

ISCA NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION



10TH ISCA CONGRESS: REGISTER NOW!

This new issue of the ISCA Newsletter continues our focus on the celebration of the 10th ISCA Congress in Dordogne (France) this September. **Registration is still open!**

Inside these pages you will find updated programme information, practical details, and the latest news about this important international gathering of show caves.

You can also read about the successful celebration of the International Day of Caves and the Subterranean World on June 6. Many members joined the initiative, helping promote caves and subterranean heritage worldwide.

Keep reading, take a look inside, and stay connected with everything happening across the world of show caves!



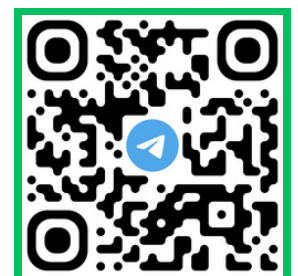
BECOME AN ISCA MEMBER

Do you own or manage a show cave? Would you like to publish your own materials in our newsletters? Become a member of the International Show Caves Association. Join us now and get your ISCA Membership Certificate.



Latest members: [Grotte de Maxange](#) (France)
[Caverne Patate](#) (Rodrigues)
[Onyx Cave Park](#) (United States)

STAY CONNECTED!



IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Ann Wescott, beloved wife of Joe Klimczak, member of the ISCA Board of Directors.

Ann dedicated 27 years of her life to Cave of the Mounds, where she became widely respected for her work in science education, cave conservation, tourism, and environmental stewardship. Passionate about nature and deeply committed to environmental education, she inspired countless visitors and colleagues through her enthusiasm, kindness, and dedication.

Her contribution to the cave and tourism community, both locally and internationally, will be remembered by many.

We send our heartfelt condolences and support to Joe, his family, and all those who knew and loved Ann during this difficult time.



Ann Wescott.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



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

Dear ISCA members,

Thank you for your continued trust and support. Your engagement and collaboration remain essential to the strength of our international community, and we truly value your involvement.

I would like to express our deepest condolences to Board member Joe Klimczak and his family on the passing of his beloved wife, Ann. Ann will be remembered for her warmth, kindness, and dedication, and her loss is deeply felt by all who knew her. On behalf of the International Show Caves Association, we extend our sincere sympathy and support to Joe and his loved ones during this difficult time.

It's only three months for the 10th ISCA Congress in Dordogne, France, and preparations for its celebration are progressing very well. We warmly encourage all members to register and take part in this important event. The Congress is a unique opportunity with our beloved and huge family. We look forward to welcoming many of you there. I would also like to sincerely thank everyone involved in the organisation of what promises to be an outstanding event. You will find all the necessary information in the next pages. Please, note that places are limited, specially as regards pre and post Congress trips, so make sure not to register too late.

We also remember the successful celebration of June 6, the International Day of Caves and the Subterranean World, which marked its 10th edition this year. Many show caves around the world joined the initiative, helping raise awareness of the value and beauty of subterranean heritage. Thank you to all members who participated and shared their activities.

Finally, we invite you to continue sharing ISCA initiatives and opportunities with colleagues and partners. Together, we keep growing and strengthening our international community.

With kind regards,

Fritz Oedl
ISCA President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Friedrich Oedl".

BY THE EDITOR



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



My colleagues and I during the strike. Go Jaume I Go!

Dear ISCA friends,

Welcome to the 36th volume of the ISCA newsletter. Considering we publish six issues per year, that means it's been SIX YEARS since I started working on this amazing project, which keeps me busy for quite some time every year. There are so many news, articles, events, photos...I can only be grateful to Brad Wuest (former ISCA President), Fritz Oedl (ISCA President) and the members of the ISCA Board who have always supported me.

Teachers in Spain went on strike on May 11. Since then, thousands of teachers have taken to the streets every day to protest a wide range of issues. Salaries have been frozen for nearly 20 years, class sizes are too large, teachers are frequently criticized by politicians, administrative workloads are excessive, and school infrastructure is inadequate (with students bringing their own blankets in winter and classroom temperatures reaching 40°C in summer). And these are just some of the issues. Many people would find it hard to believe this is happening in a developed country.

