

ISCA & NCA Show Cave Industry Survey 2026

This report was generated on **June 1, 2026**. Overall **91 respondents** completed this questionnaire, representing **112 show caves**.

Country by Region, Visitation & Revenue												
Respondents	Total	Region				Visitation			Revenue			
		USA	Europe	Asia	Other	<20k	20k-50k	>50k	<\$210k	\$210k-\$225k	\$225k-\$1.7M	>\$1.7M
Base	112	33	65	1	13	31	44	37	37	2	47	26
Countries												
Austria	2		2			1		1	1			1
Australia	10				10	8	2		3		4	3
Belgium	0											
Brazil	0											
Czech Republic	0											
France	9		9			3	4	2	3		5	1
Georgia	2		2					2			1	1
Germany	3		3			1	1	1	1		1	1
Greece	0											
Hungary	0											
Israel	0											
Italy	7		7			3	2	2	2		4	1
Malaysia	0											
Mauritius	0											
Mexico	0											
Montenegro	1		1				1				1	
New Zealand	2				2			2				2
Portugal	3		3				1	2			2	1
Slovakia	13		13				13		13			
Slovenia	2		2			1		1			1	1
Spain	18		18			7	3	8	10		5	3
Romania	0											
UK	2		2					2			2	
USA	33	33				4	16	13	1	2	20	10
Other (Croatia)	1		1			1			1			
Other (Ireland)	2		2				1	1			1	1
Other (Armenia)	1			1		1			1			
Other (Guatemala)	1				1	1			1			
PERCENTAGES												
Country by Region, Visitation & Revenue												
Respondents		Region				Visitation			Revenue			
		USA	Europe	Asia	Other	<20k	20k-50k	>50k	<\$210k	\$210k-\$225k	\$225k-\$1.7M	>\$1.7M
Base	112	33	65	1	13	31	44	37	37	2	47	26
Countries												
Austria	1,79 %		3,08 %			3,23 %		2,70 %	2,70 %			2,13 %
Australia	8,93 %				76,92 %	25,81 %	4,55 %		8,11 %		8,51 %	6,38 %
Belgium												
Brazil												
Czech Republic												
France	8,04 %		13,85 %			9,68 %	9,09 %	5,41 %	8,11 %		10,64 %	2,13 %
Georgia	1,79 %		3,08 %					5,41 %			2,13 %	2,13 %
Germany	2,68 %		4,62 %			3,23 %	2,27 %	2,70 %	2,70 %		2,13 %	2,13 %
Greece												
Hungary												
Israel												
Italy	6,25 %		10,77 %			9,68 %	4,55 %	5,41 %	5,41 %		8,51 %	2,13 %
Malaysia												
Mauritius												
Mexico												
Montenegro	0,89 %		1,54 %				2,27 %				2,13 %	
New Zealand	1,79 %				15,38 %			5,41 %				4,26 %
Portugal	2,68 %		4,62 %				2,27 %	5,41 %			4,26 %	2,13 %
Slovakia	11,61 %		20,00 %				29,55 %		35,14 %			
Slovenia	1,79 %		3,08 %			3,23 %		2,70 %			2,13 %	2,13 %
Spain	16,07 %		27,69 %			22,58 %	6,82 %	21,62 %	27,03 %		10,64 %	6,38 %
Romania												
UK	1,79 %		3,08 %					5,41 %			4,26 %	
USA	29,46 %	100,00 %				12,90 %	36,36 %	35,14 %	2,70 %	100,00 %	42,55 %	21,28 %
Other (Croatia)	0,89 %		1,54 %			3,23 %			2,70 %			
Other (Ireland)	1,79 %		3,08 %				2,27 %	2,70 %			2,13 %	2,13 %
Other (Armenia)	0,89 %			100,00 %		3,23 %			2,70 %			
Other (Guatemala)	0,89 %				7,69 %	3,23 %			2,70 %			

Number of Caves & Revenue by Region, Visitation & Revenue												
