

ISCA NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION



ISCA CONFERENCE 2024: REGISTRATION DETAILS

The ISCA Conference 2024 is ready to share new details. Now, you can register and take advantage of the **early bird fees** available. Please, note that these fees are limited, just as the total number of places available for the Conference. First come, first serve! The event, which will be celebrated in Mulu National Park (Malaysia), will take place from late-September through early-October, including both pre and post Conference trips. Please, do not hesitate to contact if you have any doubt or in case you need help as regards travel tips or any other Conference-related issue. New event data and contact details are included the following pages. **Scan the QR code below in order to register.**



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION



BECOME AN ISCA MEMBER

Do you own or manage a show cave? Would you like to publish your own materials in our newsletters and share your own social media posts? Do you want to become a member of the International Show Caves Association? Find out more on how to become an ISCA Member. Join us now and get our new ISCA Membership Certificate. Latest members: [Cueva del Nitro](#) and [Stalactite Cave Nature Reserve](#).



LETTER BY THE PRESIDENT

FRIEDRICH OEDL
ISCA PRESIDENT
AUSTRIA
PRESIDENT@I-S-C-A.ORG

Dear ISCA friends,

I hope everyone is having an excellent time.

The year 2024 has begun and those caves that open only for the summer season and are not open year-round will be preparing everything to start again. In some European countries we are searching for new employees because there is a lack of personnel resources in many economic places. In our endeavour to run a show cave in the best way, we need enough good and specialised colleagues as they cannot be replaced by technical instruments.

As we will conduct a worldwide research on the show cave industry again this year, it might be interesting to find out how salaries in our business differ from one place to another. Of course, it will vary greatly around the world, but the result might be a helpful indicator for many of us. Many other interesting topics will also be addressed in the planned survey, and I urge all of you to participate and send us your concerns.

I want to remind you once again to participate in our ISCA Conference in Mulu/Borneo. You will find detailed information about this fascinating adventure spot in this newsletter. For planning this event, I ask you to make a reservation as early as possible.

Now, I wish all of you a wonderful season with many enthusiastic cave guests and much success from an economic perspective, ensuring enough resources for investments in developing your site for the future!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Friedrich Oedl". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fritz Oedl
ISCA President

BY THE EDITOR



JUANJO TISCAR
ISCA SECRETARY
SPAIN
SECRETARY@I-S-C-A.ORG



I love this picture I took in Sedona (USA) six years ago. That's me in Cathedral Rock!

Dear ISCA family,

I hope you and your family and friends are all doing great.

Lots of stuff have happened in the last few months. New members have joined ISCA and there are others who have recently showed their interest in joining our association. I wanted to thank those who provided them with the necessary information and contact details in order to reach us. Besides, there are more things I would like to mention.

First of all, new information about the ISCA Conference 2024 has been included in this newsletter. Keep reading and you will find details as regards the agenda and early bird fees. Note that we still have some gaps in the agenda, so if you believe there is a presentation which may be of interest for the attendees, make sure to contact us and we will arrange everything. Regarding early bird fees, take into account these are limited, so make sure to register as soon as possible. If you have any doubts regarding the event, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Secondly, I wanted to remind you that a new show cave survey will be carried out throughout the year, just as we did two years ago. I wanted to thank the National Caves Association (NCA) and their Board, who agreed to split costs one more time. In addition, the Bulgarian Association for Cave and Eco Tourism (BAPET) will also be providing financial support to the study. We wanted to express our gratitude as this shows their commitment to be an active member in the show cave business.

And then...my novel! It is available both in English and Spanish. If you are interested in getting some copies and selling them at your cave, please contact me at the e-mail address above. Thanks!



ISCA LIBRARY

2024

[Volume 21 - Jan. & Feb.](#)

2023

[Volume 20 - Nov. & Dec.](#)

[Volume 19 - Sep. & Oct.](#)

[Volume 18 - Jul. & Aug.](#)

[Volume 17 - May. & Jun.](#)

[Volume 16 - Mar. & Apr.](#)

[Volume 15 - Jan. & Feb.](#)

2022

[Volume 14 - Nov. & Dec.](#)

[Volume 13 - Sep. & Oct.](#)

[Volume 12 - Jul. & Aug.](#)

[Volume 11 - May. & Jun.](#)

[Volume 10 - Mar. & Apr.](#)

[Volume 9 - Jan. & Feb.](#)

2021

[Volume 8 - Nov. & Dec.](#)

[Volume 7 - Sep. & Oct.](#)

[Volume 6 - Jul. & Aug.](#)

[Volume 5 - May. & Jun.](#)

[Volume 4 - Mar. & Apr.](#)

[Volume 3 - Jan. & Feb.](#)

2020

[Volume 2 - Nov. & Dec.](#)

[Volume 1 - Sep. & Oct.](#)



ISCA CONFERENCE 2024 & CONGRESS 2026

The two locations to celebrate the ISCA Conference 2024 and the 10th ISCA Congress 2026 have been confirmed. In 2024 the ISCA Conference will be taking place in Mulu National Park (Malaysia). Two years later, the ISCA Congress will be held in France, as it was confirmed in the 62nd FFTS Congress which was celebrated in October 2023.



TWO NEW ISCA MEMBERS

The International Show Caves Association welcomes two new ISCA members: *Stalactite Cave Nature Reserve* and *Cueva del Nitro*.



BECOME AN ISCA MEMBER

Do you own or manage a show cave? Would you like to publish your own materials in our newsletters and create your own social media posts? Are you willing to become a member of the International Show Caves Association? Find out more on how to become an ISCA Member. Join us now! Latest members: *Cayman Crystal Caves* and *Bulgarian Association for Cave and Eco Tourism*.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE ANYTHING IN FUTURE PUBLICATIONS?
CONTACT SECRETARY@I-S-C-A.ORG

ISCA CONFERENCE 2024



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION



Some of you have already registered for the ISCA Conference 2024, which will be celebrated in Mulu National Park (Malaysia). The dates of the event are as follows:

- Pre-Conference: September 28 - September 29, 2024.
- Conference: September 30 - October 2, 2024
- Post-Conference: October 3 - October 6, 2024

The pre- and post-Conference sessions include trips and activities which require a minimum physical condition to guarantee visitors' safety. **Reminder: places are limited.**

Please, keep reading for more information in the next pages.

**SCAN NOW
& JOIN US!**



For additional information, please contact secretary@i-s-c-a.org (Juanjo, ISCA)

If your doubts are more specific and concern your trip/stay in Mulu, please contact nina@mulupark.com (Nina, Mulu National Park)

MULU NATIONAL PARK



GUNUNG MULU NATIONAL PARK
MALAYSIA
WWW.MULUPARK.COM
[CONTACT](#)

Mulu National Park will be hosting the ISCA Conference 2024 in late-September/early-October this year. However, there are many things you may not know about this incredible and unique place.

