

Fossils dating back 66 million years found outside Bangkok mall

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The fossils used as decoration in the footpath date back millions of years.

More than 70 shells embedded in a footpath outside a Bangkok shopping mall have been found to be the fossils of marine creatures that lived more than 66 million years ago, Thai experts have confirmed.

An eagle-eyed shopper first spotted the snail-shaped fossils, measuring up to 12 centimetres (five inches) across, dotted along a 400-metre stretch of pavement by the Siam Square shopping centre in a major tourist district.

Palaeontologists from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment investigated and found 77 ammonite fossils.

Ammonites are [marine creatures](#) believed to have died out 66 million years ago, Preecha Saithong, director of the ministry's [fossil](#) protection division, told AFP on Tuesday.

"The ammonites are real," he said, adding that the fossils differed from ones usually found in Thailand.

Local media reported that the footpath was repaired two years ago and the [shells](#) may have been inserted into the concrete as decoration by sub-contractors.



The fossils are ocean-dwelling molluscs.

The fossilised ocean-dwelling molluscs, which lived during the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods, are sold as souvenirs in several popular tourist destinations including Madagascar and Morocco.

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