Respondents	Total	Region				Visitation			Revenue			
		USA	Europe	Asia	Other	<20k	20k-50k	>50k	<\$210k	\$210k-\$225k	\$225k-\$1.7M	>\$1.7M
Base	112	33	65	1	13	31	44	37	37	2	47	26
A.1. Administered caves												
One	84	33	47	1	3	18	29	37	16	2	43	23
Two	6		1		2	2	1		1		2	
Three	9		1		2	3			2			1
Four	0											
Thirteen	13		1				1		1			
	0											
	0											
B.8. Total gross revenue												
<\$210k	37	1	31	1	4	21	16		37			
\$210k-\$225k	2	2				2				2		
\$225k-\$1.7M	47	20	23		4	5	28	14			47	
>\$1.7M	26	10	11		5	3		23				26
PERCENTAGES												
Number of Caves & Revenue by Region, Visitation & Revenue												
Respondents		Region				Visitation			Revenue			
		USA	Europe	Asia	Other	<20k	20k-50k	>50k	<\$210k	\$210k-\$225k	\$225k-\$1.7M	>\$1.7M
Base	112	33	65	1	13	31	44	37	37	2	47	26
A.1. Administered caves												
One	75,00 %	100,00 %	72,31 %	100,00 %	23,08 %	58,06 %	65,91 %	100,00 %	43,24 %	100,00 %	91,49 %	88,46 %
Two	5,36 %		3,08 %		30,77 %	12,90 %	4,55 %		5,41 %		8,51 %	
Three	8,04 %		4,62 %		46,15 %	29,03 %			16,22 %			11,54 %
Four												
Thirteen	11,61 %		20,00 %				29,55 %		35,14 %			
B.8. Total gross revenue												
<\$210k	33,04 %	3,03 %	47,69 %	100,00 %	30,77 %	67,74 %	36,36 %		100,00 %			
\$210k-\$225k	1,79 %	6,06 %				6,45 %				100,00 %		
\$225k-\$1.7M	41,96 %	60,61 %	35,38 %		30,77 %	16,13 %	63,64 %	37,84 %			100,00 %	
>\$1.7M	23,21 %	30,30 %	16,92 %		38,46 %	9,68 %		62,16 %				100,00 %

Seasonality & Ownership by Region, Visitation & Revenue												
Respondents	Total	Region				Visitation			Revenue			
		USA	Europe	Asia	Other	<20k	20k-50k	>50k	<\$210k	\$210k-\$225k	\$225k-\$1.7M	>\$1.7M
Base	112	33	65	1	13	31	44	37	37	2	47	26
B.3. - Seasonability												
Year round (minimum 10 months)	89	23	52	1	13	25	33	32	32	2	33	23
Seasonally	23	10	13			6	11	5	5		14	3
B.4. -Ownership & management												
Privately owned; privately operated	51	31	17		3	7	22	22	3	2	31	15
Government owned; Government operated	45		35		10	17	17	11	26		12	7
Other	16	2	13	1		7	5	4	8		4	4
PERCENTAGES												
Seasonality & Ownership by Region, Visitation & Revenue												
Respondents		Region				Visitation			Revenue			
		USA	Europe	Asia	Other	<20k	20k-50k	>50k	<\$210k	\$210k-\$225k	\$225k-\$1.7M	>\$1.7M
Base	112	33	65	1	13	31	44	37	37	2	47	26
B.3. - Seasonability												
Year round (minimum 10 months)	79,46 %	69,70 %	80,00 %	100,00 %	100,00 %	80,65 %	75,00 %	86,49 %	86,49 %	100,00 %	70,21 %	88,46 %
Seasonally	20,54 %	30,30 %	20,00 %			19,35 %	25,00 %	13,51 %	13,51 %		29,79 %	11,54 %
B.4. -Ownership & management												
Privately owned; privately operated	45,54 %	93,94 %	26,15 %		23,08 %	22,58 %	50,00 %	59,46 %	8,11 %	100,00 %	65,96 %	57,69 %
