

CUEVA**TUR**²⁰²⁶

X CONGRESO ESPAÑOL SOBRE CUEVAS Y MINAS TURÍSTICAS

**“Caves and the Subterranean World:
Science, Tourism, and the Future”**

November 11 - 14, 2026

ARACENA

(Huelva, Spain)

THIRD CIRCULAR

Call for papers

PARTNERS



ACTE
ASOCIACIÓN DE CUEVAS TURÍSTICAS ESPAÑOLAS



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Excmo. Ayuntamiento de
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INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION



PRESENTATION

In November 2026, Aracena (Huelva) will become a key meeting point for the underground sector with the celebration of a new edition of **CUEVATUR**, the Spanish Congress on Show Caves and Mining Tourism. With over 20 years of history, this event has established itself as one of the leading national benchmarks in underground tourism.

CUEVATUR is a forum for the exchange of knowledge, where the latest research and technical developments in Spain's show caves and tourist mines are presented. In its tenth edition, the congress goes a step further by opening to the international arena, with the aim of sharing experiences, best practices, and technical advances from different countries. Since its first edition in 2005, CUEVATUR has brought together hundreds of scientists and researchers from disciplines such as geology, paleontology, engineering, and tourism. Over the years, more than 500 works have been presented, published in the conference proceedings, which now constitute an essential reference collection for scholars of the underground world.

In addition to its scientific dimension, CUEVATUR is a meeting space for professionals in the sector: managers, guides, technicians, and other professionals working in show caves and tourist mines. It has also become a key forum for those promoting the opening of new cavities for tourism, as it brings together the leading experts in this field.

In this edition, we aim to take a significant step toward the official UN declaration of the **International Day of Caves and the Subterranean World**, a celebration that has brought together cave sites worldwide every June 6 since 2016.

CUEVATUR 2026 will therefore be an essential event for all those who are passionate about underground heritage and who work for its conservation, study, and dissemination.

VENUE AND DATES

The Congress will take place in Aracena (Huelva) on **November 11, 12, 13, and 14, 2026**, and the sessions will be held at the “**Teatro Sierra de Aracena**”, located at Avda. Huelva s/n, 21200 Aracena.

Telephone: +34 663 937 879

E-mail: teatro@ayto-aracena.es

Website: www.aracena.es



Aracena, designated as a “Tourist Municipality” of Andalusia in 2006, is the capital of its region and gives its name to both the Sierra and the Natural Park that surrounds it. This park is one of the most significant protected areas in the Autonomous Community of Andalusia, encompassing the entire northern part of the province of Huelva.



The municipality of Aracena, reaching an altitude of up to 867 metres and a population of over 8,000 inhabitants, serves as the administrative center of the judicial district that includes 31 municipalities. Its role as an administrative, commercial, and tourist capital makes it the main service hub of the entire region.

Today, Aracena is a dynamic city that successfully combines its tourist attractions with its function as a regional center. It is a privileged location, where a valuable and diverse historical and artistic heritage is complemented by an exceptional natural environment that allows for a wide range of outdoor activities, such as hiking and cycling tourism.

Its tourist offering is further enhanced by a vibrant traditional festival calendar, a modern cultural agenda, a rich and varied gastronomy based on high-quality products, and a comprehensive infrastructure of restaurants and accommodation.

However, **Aracena's greatest tourist emblem is the Gruta de las Maravillas**, one of the most beautiful and remarkable karst formations in Spain. Its uniqueness and spectacular nature have made it the most visited tourist site in the province of Huelva. Opened to the public in 1914, it was one of the first show caves in Spain, marking a milestone in local history by driving significant economic and social development.



ACCOMMODATION

Pre-booking of rooms will be available at the following hotels in Aracena:

HOTEL CONVENTO ARACENA****

C/ Jesús y María 19 (spa service)

114 beds.

www.hotelconventoaracena.es

reservas@hotelconventoaracena.es

Tel: 959.12.68.99 / 635.072.131

HOTEL BARCELÓ ARACENA****

Ctra.Nac.Sevilla-Lisboa, km.88

218 beds.

www.barcelo.com , aracena@barcelo.com

Tel: 959.099.223

HOTEL LA ERA DE ARACENA***

CN-433 Sevilla-Lisboa, km 85.40

31 beds.

www.hotelaracena.com ; hoteleradearacena@hotmail.com

Tel: 647.664.324

HOTEL POSADA DE VALDEZUFRE***

Avd. Santa Marina, 1 VALDEZUFRE-ARACENA

38 beds.

administracion@valdezufre.com

Tel: 959.557.174

HOTEL APTO. RURAL FINCA VALBONO***

Ctra. Carbonera, Km. 1,2

57 beds.

www.fincavalbono.com; reservas@fincavalbono.com

Tel: 959.127.711

HOTEL ESSENTIA

C/ José Nogales, 17

www.hotelessentia.com; info@hotelessentia.com

Tel: 959.127.822

34 beds.