While longboats and the visitors' own feet are the only means of transport, Mulu National Park covers around 85 000 ha of some of the oldest pristine rainforests in the world. This huge area is located on the island of Borneo in the Malaysian state of Sarawak, close to the border with Brunei. In addition to the aforementioned rainforests and their exceptional biodiversity, the place also includes an extensive limestone karst area with some of the world's largest cave chambers.

In 2000 Mulu was successfully listed as a World Heritage site, meeting all four criteria in order to do so. The forces of abundant rainwater and ground waters were combined to penetrate the limestone and to start a chemical process which formed one of the longest cave systems in the world. In addition, the island of Borneo is considered as one of the world's biodiversity hotspots, presenting visitors with an outstanding diversity of flora and fauna. Therefore, (rare) plants and animals are to be found almost in every corner.

Would you like to learn more about it? Visit their official website. Even better, if you'd rather live it in person, join our ISCA Conference 2024 now and visit Mulu for an unforgettable experience surrounded by true cavers.



Vast chambers await visitors in Mulu National Park. MuluNationalPark.com

ISCA CONFERENCE 2024





ISCA CONFERENCE 2024

Mulu National Park, World Heritage Area, Sarawak, Malaysia
29th September - 3rd October 2024

ABOUT THE EVENT

It will be the first ISCA Conference in South East Asia, Mulu National Park is the largest National Park in Sarawak and one of the first to be considered World Heritage Site in Malaysia

CONTACT

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WHERE IS MULU?

It is situated in Malaysian State of Sarawak, in the island of Borneo, Malaysia

HOW TO GET TO MULU?

Mulu is reachable by flight (no land road). Transit Kuala Lumpur & Miri/ Kuching/ Kota Kinabalu then another ATR flight by Maswings (subsidiary of Malaysia Airlines) to Mulu.
**Miri is the shortest flight duration to Mulu - 30 mins*



WHY MULU?

MULU MEETS ALL 4 Criteria for World Heritage!

- Earth's History and Geological Features
- Ecological Processes
- Superlative Natural Phenomena or Natural Beauty and Aesthetic Importance
- Biodiversity and Threatened Species

ABOUT MULU

- Deer Cave, the largest Cave passage in the world (by volume)
- The Bat exodus is a grand spectacle natural phenomenon of 3 million bats flying out of Deer Cave which include endemic bats species, the Wrinkle Lip Bat.
- The Clearwater Cave is the 8th longest cave system in the World which offer both Show Caves & Adventure Caving intermediate/advance level
- Sarawak Chamber is the largest known Cave chamber in the world by surface area




ISCA CONFERENCE 2024



HOW TO JOIN

Kindly scan below google form:



FUN FACT ABOUT MULU

- There are no banks, ATM's – prepare cash for local markets. Card (Visa/Master) is acceptable in Park HQ/Marriott
- Mulu has a clinic but bring your own sufficient supply of prescription medicines
- Alcohol is available in Mulu
- Two dominant tribes in Mulu are Berawan and Penan – mostly Christian orientated
- Malaysia is a drug free country
- The food is mostly spicy! (vegetarian menu available)
- Internet connectivity is OFTEN limited, please get a Digi simcard (strong signal at Park HQ) or Maxis simcard (strong signal at Marriott)

- RAIN in the rainforest is a dominant force and occurs daily, often interrupting flights and excursions – be flexible, be patient, be in tune with NATURE
- Raingear and non-slip shoes are essential
- Drink enough water to combat dehydration
- The temperatures could be in the high 20 degree Celsius with a 99% humidity
- See www.mulupark.com for more Mulu survival tips



SCAN NOW & JOIN US!



ISCA CONFERENCE 2024: NEW PRICES AND EARLY BIRD FEES

Check below for new prices both at Park HQ and Marriot. Note that **early bird fees are limited.**

1. PRICE FOR 5 DAYS 4 NIGHTS (PRE & CONFERENCE - **PARK HQ**) - SINGLE OCCUPANCY - **RM2440, 1 PAX (RM1750 1 PAX early bird fee)**
2. PRICE FOR 5 DAYS 4 NIGHTS (PRE & CONFERENCE - **PARK HQ**) - TWIN SHARING - **RM3864, 2 PAX (RM2484 2 PAX early bird fee)**
3. PRICE FOR 5 DAYS 4 NIGHTS (PRE & CONFERENCE - **MARRIOTT**) SINGLE OCCUPANCY - **RM3385, 1 PAX (RM2695 1 PAX early bird fee)**
4. PRICE FOR 5 DAYS 4 NIGHTS (PRE & CONFERENCE - **MARRIOTT**) DELUXE TWIN SHARING - **RM4970, 2 PAX (RM3590 2 PAX early bird)**
5. PRICE FOR 5 DAYS 4 NIGHTS (PRE & CONFERENCE - **MARRIOTT**) PREMIER TWIN SHARING - **RM5370, 2 PAX (RM3990 2 PAX early bird fee)**



Early bird fees are available BUT limited! Register now!

ISCA CONFERENCE 2024: AGENDA

Please, take into account that the following data is subject to change as presentations could suffer changes.

September 30

- 7.45 – 8.15am – Registration, Arrival of Guests, Arrival of VIPS, Welcoming dance
- 8.30am – Welcoming address by ADUN MULU – Yang Berhormat Datuk Gerawat Gala (tbc)
- 8.45am – Welcoming address by ISCA President – Mr Friedrich Oedl
- 9.00am - Welcoming address by the Controller of National Park & Nature Reserves, Controller of Wildlife, CEO Sarawak Forestry Corporation – Tuan Abang Arabi Bin Abang Aimran (tbc)
- 9.15am – Welcoming address by Mulu National Park Manager – Mr Hein Gerstner
- 9.30am – Mulu Historic perspective – Mr Andy Eavis (Expedition leader, Royal Geographical Soc.)
- 10.00 – Tea break
- 10.30am – Significance of Mulu on the World Heritage value spectrum – Dr Melvin Terry Gumal (Deputy CEO II, Sarawak Forestry Corporation) /Heritage Dept personel (tbc)
- 11am – Showcaves tourism & adjacent communities, advantages & disadvantages – Mr Bian Rumei (Mulu Park Tourism Services Manager)
- 11.30am – Showcaves in remote areas – a survival guide & rescue - Mr Kenneth Nilong (Mulu Park senior guide & MOCSAR member)
- 12pm – Lunch (Marriott)
- 2pm – 6pm – Deer & Lang caves tour