Government owned; Government operated	40,18 %		53,85 %		76,92 %	54,84 %	38,64 %	29,73 %	70,27 %		25,53 %	26,92 %
Other	14,29 %	6,06 %	20,00 %	100,00 %		22,58 %	11,36 %	10,81 %	21,62 %		8,51 %	15,38 %

Visitation, Employees, Students & Revenue by Region					
Respondents	Total	Region			
		USA	Europe	Asia	Other
Base	112	33	65	1	13
B.5. - Visitation in 2025					
<20k	31	4	17	1	9
20k-50k	44	16	26		2
>50k	37	13	22		2
B.6. - Staff in peak season					
<10	38	4	22	1	11
10-19	32	10	22		
20-50	30	14	14		2
>50	11	5	6		
B.7. - Children on school trips					
<500	23	3	13		7
500-1,999	20	9	8	1	2
2,000-4,999	24	9	11		4
>5,000	45	12	33		
B.8. Total gross revenue					
<\$210k	37	1	31	1	4
\$210k-\$225k	2	2			
\$225k-\$1.7M	47	20	23		4
>\$1.7M	26	10	11		5
PERCENTAGES					
Visitation, Employees, Students & Revenue by Region					
Respondents	Total	Region			
		USA	Europe	Asia	Other
Base	112	33	65	1	13
B.5. - Visitation in 2025					
<20k	27,68 %	12,12 %	26,15 %	100,00 %	69,23 %
20k-50k	39,29 %	48,48 %	40,00 %		15,38 %
>50k	33,04 %	39,39 %	33,85 %		15,38 %
B.6. - Staff in peak season					
<10	33,93 %	12,12 %	33,85 %	100,00 %	84,62 %
10-19	28,57 %	30,30 %	33,85 %		
20-50	26,79 %	42,42 %	21,54 %		15,38 %
>50	9,82 %	15,15 %	9,23 %		
B.7. - Children on school trips					
<500	20,54 %	9,09 %	20,00 %		53,85 %
500-1,999	17,86 %	27,27 %	12,31 %	100,00 %	15,38 %
2,000-4,999	21,43 %	27,27 %	16,92 %		30,77 %
>5,000	40,18 %	36,36 %	50,77 %		
B.8. Total gross revenue					
<\$210k	33,04 %	3,03 %	47,69 %	100,00 %	30,77 %
\$210k-\$225k	1,79 %	6,06 %			
\$225k-\$1.7M	41,96 %	60,61 %	35,38 %		30,77 %
>\$1.7M	23,21 %	30,30 %	16,92 %		38,46 %

Activities by Region, Visitation & Revenue												
Respondents	Total	Region				Visitation			Revenue			
		USA	Europe	Asia	Other	<20k	20k-50k	>50k	<\$210k	\$210k-\$225k	\$225k-\$1.7M	>\$1.7M
Base	112	33	65	1	13	31	44	37	37	2	47	26
B.9. - Activities												
Guided tours	105	31	62	1	11	28	41	36	36	2	42	25
Self-guided tours	17	4	5		8	9	2	6	4		5	8
Audio guided tours	10	1	8		1	2	2	7	2		3	5
VR tours	9	1	8			2	1	5	3		2	4
Sound and light show	32	5	27			4	16	12	17		6	9
Ride in or out of the cave (elevator, train, tram...)	14	4	10			2	2	10	1		4	9
Adventure Caving Tours (off trail with helmets...)	27	10	12	1	4	11	6	10	7	1	11	8
Souvenirs photos	24	10	12		2	4	4	16	2		9	13
Sluice (panning for gems, fossils, etc.)	30	28	2			4	13	13	1	2	16	11
Playground	15	8	7			3	6	6	2		8	5
Ropes course	5	4			1			5				5
Zip line/Rails	8	5	1		2	1		7	1			7
Maze	4	4					2	2			2	2
Amusement rides	2	2					1	1			1	1
Museum	39	5	34			7	18	14	21		9	9
Gift shop	85	32	46		7	13	39	33	21	2	41	21
Snack Bar, Café, or Restaurant	55	16	37		2	3	13	19	2		32	21
Live Music or Concerts (outside or inside the cave)	14	4	10			2	2	10	1	1	4	9