HOTEL LOS CASTAÑOS

Avda. Huelva, 5

www.loscastanoshotel.com; info@loscastanoshotel.com

Tel: 959.126.300

60 beds.

HOSTAL RURAL MOLINO DEL BOMBO*

C/ Ancha, 4

www.molinodelbombo.com info@molinodelbombo.com

Tel: 689.471.675

21 beds.

VILLAROSILLO. Casas Rurales de categoría superior

Avd. De los Ángeles, 3

Tel: 959.127.509/ 635.277.015

20 beds.

In addition to its hotel offerings, Aracena has a wide variety of rural houses and holiday rentals, which complement the available accommodation options.

SPECIAL RATES

The following rates and special conditions have been arranged for attendees of **CUEVATUR 2026**.

ESTABLISHMENT	SINGLE (Room Only)	SINGLE (Bed and Breakfast)	DOUBLE (Room Only)	DOUBLE (Bed and Breakfast)
Barceló Aracena Hotel	--	108 €	--	120 €
Essentia Hotel	75 €	80,50 €	75 €	86 €
Los Castaños Hotel	60 €	--	70 € (2 beds) / 75 € (Double bed)	--
Convento Aracena Hotel- book online and quote the code: CUEVATUR	-10% Discount	-10% Discount	-10% Discount	-10% Discount

HOW TO GET TO ARACENA

BY AIR

DISTANCE TO THE NEAREST AIRPORTS

Seville:	98 km
Jerez (Cádiz):	181 km
Faro (Portugal):	205 km
Málaga:	303 km
Lisbon (Portugal)	303 km

TRAIN

Aracena does not have its own train station, so the best option for public transport is a combination of train and bus.

AVE TO SEVILLE FROM:

- Madrid (Puerta de Atocha – Almudena Grandes) (The journey takes approximately 2.5 hours).
- Málaga.
- Córdoba.
- Granada.
- Barcelona.
- Zaragoza (usually part of the Madrid – Barcelona – Seville route).
- Valencia (no direct AVE, but connection via Madrid is possible).
- Alicante and other cities in eastern Spain via transfers or connections through Madrid.

BUSES

Bus connection from Seville:

- Departure point: Plaza de Armas Bus Station, Seville.
- Company: The company operating this route is Damas.
- Duration: The journey usually takes between 1 hour 30 minutes and 1 hour 45 minutes.

Bus connection from Huelva:

- ❑ Departure point: Huelva Bus Station.
- ❑ Company: The company operating this route is Damas.
- ❑ Duration: The journey usually takes approximately 2 hours 45 minutes.

BY ROAD:

From Seville (approx. 90 km – 1h 15 min)

- ❑ Take the **A-66** (Autovía de la Plata) towards Mérida.
- ❑ Take the **exit 782** onto the **N-630** towards **Venta del Alto**.
- ❑ Use the **right lane** to take the **N-433** towards Aracena/Portugal.

From Madrid (approx. 540 km – 5h 30 min)

- ❑ Take the **A-5** to Mérida.
- ❑ From Mérida, take the **A-66** towards Seville.
- ❑ In **Santa Olalla**, take the **A-461**, then continue on the **N-433** to Aracena.

From Barcelona (approx. 1.050 km – 10h)

- ❑ Take the **AP-2 / A-2** to Madrid.
- ❑ From Madrid, follow the previous route (A-5 → A-66 → A-461 → N-433).

From Valencia / Eastern Spain (approx. 750–800 km – 8h approx.)

- ❑ Take the **A-3** motorway to Madrid or Albacete.
- ❑ Continue towards Seville via the **A-4** or **A-5** depending on the chosen route.
- ❑ Then follow **A-66** → **N-433** to Aracena.

