

Quetzalcoatlus

21 Cool Facts about The Quetzalcoatlus!



1. Quetzalcoatlus was first discovered in 1971 by Douglas A. Lawson in Texas
2. Since those first Quetzalcoatlus fossils more have been found in Texas, Montana, and New Mexico.
3. The name Quetzalcoatlus means "feathered serpent God" in Nahuatl, the Ancient (old) language of the Aztecs.
4. There are a few ideas about what it ate and how it caught its food, but it is thought it caught food on the ground like a stork.
5. Quetzalcoatlus is the largest known pterosaur species, by a long way.
6. Quetzalcoatlus had a wingspan of up to 11 meters (36 feet). This is about the same as a small plane!!
7. The fourth finger on each limb was much longer than the others in Quetzalcoatlus.

8. Quetzalcoatlus was approximately 3 meters tall at the shoulder (9 ft tall) and 10 meters (33 feet) long.
9. Quetzalcoatlus was NOT a dinosaur. The simple rule is if it flies or swims it's not a dinosaur.
10. Quetzalcoatlus weighed an estimated 250–300 kg (660 lb).
11. It could fly for 10 days and over 8000 miles!
12. Quetzalcoatlus had a toothless beak on its skull, which could be over 6 ft long (2 m long) it also is one of the few pterosaurs known to have had a crest on its head.
13. Quetzalcoatlus had long, hollow bones that were light and strong to help it both take off and then stay in the air.
14. Quetzalcoatlus' wings were certainly evolved for flying, with bat-like skin over them. However, it could also walk on the ground quite well using those wings.

15. Quetzalcoatlus is the largest known animal to have ever flown. Much bigger than any bird or reptile before or since!
16. Quetzalcoatlus went extinct at the end of the Cretaceous period, approximately 65 million years ago
17. The largest Quetzalcoatlus fossil found to date was discovered in 1990 in Garza County, Texas.
18. Quetzalcoatlus is one of the best-known pterosaurs, due to its well-preserved fossils
19. Pterosaurs were on the Earth for millions of years from the late Triassic - to the late Cretaceous. (228-66 million years ago.) There are over 120 species of pterosaur discovered so far.
20. To give a comparison, you can think of a flying giraffe!! It was about as tall as a full grown one.