Special event space	23	10	10	1	2	4	6	13	3	1	8	11
Nature trails	45	14	23		8	13	13	19	13		19	12
Lodging (hotel, cabins, RV park, campgrounds, AirB&B)	7	3	2		2	2		5	2			5
Other (Miniature golf)	1	1					1				1	
Other (Outdoor swimming pool)	1		1					1				1
Other (Lantern tours)	2	1	1			1	1		1		1	
Other (Birds of prey centre)	1		1					1				1
Other (Cheese making facility)	1		1					1				1
Other (Farm shop)	1		1					1				1
Other (Neocave)	1		1			1			1			
Other (Auditorium)	1		1			1			1			
Other (Shooting videoclips and movies)	1			1		1			1			
Other (Seasonal events)	1	1					1				1	
Other (Break Your Own Geodes)	1	1					1				1	
Other (Picnic Areas)	2	2					1	1			2	
Other (Kayak adventure tour)	2	1	1				1	1			1	1
Other (Escape games)	1		1			1			1			
Other (Educational activities)	1		1					1			1	
Other (Workshop for experimental archaeology activities)	1		1				1		1			
Other (Climate therapeutic healing tunnel)	1		1					1				1
Other (Thematic adventure area for families)	1		1					1				1
PERCENTAGES												
Activities by Region, Visitation & Revenue												
Respondents	Total	Region				Visitation			Revenue			
		USA	Europe	Asia	Other	<20k	20k-50k	>50k	<\$210k	\$210k-\$225k	\$225k-\$1.7M	>\$1.7M
Base	112	33	65	1	13	31	44	37	37	2	47	26
B.9. - Activities												
Guided tours	93,75 %	93,94 %	95,38 %	100,00 %	84,62 %	90,32 %	93,18 %	97,30 %	97,30 %	100,00 %	89,36 %	96,15 %
Self-guided tours	15,18 %	12,12 %	7,69 %		61,54 %	29,03 %	4,55 %	16,22 %	10,81 %		10,64 %	30,77 %
Audio guided tours	8,93 %	3,03 %	12,31 %		7,69 %	6,45 %	4,55 %	18,92 %	5,41 %		6,38 %	19,23 %
VR tours	8,04 %	3,03 %	12,31 %			6,45 %	2,27 %	13,51 %	8,11 %		4,26 %	15,38 %
Sound and light show	28,57 %	15,15 %	41,54 %			12,90 %	36,36 %	32,43 %	45,95 %		12,77 %	34,62 %
Ride in or out of the cave (elevator, train, tram...)	12,50 %	12,12 %	15,38 %			6,45 %	4,55 %	27,03 %	2,70 %		8,51 %	34,62 %
Adventure Caving Tours (off trail with helmets...)	24,11 %	30,30 %	18,46 %	100,00 %	30,77 %	35,48 %	13,64 %	27,03 %	18,92 %	50,00 %	23,40 %	30,77 %
Souvenirs photos	21,43 %	30,30 %	18,46 %		15,38 %	12,90 %	9,09 %	43,24 %	5,41 %		19,15 %	50,00 %
Sluice (panning for gems, fossils, etc.)	26,79 %	84,85 %	3,08 %			12,90 %	29,55 %	35,14 %	2,70 %	100,00 %	34,04 %	42,31 %
Playground	13,39 %	24,24 %	10,77 %			9,68 %	13,64 %	16,22 %	5,41 %		17,02 %	19,23 %
Ropes course	4,46 %	12,12 %			7,69 %			13,51 %				19,23 %
Zip line/Rails	7,14 %	15,15 %	1,54 %		15,38 %	3,23 %		18,92 %	2,70 %			26,92 %
Maze	3,57 %	12,12 %					4,55 %	5,41 %			4,26 %	7,69 %
Amusement rides	1,79 %	6,06 %					2,27 %	2,70 %			2,13 %	3,85 %
Museum	34,82 %	15,15 %	52,31 %			22,58 %	40,91 %	37,84 %	56,76 %		19,15 %	34,62 %
Gift shop	75,89 %	96,97 %	70,77 %		53,85 %	41,94 %	88,64 %	89,19 %	56,76 %	100,00 %	87,23 %	80,77 %
