# Rare Trilobite Fossil 'Pompeii' Unearthed in Morocco's High Atlas Mountains



### Pristine Trilobite Fossils Discovered in Morocco's High Atlas Mountains

Scientists recently uncovered a remarkably well-preserved trilobite fossil in Morocco's High Atlas Mountains. The creature, nicknamed "Pompeii," was instantaneously fossilized by volcanic ash, preserving not just its exoskeleton but also its soft tissues, including the digestive tract and hair-like structures on its appendages.

Dr. Greg Edgecombe, a paleontologist at the Natural History Museum, highlighted the significance of this find, noting it provided an unprecedented glimpse into the lives of these ancient sea creatures. Trilobites, which lived around 500 million years ago, are among the most extensively studied fossil marine animals, with over 20,000 species identified.

The discovery was spearheaded by Prof. Abderrazak El Albani from the University of Poitiers. Using CT scanning and computer modeling, researchers found previously unseen details, such as spoon-like bases on appendages near the mouth and a fleshy lobe called a labrum. This 3D preservation offers new insights into the feeding mechanisms and anatomy of trilobites, paralleling the extraordinary preservation seen in Pompeii victims from the Mount Vesuvius eruption in 76 AD.