From Extremadura (Cáceres, Mérida, Badajoz)

- Continue on the **A-66** southbound (towards Seville).
- Take exit **747** at **Santa Olalla del Cala / Aracena**, towards **Zufre A-461**.
- Merge onto the **N-433** via the slip road towards Aracena.

From Huelva (approx. 100 km – 1h 30 min)

- Take the **N-435** towards Badajoz.
- In Zalamea la Real, follow signs to **Minas de Riotinto** and then to Aracena.

From Portugal:

- From Lisboa (approx. 340 km – 3h 30 min)

- Take the **A-2, A-26, N-121** and **N-260** to the **N-433** in Vila Verde de Ficalho.
- Continue on the **N-433** to Aracena.

- From Faro / Algarve (approx. 200 km – 2h 30 min.)

- Take the **A-22** motorway to Ayamonte (border).
- Continue on the **A-49** towards the **N-345** in San Juan del Puerto. Take **exit 75** for the **N-435** towards Trigueros/Badajoz.
- In **Zalamea la Real**, follow signs for **Minas de Riotinto** and then **Aracena**.

MAPA DE LA PENÍNSULA IBÉRICA CON LA UBICACIÓN DE ARACENA



HONORARY COMMITTEE (Pending confirmation)

- H.M. King Felipe VI.
- President of the Junta de Andalucía.
- Mayor of Aracena.
- Minister of Industry and Tourism.
- Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation.
- Minister for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge.
- Secretary of State for Tourism.
- Secretary of State for International Cooperation.
- Regional Minister of Tourism and External Relations of the Junta de Andalucía.
- Regional Minister of Sustainability and Environment of the Junta de Andalucía.
- President of the Provincial Council of Huelva.
- Rector of the University of Huelva.
- President of the International Show Caves Association.
- President of the Spanish Federation of Speleology.
- President of the Spanish Association of Show Caves.
- President of the Spanish Society for the Protection of Geological and Mining Heritage.
- Minister for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge of Spain.
- Director of the Geological and Mining Institute of Spain (IGME-CSIC).
- President of the Spanish Society of Speleology and Karst Sciences.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

COORDINATOR:

- Manuel Durán Hidalgo, President of the Spanish Association of Show Caves (ACTE).

VOCALES:

- Manuel Guerra González. Mayor of Aracena Town Hall.
- Rafael Pagés Rodríguez. Vice President of ACTE.
- Ana Torres Asensio. Aracena Town Hall.
- Ovidio Altable Argüelles. Secretary of ACTE.
- Leandro Hacha Bernal. Aracena Town Hall.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

COORDINATOR:

- Juan José Durán Valsero. Instituto Geológico y Minero of Spain (IGME-CSIC).

MEMBERS:

- Daniel Ballesteros Posada. University of Cantabria
- José María Calaforra Chordi. University of Almería.
- María Luisa Calvache. University of Granada.
- José Antonio Caro Gómez. University of Córdoba.
- Sergio Raúl Durán Laforet. Amphos-21.
- Montserrat Jiménez Sánchez. University of Cantabria.
- Rafael Jordá Bordehore. Geólogos del Mundo.
- Valme Jurado Lobo. Instituto de Recursos Naturales y Agrobiología de Sevilla.
- Cristina Liñán Baena. University of Málaga.
- Jerónimo López Martínez. Autonomous University of Madrid.
- Wenceslao Martín-Rosales. University of Granada.

- Raquel Morales García. Instituto Geológico y Minero de España (IGME-CSIC).
- Lucía Ojeda Rodríguez. Universidad de Málaga.
- Pedro Agustín Robledo Ardila. Instituto Geológico y Minero de España. (IGME-CSIC).
- Joaquín Rodríguez Vidal. Real Academia Sevillana de Ciencias.
- Iñaki Vadillo Pérez. Universidad de Málaga.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

Wednesday, November 11

International meeting
 09:30 Excursion.
 14:00 Lunch.
 16:00 ISCA Board meeting.
 17:00 Sightseeing Visit.
 18:00 ACTE General and Extraordinary Assemblies.
 20:00 Welcome event.

Thursday, November 12

8:00 Accreditation (registration).
 9:00 Opening conference.
 9:30 Opening ceremony.
 10:00 Communications.
 11:00 Coffee break.
 11:30 Communications.
 12:30 Conference.
 13:00 Communications.
 14:00 Lunch.
 16:00 Round table.
 17:00 Communications.
 18:00 Communications.
 19:00 Conference.

