

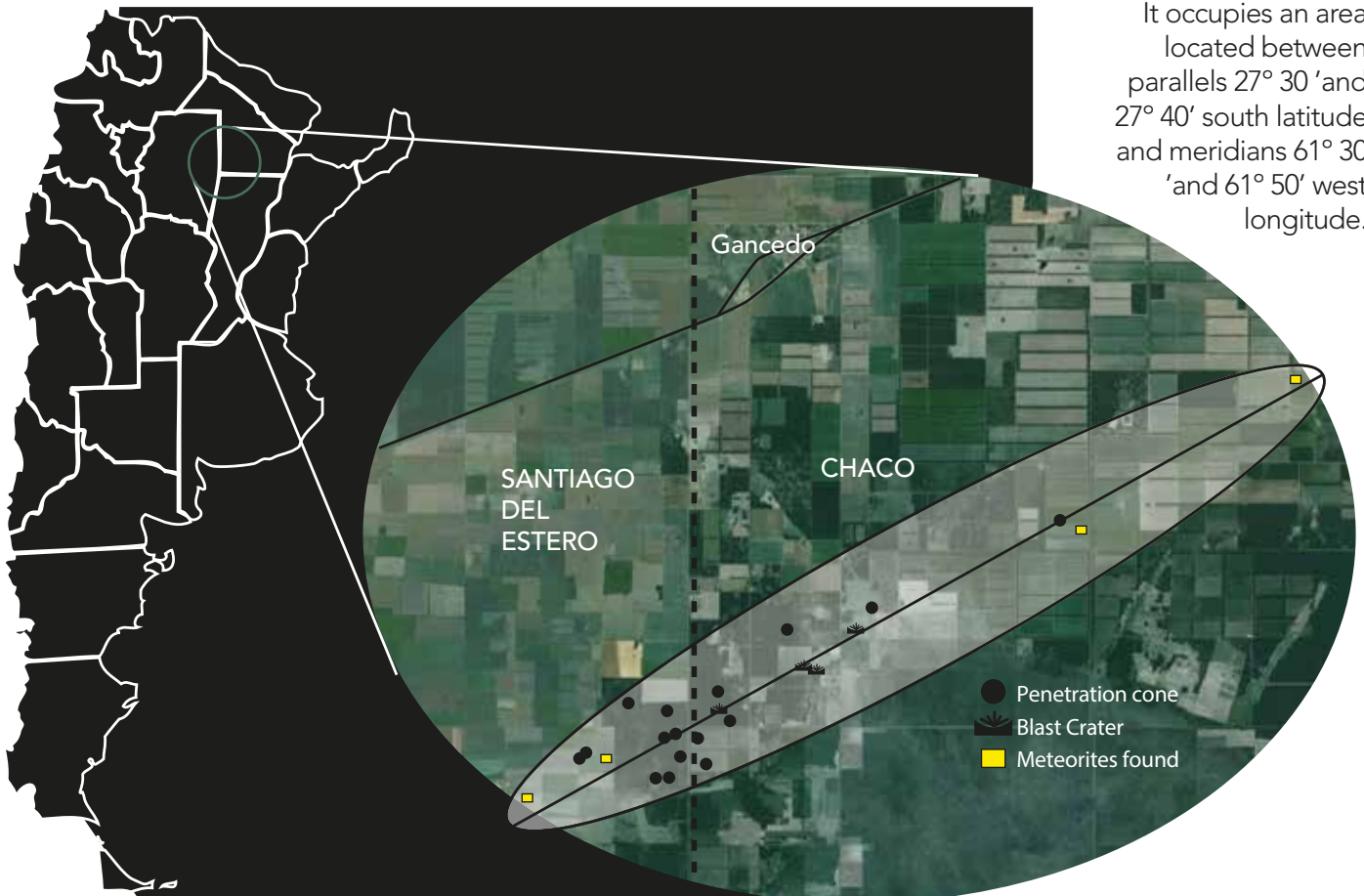
## METEORITES OF "CAMPO DEL CIELO"

Campo del Cielo, or Piguem Nonraltá (Heaven's Field, name given to the area by native peoples), is located between Chaco and Santiago del Estero provinces, near the town of Gancedo.

Campo del Cielo is one of the largest meteorite crater fields known on Earth. Other sites are located in Australia and Siberia.

This field of impacts is believed to have originated about 4,000 years ago, when a meteoroid of approximately 800 tons exploded when it entered the atmosphere, breaking into multiple blocks.

It occupies an area located between parallels 27° 30' and 27° 40' south latitude and meridians 61° 30' and 61° 50' west longitude.



The study of craters and meteoric fragments allows us to develop models that, through tests, comparisons, calculation and a little speculation, attempt to reconstruct what happened. Different types of craters can be found in the studied area: explosion, penetration and impact and rebound craters.

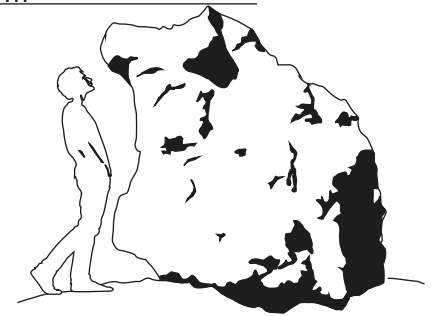
Each of them provides information on how meteorites hit the ground. The craters are located in an elliptical area 18 km long by 4 km wide, although the affected surface could be much larger. At least 20 craters were studied

The value of Campo del Cielo to the investigation of impact craters lies not only in the large size of the affected area but also in the fact that it's one of the rare cases in which the meteoroid that originated it entered at a very low angle (calculated in 9° with respect to the terrestrial surface) an event rarely registered.

## METEORITES OF "CAMPO DEL CIELO"



2,20m



In Chaco province the «Pigüem N´Onaxa» Natural Cultural Reserve was created to preserve the scientific and cultural heritage of Campo del Cielo. One of the largest pieces is exhibited there: El Chaco, which is 37 tons and one of the largest meteorites in the world.

### Protected assets

In 2007, a National Law was passed that declares all meteorites fallen in Argentine territory as cultural property and penalizes their commercialization.

## Meteorites and native peoples

The peoples who inhabited the Gran Chaco, of the Quom, Mocoví, Abipón, Pilagá, Mbayá, Payaguá ethnic groups, may have witnessed, 4000 years ago, the unique event of the meteorite fall

Some toponymics and mythical stories seem to prove it, but the evidence is not conclusive. Many of the names given to the Campo del Cielo meteorites are reminiscent of the native peoples.

### METEORITES OF "CAMPO DEL CIELO"



**El Abipón:**

460 kg,  
Argentine Museum  
of Natural Sciences  
(CABA)



**El Mataco:**

998 kg,  
Provincial museum  
Dr. J. Marc  
(Rosario, Sta Fe)



**El Tonocoté:**

850 kg,  
Galileo Galilei  
Planetarium  
(CABA)



**El Mocoví:**

732 kg,  
Argentine Museum  
of Natural Sciences  
(CABA)



**El Toba:**

4210 kg,  
Argentine Museum  
of Natural Sciences  
(CABA)