October 1

- 8.30am – Wind & Clearwater caves tour
- 12pm – Lunch (Marriott)
- 2pm – What is tropical karst and why is it vastly different? - Mr Dave Gillieson (tbc)
- 2.30pm – The post covid recovery period, what did we learn? How can we re-design our showcaves business models? – (tbc)
- 3pm – Importance of climate change in term of Show caves management – Mr Hein Gerstner (Mulu Park Manager)
- 3.30pm – Bats in Mulu (Biodiversity & Conservation) – Mdm Ellen McArthur (Mulu Park Research Liaison & Community Education Officer)
- 4pm – Tea break
- 4.30pm – Managing visitor impacts in wild caves, an Australian perspective - John Brush (Australasian Cave & Karst Management Association)
- 5pm – Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (tbc)
- 5.30pm – Q&A

October 2

- 8.30am – Medicinal walk/Botany walk/Canopy tour walk
- 11.30am – Lunch (Marriott/Park HQ)
- 1.30pm – (available slot)
- 2pm - (available slot)
- 2.30pm – (available slot)
- 3pm – ((available slot)
- 3.30pm – tea break (30 minutes)
- 4pm – ISCA details/membership – Mr Juanjo Tiscar Moya (ISCA secretary)
- 4.30pm – Q&A, dismiss
- 7.30pm – Gala dinner



We are working on closing the agenda and even though slots are limited, we are open to your suggestions. If interested, let us know!

ISCA CONFERENCE 2024: AVAILABLE TOURS

Below you can find the list of tours available during pre-Conference, Conference and post-Conference days. The list includes dates, departure time, duration, number of slots and price per person. If you have any doubt regarding the difficulty or any other aspect of each activity, please contact us.

		TOURS AVAILABLE	DEPARTURE TIME	DURATION	LIMIT	PRICE PER PERSON
PRE CONFERENCE	27-sept	FASTLANE SHOWCAVE	2PM	2HRS	12 PERSON	RM65
		RACER CAVE INTERMEDIATE ADVENTURE CAVING	1PM	2 - 3HRS	6 PERSON	RM165
		LAGANG CAVE INTERMEDIATE ADVENTURE CAVING	1PM	2 - 3HRS	6 PERSON	RM160
		NIGHTWALK TOUR	7PM	2 HRS	6 PERSON	RM25
	28-sept	FASTLANE SHOWCAVE	2PM	2HRS	12 PERSON	RM65
		STONEHORSE CAVE INTERMEDIATE ADVENTURE CAVING	1PM	3HRS	6 PERSON	RM135
		CLEARWATER CONNECTION ADVANCE ADVENTURE CAVING	9AM	WHOLE DAY	6 PERSON	RM225
		NIGHTWALK TOUR	7PM	2 HRS	6 PERSON	RM25
	29-sept	FASTLANE SHOWCAVE	2PM	2HRS	12 PERSON	RM65
		FRUITBAT & KENYALANG CAVE INTERMEDIATE ADVENTURE CAVING	9AM	WHOLE DAY	6 PERSON	RM270
		CLEARWATER CONNECTION ADVANCE ADVENTURE CAVING	9AM	WHOLE DAY	6 PERSON	RM225
		NIGHTWALK TOUR	7PM	2 HRS	6 PERSON	RM25
CONFERENCE	30-sept	DEER & LANG SHOWCAVES	2.30PM	4 HRS	ALL PARTICIPANTS	INCLUDE IN THE REGISTRATION FEE
	1-oct	WIND & CLEARWATERSHOWCAVES	8.30AM	4 HRS		
	2-oct	BOTANICAL/MEDICINAL & CANOPY SKYWALK TOUR	8.30AM	2.5HRS		
POST CONFERENCE	3-oct	FASTLANE SHOWCAVE	2PM	2HRS	12 PERSON	RM65
		PINNACLES TOUR	9.30AM	3 DAYS 2 NIGHTS - RETURN ON 5/10	20 PERSON	RM455
		SARAWAK CHAMBER ADVANCE ADVENTURE CAVING	9AM	2 DAYS 1 NIGHT - RETURN ON 4/10	8 PERSON	RM312
		LAGANG CAVE INTERMEDIATE ADVENTURE CAVING	9AM	2 - 3HRS	6 PERSON	RM160
		NIGHTWALK TOUR	7PM	2 HRS	6 PERSON	RM25
	4-oct	FASTLANE SHOWCAVE	2PM	2HRS	12 PERSON	RM65
		PINNACLES TOUR	9.30AM	3 DAYS 2 NIGHTS - RETURN ON 6/10	20 PERSON	RM455
		CLEARWATER CONNECTION ADVANCE ADVENTURE CAVING	9AM	WHOLE DAY	6 PERSON	RM225
		RACER CAVE INTERMEDIATE ADVENTURE CAVING	1PM	2 - 3HRS	6 PERSON	RM165
		NIGHTWALK TOUR	7PM	2 HRS	6 PERSON	RM25
	5-oct	FASTLANE SHOWCAVE	2PM	2HRS	12 PERSON	RM65
		FRUITBAT & KENYALANG CAVE INTERMEDIATE ADVENTURE CAVING	9AM	WHOLE DAY	6 PERSON	RM270
		STONEHORSE CAVE INTERMEDIATE ADVENTURE CAVING	1PM	3HRS	6 PERSON	RM135

Contact details:

- secretary@i-s-c-a.org (Juanjo, ISCA)
- nina@mulupark.com (Nina, Mulu National Park)



SHOW CAVES SURVEY 2024



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION

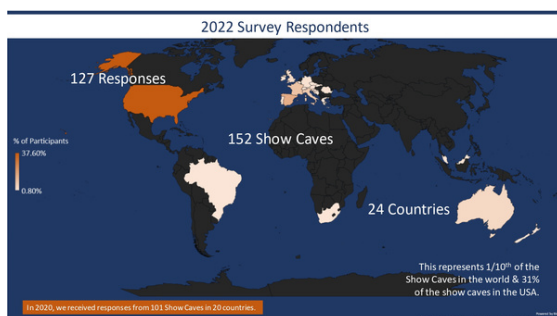


The International Show Caves Association and the US National Caves Association (NCA) will be cooperating one more year in order to carry out a survey on the show cave business, just as they did two years ago. This time, we also wanted to thank the Bulgarian Association for Cave and Eco Tourism (BAPET) for showing immediate interest in providing financial support to the study.



In 2022, the ISCA & NCA research conducted by Core Research received 127 responses representing 152 show caves from all over the world. The data collected served to establish a baseline for the significance of the show cave industry and how show caves contribute to the global economy, monitor the recovery of show caves after the COVID-19 pandemic, and identify show cave manager's immediate concerns and plans for the future of show caves from all corners.