Friday, November 13

9:00 Communications.
 10:00 Round table.
 11:00 Coffee break.
 11:30 Communications.
 12:30 Conference.
 13:00 Communications.
 14:00 Lunch.
 16:00 Excursion.
 20:00 Official dinner.

Saturday, November 14

9:00 Communications.
 10:00 Round table.
 11:00 Coffee break.
 11:30 Communications.
 12:30 Closing conference.
 13:00 Closing ceremony.
 16:00 Post-Congress excursion.

Planned excursions (pending confirmation)

The programme may include the following excursions:

□ **Gruta de las Maravillas**

One of the first tourist caves opened in Spain (1914). An exceptional tour through underground lakes, crystal-clear chambers, and unique geological formations. A must-see experience in the heart of Aracena's subterranean heritage.

The new Cave Interpretation Center will offer an educational and exhibition space where visitors can learn in depth about the history, geological formation, and natural value of this unique site, thereby enriching the overall visitor experience.



□ **Visit to the Dehesa + Ham Museum**

An interpretive walk through the Sierra de Aracena dehesa to learn about its ecosystem and its relationship with the Iberian Pig, where visitors can gain a deeper insight into the culture and tradition of the region's most emblematic product.

□ **Riotinto Experience**

An excursion to the emblematic mining landscape of Riotinto. A unique geological environment, internationally known for its extraordinary colours, mineral formations, and its connection to extreme environments.

□ **Alájar Caves**

A visit to the natural caves of the municipality of Alájar, an area of great beauty and scientific interest. An opportunity to learn about different approaches to management and conservation in Sierra de Aracena.

Confirmed speakers

The speakers participating in the conference are listed below. Their presentations will address different aspects related to the theme of the event.

- Jerónimo López
- Raúl Pérez
- Sofía Revoleira
- Raúl Temprano
- Juan Luis Arsuaga
- Juan José Durán

CONGRESS FEATURES

The congress will consist of sessions spread over the four days, including presentations of scientific and technical papers, invited lectures, and other official events. Two short excursions will also be organized during the congress, with visits to the Gruta de las Maravillas and other nearby caves.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

The official languages of the congress are Spanish and English.

REGISTRATION FEES

Standard fee (payment before 1 JULY 2026)	250 €
Fee after 1 JULY 2026	300 €
Reduced fee (members of ACTE, actiba, ISCA, and collaborating organizations)	200 €
Authors of accepted communications (one per paper)	200 €
Young participants up to 30 years old	150 €
Student fee:	50 €

In addition to participation in CUEVATUR 2026, the registration fee includes daily working lunches, social events, official dinner, closing lunch, organized excursions and visits, a participation certificate, and publications.

To complete registration, the following steps must be taken:

1. **Fill out the Google registration form** available at the following link: [Formulario Inscripción CuevaTur 2026](#).

In case of any difficulty completing the registration form, you may contact the organisers via email at cuevatur2026@ayto-aracena.es or by phone at 607 690 016.

2. **Transfer the corresponding fee** to the following account:

- **Entity:** Vivienda y Desarrollo de Aracena, Empresa Municipal
- **IBAN:** ES73 0182 6028 0102 0150 2040
- **Mandatory reference:** CUEVATUR2026 + *Participant's name*.

3. **Send the registration form and proof of transfer** to the following email address: cuevatur2026@ayto-aracena.es

SUBMISSION OF COMMUNICATIONS:

Deadlines

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE | 15 May 2026. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PAPER SUBMISSION DEADLINE | 15 June 2026. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PAPER DELIVERY | 15 September 2026. |

Publication of Congress Papers

The following requirements apply for submitting abstracts for publication in the Congress Proceedings:

1. Abstract Submission Requirements:

- **Length:** The body of the abstract must not exceed 400 words.
- **Keywords:** A maximum of 5 keywords must be included.
- **Author Information:** Institutional affiliation, full postal address, and e-mail address of *all authors* must be included.

2. Review and Publication Process:

All submitted papers will be reviewed and validated by the Scientific Committee of the Congress.

- **Publication:** Papers presented at the Congress that are accepted by the **Scientific Committee** after review will be published in a book, which will be distributed to attendees during CUEVATUR 2026, or subsequently.
- **Mandatory Conditions:** For a paper to be accepted and published, **at least one of its authors must have completed registration for the Congress.**

TECHNICAL SUPPORT:

Tourism Department (Tourism Office), Aracena Town Hall

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