Snack Bar, Café, or Restaurant	49,11 %	48,48 %	56,92 %		15,38 %	9,68 %	29,55 %	51,35 %	5,41 %		68,09 %	80,77 %
Live Music or Concerts (outside or inside the cave)	12,50 %	12,12 %	15,38 %			6,45 %	4,55 %	27,03 %	2,70 %	50,00 %	8,51 %	34,62 %
Special event space	20,54 %	30,30 %	15,38 %	100,00 %	15,38 %	12,90 %	13,64 %	35,14 %	8,11 %	50,00 %	17,02 %	42,31 %
Nature trails	40,18 %	42,42 %	35,38 %		61,54 %	41,94 %	29,55 %	51,35 %	35,14 %		40,43 %	46,15 %
Lodging (hotel, cabins, RV park, campgrounds, AirB&B)	6,25 %	9,09 %	3,08 %		15,38 %	6,45 %		13,51 %	5,41 %			19,23 %
Other (Miniature golf)	0,89 %	3,03 %					2,27 %				2,13 %	
Other (Outdoor swimming pool)	0,89 %		1,54 %					2,70 %				3,85 %
Other (Lantern tours)	1,79 %	3,03 %	1,54 %			3,23 %	2,27 %		2,70 %		2,13 %	
Other (Birds of prey centre)	0,89 %		1,54 %					2,70 %				3,85 %
Other (Cheese making facility)	0,89 %		1,54 %					2,70 %				3,85 %
Other (Farm shop)	0,89 %		1,54 %					2,70 %				3,85 %
Other (Neocave)	0,89 %		1,54 %			3,23 %			2,70 %			
Other (Auditorium)	0,89 %		1,54 %			3,23 %			2,70 %			
Other (Shooting videoclips and movies)	0,89 %			100,00 %		3,23 %			2,70 %			
Other (Seasonal events)	0,89 %	3,03 %					2,27 %				2,13 %	
Other (Break Your Own Geodes)	0,89 %	3,03 %					2,27 %				2,13 %	
Other (Picnic Areas)	1,79 %	6,06 %					2,27 %	2,70 %			4,26 %	
Other (Kayak adventure tour)	1,79 %	3,03 %	1,54 %				2,27 %	2,70 %			2,13 %	3,85 %
Other (Escape games)	0,89 %		1,54 %			3,23 %			2,70 %			
Other (Educational activities)	0,89 %		1,54 %					2,70 %			2,13 %	
Other (Workshop for experimental archaeology activities)	0,89 %		1,54 %				2,27 %		2,70 %			
Other (Climate therapeutic healing tunnel)	0,89 %		1,54 %					2,70 %				3,85 %
Other (Thematic adventure area for families)	0,89 %		1,54 %					2,70 %				3,85 %

Issues by Region, Visitation & Revenue												
Respondents	Total	Region				Visitation			Revenue			
		USA	Europe	Asia	Other	<20k	20k-50k	>50k	<\$210k	\$210k-\$225k	\$225k-\$1.7M	>\$1.7M
Base	112	33	65	1	13	31	44	37	37	2	47	26
B.10. - Issues												
The safety and/or health of our visitors and/or employees	41	4	33		4	15	16	10	24		8	9
Conserving our cavern environment	55	7	38		10	18	23	14	27	1	15	12
Improving our visitor's experience	65	15	38		12	19	29	27	28	1	25	11
Increasing attendance	48	22	19		7	14	13	21	9	1	23	15
Increasing revenue	49	18	27		4	8	24	17	19	1	18	11
Government regulation	15	3	8		4	3	4	9	2		5	8
Lack of financial support (from Government)	33	1	28	1	3	11	18	4	21		9	3
Hiring staff/staff turnover	54	18	33		3	14	26	14	22	2	20	10
Liability and/or property insurance	12	12				2	5	5	1	1	5	5
Inflation/recession	20	12	8			2	7	11	1		9	10
Extreme weather	29	8	19		2	5	20	4	16		10	3