New details will be provided soon as ISCA will be sharing the survey with all show caves in order to reach a significant amount of participants. If you have any doubt or are willing to support, please contact us.



Activities & Amenities	By Region, Visitation, Income & Ownership											
	Overall	USA	Europe	Values			Income			Ownership		
# of Caves	127	67	48	Under 20K	20K-100K	Over 100K	Under \$100K	\$100K-\$500K	\$500K-\$1.5M	Govt O&O	Priv O&O	Gov O, Priv Op
Guided Tour	92.2%	87.2%	94.2%	90.4%	90.4%	91.4%	90.5%	91.4%	91.7%	90.9%	90.9%	90.4%
Gift Shop	70.0%	69.0%	66.2%	61.4%	60.4%	60.9%	61.9%	62.9%	61.7%	66.4%	68.8%	67.9%
Snack bar, Café or Restaurant	54.3%	46.8%	55.9%	40.9%	53.8%	65.3%	58.1%	54.9%	60.0%	57.3%	43.8%	60.6%
None/Trade	41.7%	53.3%	27.9%	34.1%	50.0%	44.4%	38.1%	34.9%	40.0%	50.0%	40.6%	40.9%
Museum	17.3%	34.0%	42.8%	40.4%	40.4%	33.3%	47.6%	37.3%	28.9%	22.7%	43.8%	33.3%
Adventure Cave Exits	34.6%	40.4%	27.9%	36.4%	28.4%	44.4%	38.1%	31.4%	37.9%	31.8%	34.4%	33.3%
Scenic Photos	29.1%	38.3%	20.4%	18.2%	26.9%	72.2%	14.3%	22.9%	29.2%	68.2%	28.1%	33.3%
Live Music or Concert	20.5%	17.0%	33.8%	20.5%	25.0%	50.0%	19.0%	17.1%	37.9%	40.9%	21.3%	25.8%
Special Event Space	27.6%	34.0%	23.9%	18.2%	36.4%	38.9%	23.8%	28.4%	29.2%	36.4%	21.9%	31.8%
Stage	26.8%	39.2%	0.0%	11.4%	36.4%	50.0%	0.0%	20.0%	43.8%	50.0%	0.0%	60.9%
Sound & Light Show	21.3%	6.4%	30.9%	18.2%	17.3%	33.3%	9.5%	14.3%	33.3%	31.8%	15.6%	19.7%
Playground	21.3%	27.7%	16.2%	18.2%	23.0%	27.8%	19.0%	20.9%	29.2%	40.9%	28.1%	22.7%



CELEBRATION OF JUNE 6



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION



One more year, the international community of show caves is arranging everything to celebrate the International Day of Caves and the Subterranean World (*aka 'Cave Day'*) on June 6. As in previous celebrations, it is expected that show caves from all over the world join one of the most special days in the calendar. However, we need your help in order to engage everyone else to participate in this celebration as we are still working on having this date officially recognised.

An important announcement by the FFTS and ISCA will be made in the next few weeks, which will involve the participation of all show caves, and a new publication will be shared among our members and friends in order for all of them to be able to be an important part of this day. We highly encourage you to take part in it!

Special offers, engaging activities for groups of friends and families, as well as other interesting events will take place in order to increase awareness on this day and promote the importance of our business. Therefore, we are interested in learning more about the activities and plans which are taking place near you. Therefore, we would greatly appreciate if you sent us your materials (especially photos with a description) to secretary@i-s-c-a.org.

In addition, we would also like you to use the hashtag **#CaveDay** on social networks in order to promote the celebration of such an important and special day for the show cave community.

LATEST UIS BULLETIN NOW AVAILABLE: VOLUME 65



The International Union of Speleology (UIS) has recently published Volume 65-1&2 of the UIS Bulletin, which can be downloaded on the following [link](#). Among others, this issue brings a wide variety of topics, including:

- Editorial: *The speleology we want in the coming years*
- President's Column by Nadja Zupan Hajna.
- Proposal for UNESCO Caves and Karst Day Proclamation
- The UIS International Year of Caves and Karst 2021/22 UIS: *An Early Summary*
- Another Mulu expedition in November 2023
- Guidelines for Cave and Karst Protection: Updated and Translated
- United Nations: Conferences and speleology
- Statement of the German Speleological Federation for the UN Water Conference 2023
- UIS Delegation in Brazil: The present and future of international speleology on the agenda
- A Visit to Ouro Preto and its historic mining area, Minas Gerais, Brazil
- The Austrian Academy of Sciences: A New affiliated organization of the UIS
- UIS Informatic Commission: Opportunity to advance cave documentation
- UIS Informatic Commission: UIS online glossary now available
- UIS Arts and Letters Commission: Embark on an inspiring journey
- 14th International Cave Rescue Conference in Spain
- France Habe Prize

If you wish to access the whole collection of UIS Bulletins, you can do it on this [link](#).

In addition, the UIS is organising the [19th International Congress of Speleology \(ICS\)](#) from July 20 through July 27, 2025. Continue reading this newsletter for more information.

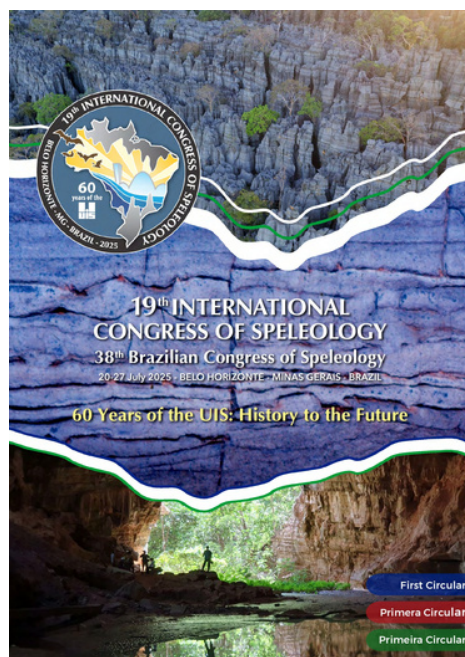
19TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF SPELEOLOGY



The Brazilian Speleological Society (SBE) and the National Center for Research and Conservation of Caves (ICMBio/CECAV) will host the 19th International Congress of Speleology (ICS), which will include the 38th Brazilian Congress of Speleology (CBE) and the celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the UIS. The event will take place from July 20 through July 27, 2025.

Seventy-two years after the first ICS (Paris, 1953), the host city of the 19th ICS in 2025 will be Belo Horizonte (Brazil), capital of the state of Minas Gerais. For the occasion, the main theme of the event will be “60 Years of the UIS: History to the Future.”

