

# Meet 'Big John': World's biggest triceratops on sale in Paris

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"Big John" is 66 million years old and has an eight-metre-long skeleton.

A Paris auction house will seek to sell in October the world's biggest known example of the dinosaur triceratops, known as "Big John", with the spectacular skeleton on show to the public beforehand, organisers

said Tuesday.

The [triceratops](#) is among the most distinctive of [dinosaurs](#) due to the three horns on its head—one at the nose and two on the forehead—that give the dinosaur its Latin name.

"Big John" is the largest known surviving example, 66 million years old and with a skeleton some eight metres long.

It will be on display starting October 18 at the Drouot auction house in Paris, where it will be offered by the specialist auctioneers Giquello on October 21.

It is estimated that it will sell at 1.2 to 1.5 million euros (\$1.4-\$1.8 million), though dinosaur auction sales have proved very unpredictable in the past.

The dinosaur has an export licence and there are a dozen possible buyers, said Alexandre Giquello of the Giquello house.

The two-metre-wide skull, some 200 bones and large horns of the animal were being assembled Tuesday behind the windows of a Drouot exhibition gallery in central Paris.

A unique specimen with the skeleton more than 60-percent complete—including 75 percent for the skull—Big John was discovered in 2014 in the US state of South Dakota by geologist Walter W. Stein Bill. Its restoration was carried out in Trieste in Italy.



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This sale comes amid continued enthusiasm for dinosaur skeletons, with prices often reaching records that leave public museums and research centres unable to outbid private buyers.

In October, a rare allosaurus skeleton, one of the oldest dinosaurs, was auctioned in Paris to an anonymous bidder for over three million euros, twice its estimate.

A few weeks before, a 67-million-year-old T-Rex [skeleton](#) was sold in New York for \$31.8 million, smashing records for a dinosaur and far surpassing an estimate of \$6 to \$8 million.

In 2020, however, several dinosaurs offered in Paris did not find takers after minimum prices were not reached.

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