War/civil unrest	1	1					1				1	
Radon/cave radiation	16		16				15	1	14		1	1
Other (Hydrological conditions)	1		1			1			1			
Other (Rising business costs)	1		1					1				1
Other (Lack of electricity)	1			1		1			1			
Other (Weak Internet signal)	1			1		1			1			
Other (Lack of staff/volunteers)	1		1			1			1			
Other (Policy/process improvement)	1	1						1				1
Other (Shifting peak season demand to shoulder season)	1				1			1				1
Other (Road access and public infrastructures)	1		1				1				1	
PERCENTAGES												
Issues by Region, Visitation & Revenue												
Respondents	Total	Region				Visitation			Revenue			
		USA	Europe	Asia	Other	<20k	20k-50k	>50k	<\$210k	\$210k-\$225k	\$225k-\$1.7M	>\$1.7M
Base	112	33	65	1	13	31	44	37	37	2	47	26
B.10. - Issues												
The safety and/or health of our visitors and/or employees	36,61 %	12,12 %	50,77 %		30,77 %	48,39 %	36,36 %	27,03 %	64,86 %		17,02 %	34,62 %
Conserving our cavern environment	49,11 %	21,21 %	58,46 %		76,92 %	58,06 %	52,27 %	37,84 %	72,97 %	50,00 %	31,91 %	46,15 %
Improving our visitor's experience	58,04 %	45,45 %	58,46 %		92,31 %	61,29 %	65,91 %	72,97 %	75,68 %	50,00 %	53,19 %	42,31 %
Increasing attendance	42,86 %	66,67 %	29,23 %		53,85 %	45,16 %	29,55 %	56,76 %	24,32 %	50,00 %	48,94 %	57,69 %
Increasing revenue	43,75 %	54,55 %	41,54 %		30,77 %	25,81 %	54,55 %	45,95 %	51,35 %	50,00 %	38,30 %	42,31 %
Government regulation	13,39 %	9,09 %	12,31 %		30,77 %	9,68 %	9,09 %	24,32 %	5,41 %		10,64 %	30,77 %
Lack of financial support (from Government)	29,46 %	3,03 %	43,08 %	100,00 %	23,08 %	35,48 %	40,91 %	10,81 %	56,76 %		19,15 %	11,54 %
Hiring staff/staff turnover	48,21 %	54,55 %	50,77 %		23,08 %	45,16 %	59,09 %	37,84 %	59,46 %	100,00 %	42,55 %	38,46 %
Liability and/or property insurance	10,71 %	36,36 %				6,45 %	11,36 %	13,51 %	2,70 %	50,00 %	10,64 %	19,23 %
Inflation/recession	17,86 %	36,36 %	12,31 %			6,45 %	15,91 %	29,73 %	2,70 %		19,15 %	38,46 %
Extreme weather	25,89 %	24,24 %	29,23 %		15,38 %	16,13 %	45,45 %	10,81 %	43,24 %		21,28 %	11,54 %
War/civil unrest	0,89 %	3,03 %					2,27 %				2,13 %	
Radon/cave radiation	14,29 %		24,62 %				34,09 %	2,70 %	37,84 %		2,13 %	3,85 %
Other (Hydrological conditions)	0,89 %		1,54 %			3,23 %			2,70 %			
Other (Rising business costs)	0,89 %		1,54 %					2,70 %				3,85 %
Other (Lack of electricity)	0,89 %			100,00 %		3,23 %			2,70 %			
Other (Weak Internet signal)	0,89 %			100,00 %		3,23 %			2,70 %			
Other (Lack of staff/volunteers)	0,89 %		1,54 %			3,23 %			2,70 %			
Other (Policy/process improvement)	0,89 %	3,03 %						2,70 %				3,85 %
Other (Shifting peak season demand to shoulder season)	0,89 %				7,69 %			2,70 %				3,85 %
Other (Road access and public infrastructures)	0,89 %		1,54 %				2,27 %				2,13 %	