The first circular of the event was released some weeks ago. Follow this link to download and visit the official site of the event for additional information.



First circular of the 19th ICS. ICS Official Site.

CUEVATUR 2024



CuevaTUR
2024
IX CONGRESO ESPAÑOL SOBRE
CUEVAS Y MINAS TURÍSTICAS

"Geología y Turismo:
Realidades complementarias"



The 9th Spanish Congress on Show Caves and Mines, CUEVATUR IX, will be celebrated in Karrantza (Bizkaia, Spain), where Pozalagua Cave is located, from October 23 to October 25. Two years after its celebration in Pulpi (Almería, Spain), a new meeting will be taking place in the North of the country.

Under the main theme 'Geology and Tourism: Complementary Realities', the Spanish Show Caves Association (ACTE) will be organising a new edition of the event together with the Council of Karrantza and Enkartur. In addition, the Congress will be supported by Euskadi, the Basque Government and the Provincial Council of Bizkaia; and it is sponsored by Termas de Molinar. Other collaborators are the Ministry of Industry and Tourism, and the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, as well as the International Show Caves Association, the University of the Basque Country and the Association of Ibero-American Show Caves (actiba).

At the event, experts from different corners will meet in order to share ideas and experiences about the subterranean tourism, a sector which has become the spearhead of innovative and sustainable tourism, especially in rural regions and thanks to its natural and cultural heritage.

You can download the first circular of the Congress on the [Spanish Show Caves Association \(ACTE\) official site](#) (file in Spanish), where you will find more specific details about the event.

CuevaTUR
2024
IX CONGRESO ESPAÑOL SOBRE
CUEVAS Y MINAS TURÍSTICAS



RELIGHTING DEMÄNOVSKÁ LIBERTY CAVE AND ICE CAVE, A CAVE LIGHTING PROJECT

special thanks to Cave Lighting



CAVE LIGHTING
GERMANY

WWW.CAVELIGHTING.DE

INFO@CAVELIGHTING.DE



Demänovská cave system was a real challenge which ended up being a success. *Cave Lighting.*

Situated in Low Tatra Mountains, Demänovská cave system is the largest cave system in Slovakia, with more than 40 kilometers of interconnected underground passages. From more than ten caves that are part of this system, two of them are famous to the public: Liberty Cave, developed as a show cave and opened for the public in 1924, currently the most visited cave in Slovakia, and Ice Cave, first open to the public in the 19th century and reopened with new stairs and electrical lighting in 1952.

2022 marked the beginning of a laborious work which was performed by Cave Lighting in cooperation with the local electrical company Voltatech a.s. They certainly faced several challenges to complete this astonishing and wonderful job.

The first one to receive a new lighting system was Ice Cave. As the name very clearly suggests, the cave is... very cold! Extreme temperatures ranged between well below zero degrees to a maximum of 3°C deep into the cave system. The access to the cave is not easy, requiring a real mountain hike in not quite favorable conditions, as the trail is often covered by ice and snow, cave entrance being almost 100 m above the bottom of the valley. In addition, the inside of the cave is also an aspect to take into consideration, and anyone who wants to go through it is required to climb over 650 steps up and down.

CAVE LIGHTING
GERMANYWWW.CAVELIGHTING.DEINFO@CAVELIGHTING.DE

A member of the Cave Lighting team working inside one of the caves. *Cave Lighting.*

Placing luminaries was really challenging because of the number of twists and turns and since it is mandatory to find a good placement in order to get good lighting and avoid blinding the visitors. Another thing that had to be considered was the future ice forming in a lot of parts of the cave, which made impossible to place the luminaries on the ground and on the walls of the cave so many of the luminaries had to be installed far away from the walls and cave formations, on the handrail and on the suspended visitors path itself, not the ideal location for light sources if you want to create a modern tridimensional lighting and avoid a flat looking more traditional type of lighting.

Last but not least, in the deep part of the cave the spaces are very large and the ceiling height is considerable, necessitating the use of ropes and specific climbing equipment for the installation of lamps and control units. Anyway, the Cave Lighting team managed to find a way to mitigate all of this and finish in time the installation of the new lighting system, together with the switching system, a brand-new light and music show and audio system for comment points. The cave was reopened for the public in May 2023 and the final programming of the new system was finished later in the year.



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In March 2023, Cave Lighting started the Liberty Cave's project, which presented a new set of challenges. The cave itself is huge, including a long tour path which is over 2 kilometres in length and has more than 1,100 steps. Besides, the morphology of the cave is very diverse, with different galleries and halls, from low and narrow passages with delicate formations to huge galleries and domes of impressive size.

Another challenge was the cave's high humidity, relative air humidity going to 99 percent and a lot of water dripping from the walls and ceilings, including a permanent waterfall from the ceiling of one of the big domes (which was illuminated with several lamps placed directly under the waterfall).

The temperature in Liberty Cave was higher than in Ice Cave, creating a different yet interesting working environment. The lighting of the underground river that crosses the cave at the lowest level of the route and the impressive galleries crossed by it proved quite challenging as well, and in the big dome the continuous noise of the river over the huge space of the hall made communication between the team members almost impossible. Anyway, after almost 5 months of hard work the installation of the new luminaries was finished in July 2023. In the following months the electrical connections were also made by the local electrician team (Voltatech a.s.) and the final programming of the tour lights and shows was completed in September 2023.

In order to carry out this complex project, Cave Lighting mobilized one of the largest teams. The activities were coordinated by the on-site project manager Alejandro Hernaiz, the other team members being Dan Ciulpan, Tudor Marin, Andrei Daniel, Cristian Nitulescu, Tomas Jassus, Radu Puscas, Oleg Klimchuk, Vladimir Lyevashev. The complex programming was made possible by Vladimir Vashkevich. Installation of the new high voltage power supply, including new power cable, electrical cabinets, generators, etc. and the electrical connections for the low voltage installation was made by a numerous local team coordinated by Voltatech a.s. electrical company. The eight light and music shows in both caves were designed and created by Jan Ptacin.

In summary, the success of this difficult project would not have been possible without the participation of the aforementioned number of professionals in the field. Now, the most famous and visited show caves in Slovakia has a new and modern LED lighting system which will provide the many visitors with an exciting experience for the years to come. The works in Demänovská cave system will continue in Peace Cave, the third cave that will be opened to the public in the near future.

For more information about Cave Lighting, you can visit their [official website](http://www.cavelighting.de).

IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL KARST ECOTOURISM DESTINATIONS IN PHILIPPINES

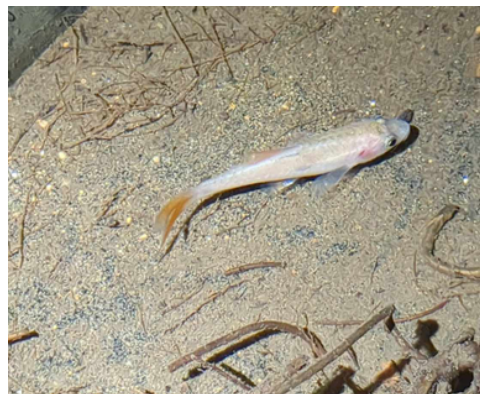
special thanks to Mikko Cuevas



Part of the team working in the project. Mikko Cuevas.

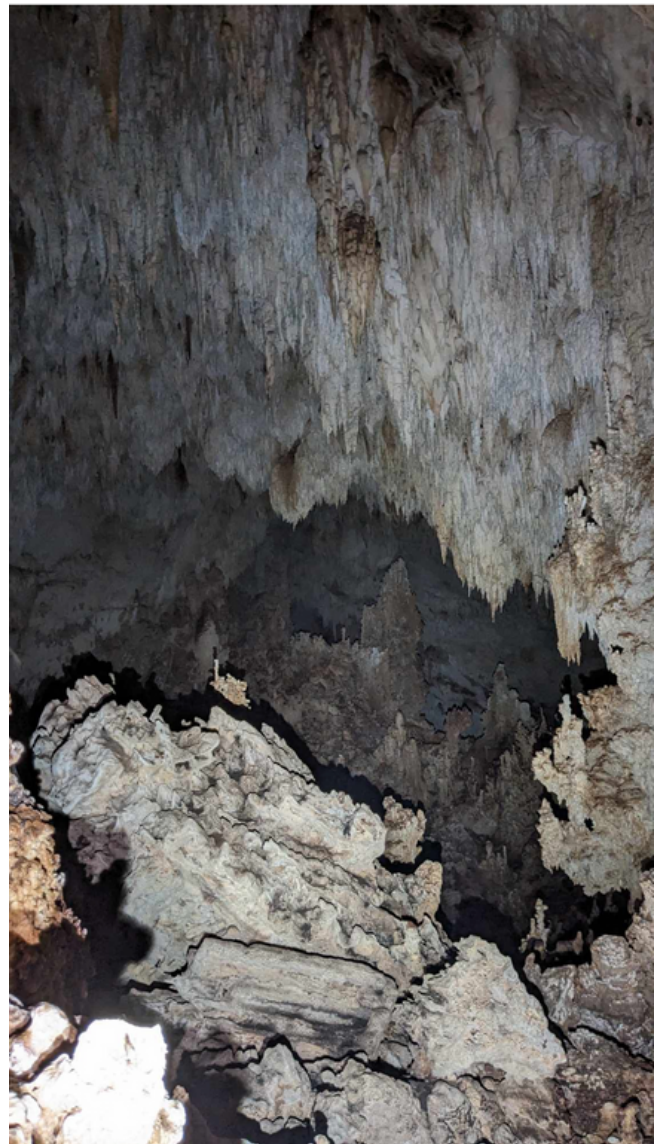
Between February 20 and 23, 2024, explorations were conducted within the 29,000-hectare Ancestral Domain located in Esperanza municipality, province of Sultan Kudarat (Philippines). The primary focus was on identifying potential karst ecotourism destinations for future environmental development to contribute to livelihood opportunities for poverty relief among indigenous communities residing in far-flung areas.

For an area to be considered part of an ecotourism destination within an Ancestral Domain, it must obtain Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) and establish a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) involving the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, Local Government Unit, Indigenous Peoples communities, and other relevant stakeholders.



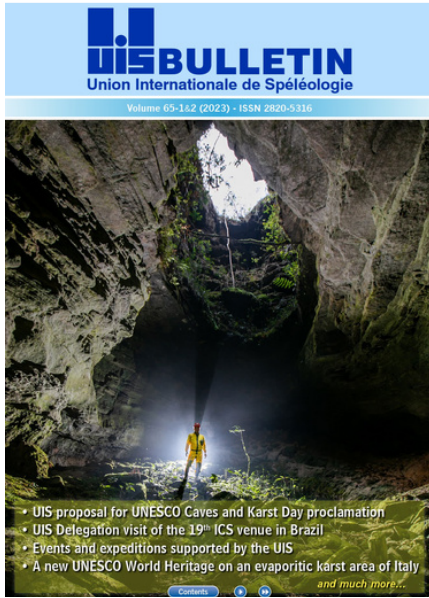
Species found in the area. Mikko Cuevas.

The team consisted of officials and representatives from various entities, including the Local Government Unit and Municipal Tourism Office of Esperanza, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, Philippine National Police - Esperanza, Provincial Tourism Office of Sultan Kudarat, Mines and Geosciences Bureau - Koronadal, CADT holder, Tribal Leaders, Barangay Local Government Unit of Salumping and Legodon, DMCI/M and S Company, SBAOC, and local communities. Spearheaded by the proactive and goal-oriented Municipal Tourism Officer of Esperanza, Mr. Louenel Elises, this collaborative effort brought together a diverse array of individuals and purpose-driven leaders united in the pursuit of significant achievements, positive societal impact, and the realization of long-term success and sustainable development goals, benefiting both present and future generations.



Some of the formations in the area and team members having a break after their hard work. *Mikko Cuevas*.

LATEST PUBLICATIONS



UIS BULLETIN
Union Internationale de Spéléologie

Volume 65-142 (2023) - ISSN 2820-5316

- UIS proposal for UNESCO Caves and Karst Day proclamation
- UIS Delegation visit of the 19th ICS venue in Brazil
- Events and expeditions supported by the UIS
- A new UNESCO World Heritage on an evaporitic karst area of Italy and much more...

EuroSpeleo Newsletter February 2024



FSE Projects and the Code of Ethics

FSE should follow these rules. Carrying the FSE logo means being in line with FSE aims and objectives and respecting FSE statutes and regulations, including those from the FSE Commissions.

It is also self-understanding that events under the auspices of the FSE have to comply with national laws and customs in the country where the activity takes place. It is obvious that when a project fails, such "good behaviour", the FSE Bureau will review the funding or the conditions of sponsorship for such a project in question.

These obligations should in no way stop anyone from presenting an application for a good project and eventually receive FSE EuroSpeleo Project status. Quality Project awards will be well-recognized and supported.

Please be aware that the **guidelines for EuroSpeleo Projects 2024 have been revised** and incorporate new **two deadlines** as outlined below. With this measure we strive to be more objective when it comes to the distribution of sponsoring items and financial grants to someone of the same level.

