacos) and Punta Tombo (large penguin colony).

Visiting Collections. The MEF fossil collections will be open for the participants of the conference, interested to study turtles and other fossil specimens from Patagonia.

Main Symposium

Registration. Registration will take place in MEF.

Ice-Breaker Party. The Ice-Breaker Party will take place in MEF.

Main Sessions. Presentations during the main sessions of the Symposium will take place in the German Sopeña Auditorium in MEF.

Poster Sessions. Presentations during the poster sessions of the Symposium will take place in the main Hall of MEF.

Keynote Presentation. We are planning three keynote presentations at the end of each day of the Symposium. Specific details will be announced in the 2nd Circular.

Daily Field Trip. The Daily Field Trip will take place in the Bryn Gwyn Geopark and the nearby Pan de Azucar, in Gaiman near Trelew. This is a place with important Neogene fossils — famous from Simpson's Scarritt Expeditions — including fossils of testudinids (i.e., *Chelonoidis gringorum*) and marine turtles.

Post-Symposium Field Trip

The Post-Symposium Field Trip will take place in the Palaeocene locality of Punta Peligro, in the south of Chubut province. This is the type locality of many turtle species, mostly meiolaniformes and chelyids, as well as other vertebrates (e.g., crocodiles). This field-trip involves camping in open Patagonia.



Call for Sessions — deadline: October 31st, 2020



For those interested in organizing specific thematic sessions, we kindly ask you to submit a title and 250-word summary of the topic you are willing to explore with a thematic session. Also, please include the name(s) of organizer(s) and their contact details, and a preliminary list of possible participants in this session.

The organizers should invite people to participate and will initially review their abstracts before submission.

The format of these thematic sessions could depart from that of other regular sessions, depending on the specific goals of the session and the necessary time of conversation, questions, and interaction with the audience.

For example, a possible format could be:

An opening talk (15–20') introducing the topic (this ideally should be made by the organizer(s) of the thematic session)



A series of shorter talks (5–10') presenting specific parts that are relevant to the objectives of the sessions, followed by Q&A sessions.



Parts of open discussions with the audience, moderated by the organizer(s)



A final talk (15–20') summarizing and setting goals for the future.



Please submit this information by email to tes2021@mef.org.ar.



The deadline for Sessions Proposals is October 31st, 2020



Your proposal will be reviewed by the OC and upon acceptance will be announced to the TCG and our social networks.



Excavating a shell and skeleton of a marine turtle near Trelew, Chubut