30th of April for projects taking place from **01/07 to 31/12** of the same year.

31st of October for projects taking place from **01/01 to 30/04** of the following year.

You will find the new guidelines, which are effective for projects taking place after 1st of July 2024, on our website: <https://www.eurospeleo.eu/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2024-01-01-2024-04-30-EN.pdf>

Phase - also note that the **14th EuroSpeleo Forum** will take place during **SYRACUSA 24 in Castello in Pinar, Salerno Province, Campania region in southern Italy** from 31st October to 3rd November 2024 (for the website see the list on page 2).

At this event FSE will hold its annual CAJAL and as already mentioned in the latest issue of the EuroSpeleo Newsletter, we expect that the member delegates will be present as we intend to vote on revised FSE statutes and we need a 2/3 quorum for this to be legally binding.

Best speleological wishes,
Jean-Claude Ties, FSE President

FSE Partners: AdventureWorks, Korda's, Scursion, and others.

NCA "State of the Union" Report

As the NCA enters into our 59th year, we continue to provide more benefits to all of our family. This past year we have added several new members, and have successfully launched a new website. This year, members will be receiving official NCA recognition signage to be installed on each property, and promotional videos to be used in various advertising venues.

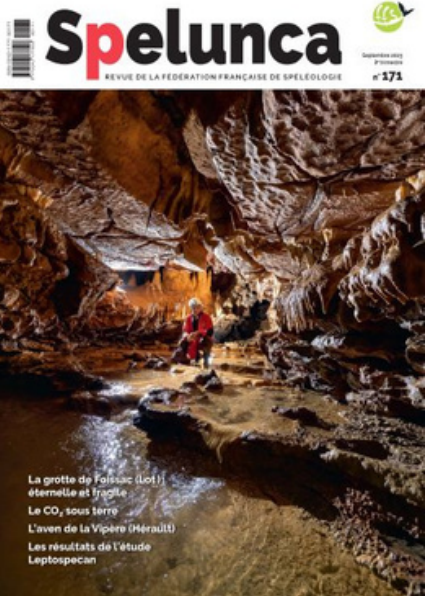
We will continue to stay true to our core values and our purpose: Stewardship, Education, Entertainment, and Cooperation.

Our very first concern, and the reason this organization was created, was to fight the Johnson Administration's elimination of roadway billboards. Since then, the NCA has successfully established guidelines for Radon monitoring and proved to the government that we could operate safely. When several states tried to shut down cave operations because of White Noise Syndrome, the NCA's members joined together to present government oversight and keep our businesses open. We've continued to operate in spite of government restrictions on COVID and a myriad of other government. We're here to help you! regulations. Personally, it was the support of other NCA family members that stopped the Corps of Engineers from acquiring War Eagle Cavern's property at the entrance to our cave. As independent, family businesses we have a big NCA family ready to help at any time. Together, we speak with a bigger voice!

As reported, we are also in a very good financial position for future projects that we might take on. The future is bright for all our NCA family, helping us all to learn and to grow.

Dennis Boyer
President

Page | 1



Spelunca
REVUE DE LA FEDERATION FRANCAISE DE SPELEOLOGIE n°171

La grotte de Fontcaver (Lot)
Hermès et Irène
Le CO₂ sous terre
L'aven de la Vipère (Hérault)
Les résultats de l'étude Leptospécan

6th June International Day of Caves and the Subterranean World

International Show Caves Association

ACTE
ASOCIACION DE CUEVAS TURISTICAS ESPAÑOLAS



THE CAVE

Juan José Tiscar Moya

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE A PUBLICATION?
SEND IT TO US AT SECRETARY@I-S-C-A.ORG

THE FUNNY SIDE OF CAVES



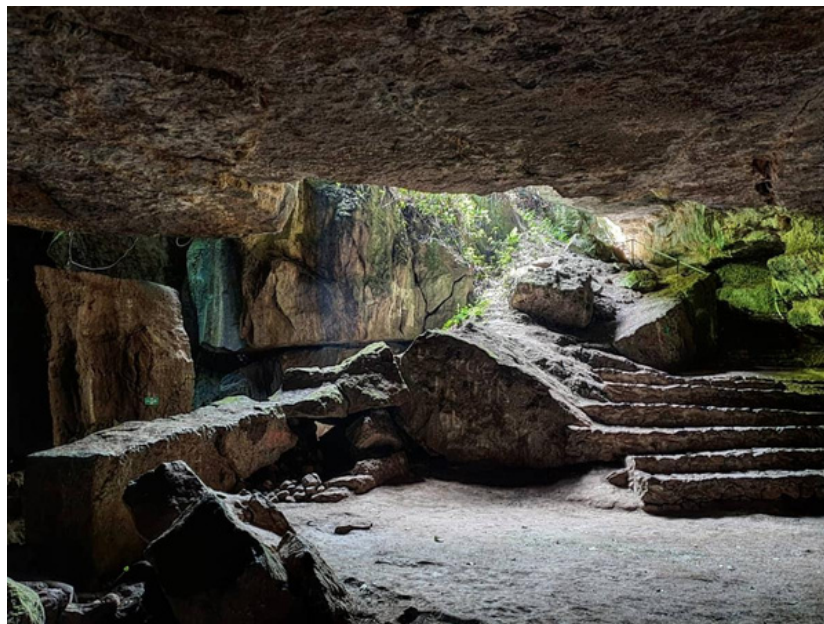
Webcomicsthreading.blogspot.com



Eric Lightsey (Pinterest)

WHAT CAVE IS IT?

CAVE #35



What cave is it? *Maria Camila Bahamón, RadioNacional.co*

HINTS

HINT #1 - The cave is part of the natural heritage of Zapatoca.

HINT #2 - A lot of different thrilling adventures can be practised in the cave.

DO YOU KNOW THE ANSWER?
SEND IT TO SECRETARY@I-S-C-A.ORG

PREVIOUS ANSWERS

Last month's CAVE #34 was Stalactite Cave Nature Reserve (Israel).

Stalactite Cave Nature Reserve (Israel) is located on the western slopes of the Judean Hills, not far from Bet Shemesh. You can enjoy the natural beauty both above the ground and in the underground caves. The area encompasses an extensive natural woodland area and the largest and most beautiful stalactites-stalagmites cave in Israel.

ISCA CALENDAR

2024

April 17 - International Bar Appreciation Day

June 6 - International Day of Caves and the Subterranean World

July 1 - 5 - NSS Convention 2024 (Sewanee, Tennessee, USA)

October 23 - 25 - CUEVATUR IX (Karrantza, Bizkaia, Spain)

November 18 - 22 - IAAPA (Orlando, Florida, USA)

September 29 - October 3 - ISCA Conference (Mulu National Park, Malaysia)

2024 - NCA Convention (Niagara Cave, Harmony, Minnesota, USA)

2025 & 2026

April 17 - International Bar Appreciation Day

June 6 - International Day of Caves and the Subterranean World

2025 - NCA Convention (Luray Caverns, Harrisonburg, Virginia, USA)

July 20 - 27 - 19th International Congress of Speleology (Belo Horizonte, Brazil)

2026 - 10th ISCA Congress

NOTE: THESE DATES MAY SUFFER CHANGES.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE AN EVENT?

CONTACT SECRETARY@I-S-C-A.ORG



JOIN US

How to become an ISCA member?

1. Send the [ISCA Membership Application Form](#) and a recommendation by an ISCA Full Member.
2. Wait for approval by the ISCA Board of Directors.
3. Annual due should be paid after approval. Check ISCA Membership Application Form for info.
4. You are now an ISCA member, congratulations! You should receive an [ISCA Membership Certificate](#) soon.

MORE INFORMATION ON OUR [WEBSITE](#)

DOUBTS?

CONTACT SECRETARY@I-S-C-A.ORG

Is there anything else you need?

Make sure you visit our website in order not to miss anything:



[NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS](#)



[RENEWAL FORM](#)



[ISCA HISTORY](#)



[ORGANIZATION](#)

DO YOU STILL NEED SOMETHING ELSE FROM US?

CONTACT SECRETARY@I-S-C-A.ORG

FUTURE ISCA EVENTS DEPEND ON YOU

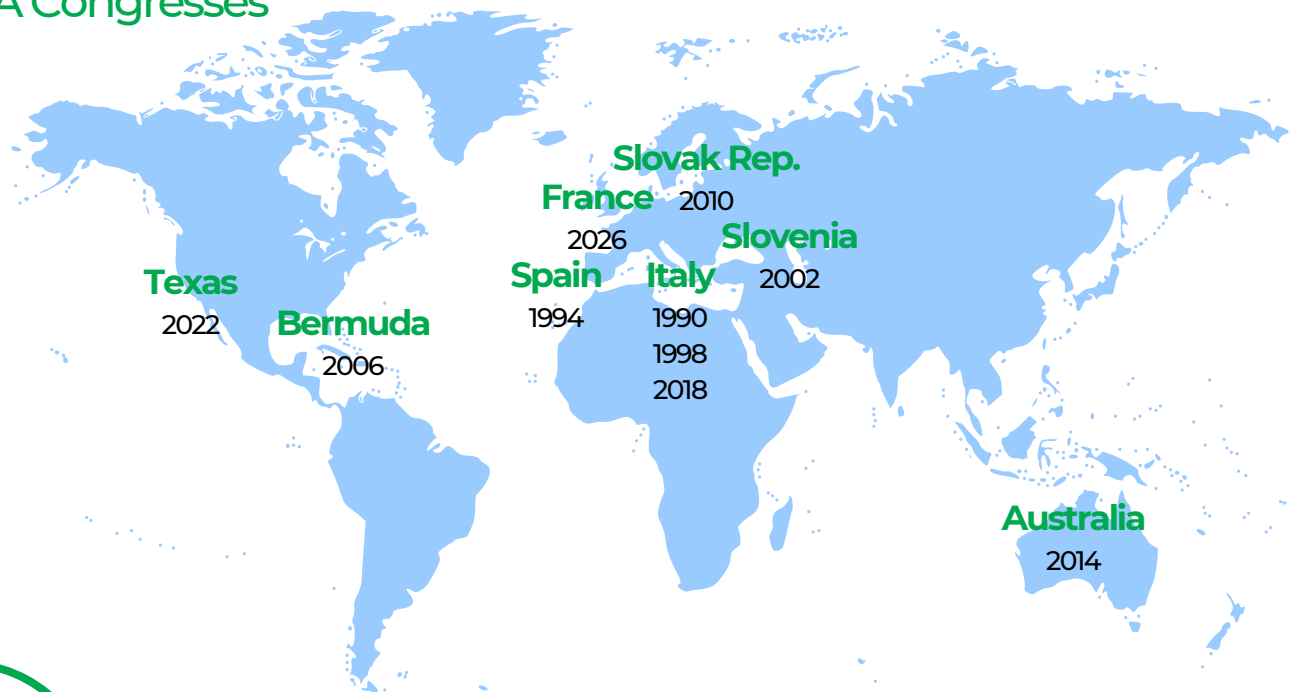
Would you like to host an ISCA event?

1. **ISCA Congresses.** They are held every four years, preferably during the months of October and/or November. The venue for future congresses shall be determined in the General Assembly of the preceding Congress. General Assemblies take place during each ISCA Congress and they are expected to be held over a period of one day.
2. **ISCA Conferences.** They shall be held two years after the celebration of a Congress, preferably during the months of October and/or November. Applications for sanction to hold a Conference shall be received by the Secretary not less than six (6) months before the proposed Conference is scheduled to commence.
3. **ISCA Meetings.** Meeting may be held in the intervening year between a Congress and any Conference. No more than one ISCA Meeting per year may be sanctioned. Applications for sanction to hold an ISCA Meeting shall be received by the Secretary not less than six (6) months before the proposed ISCA Meeting is scheduled to commence. Applicants must be made by a Full Member of the Association.

Download the [ISCA Constitution](#) and learn more about these events.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HOSTING AN ISCA EVENT?
CONTACT SECRETARY@I-S-C-A.ORG

ISCA Congresses



LINKS OF INTEREST



ARE WE MISSING YOUR ORGANIZATION?
SEND YOUR LOGO (HIGH QUALITY) TO SECRETARY@I-S-C-A.ORG

ISCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Secretary

Juan José Tíscar Moya, Spain

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Juan José Durán Valsero, Spain

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ISCA NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION

ABOUT US

The International Show Caves Association (ISCA) was founded in 1990 and is headquartered in Frasassi/Genga, Italy, ISCA is an international organization of persons, associations, corporations, and government agencies who own, manage or operate show caves that are open to the public. ISCA provides a critical forum for show caves to network and collaborate on matters that pertain to their caves. ISCA aims to promote, encourage, and support the cooperation of show cave operators, speleologists and cave enthusiasts through the sharing of information and to promote the preservation and conservation of caves, while increasing public interest in the world of show caves by way of unique marketing and the evolution of methods to enhance the show cave experience.

Special thanks to everyone who collaborated.

If you no longer want to receive our e-mails, please contact us to unsubscribe.

ISCA Newsletter

March 2024 - Volume 22

Editor: Juan José Tíscar Moya

E-mail address: secretary@i-s-c-a.org