Being this newsletter focused on the 10th ISCA Congress and the celebration of CaveDay, I'd like to share my condolences with Joe Klimczak and his family during this difficult time. I send all my support to them after the sad news we received.

As always, I can't forget my short tale: **The Cave** (*La Cueva*), which I published 8 years ago now. It's available both in English and Spanish! It could make the best possible addition to your gift shops as a fun souvenir for your visitors! Contact me if you are interested!

Yours,
Juanjo

IN ENGLISH



AND ALSO IN
SPANISH!:)

ISCA LIBRARY

2026

Volume 35 - May & Jun.
Volume 34 - Mar. & Apr.
Volume 33 - Jan. & Feb.

2025

Volume 32 - Nov. & Dec.
Volume 31 - Sep. & Oct.
Volume 30 - Jul. & Aug.
Volume 29 - May & Jun.
Volume 28 - Mar. & Apr.
Volume 27 - Jan. & Feb.

2024

Volume 26 - Nov. & Dec.
Volume 25 - Sep. & Oct.
Volume 24 - Jul. & Aug.
Volume 23 - May & Jun.
Volume 22 - Mar. & Apr.
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.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE ANYTHING
IN FUTURE PUBLICATIONS?

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

2026 ISCA 10TH CONGRESS



The countdown continues for the 10th ISCA Congress, which will take place in the Dordogne region of France from September 23 to October 1, 2026, in collaboration with the French Federation of Tourism and Subterranean Heritage (FFTS). With less than three months remaining, now is the perfect time to complete your registration. Please visit [this link](#) or see the next page and download the registration form today.

The Congress will bring together show cave professionals, researchers, and managers from around the world to exchange knowledge, discuss current challenges, and celebrate the diversity and value of subterranean heritage. The programme will include presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, and field visits to some of France's most iconic show caves and underground sites, located within the remarkable karst landscapes of Dordogne.

The [latest circular](#) remains available and provides essential information to help participants finalise their travel plans. As always, the ISCA Congress is a key opportunity to reconnect, share ideas, and build new collaborations within the international cave community.



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION



REGISTER BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE! SEND YOUR FORM ASAP!




Registration instructions:


1. Click [here](#).
2. Download the registration form (PDF) and complete it with all the information.
3. Return the completed form to **florence@tourismeperigord.com**
4. For further questions, doubts or suggestions, please email Roselyne at **contact@ffts.fr**

REGISTER NOW!





ISCA CONGRESS : REGISTRATION FORM



To secure the organisation of this important event for underground tourism and for ISCA, we will soon need to make firm financial commitments to service providers, such as meeting rooms, transportation companies, hotels, restaurants, and caterers. However, due to geopolitical uncertainties, it is difficult for us to estimate the number of potential participants. Therefore, we kindly ask you to register by June 8.

By this date, we will finalise the congress logistics based on the number of registrants. Please return the completed form to florence@tourismeperigord.com as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please email Roselyne at contact@ffts.fr. Once your registration has been processed, you will receive an invoice to be paid by bank transfer.

Name and address

- Company :
- Number of participants :
- Full name 1 :
- Full name 2 :
- Full name 3 :
- Full name 4 :
- Full name 5 :
- Full name 6 :
- Full name 7 :
- Full name 8 :
- Full name 9 :
- Full name 10 :
- E-mail address:
- Phone number (with country code):
- ISCA Membership:
 - ISCA Full member
 - ISCA Associate Member
 - Not an ISCA member
- Address:

ISCA CONGRESS - REGISTRATION FORM 1/6



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION



**ALL THE CONGRESS INFORMATION!
DOWNLOAD NOW!**



ISCA & FFTS CONGRESS 2026

BENEATH THE EARTH, BEYOND TIME

SEP 23-OCT 1, 2026
DORDOGNE, FRANCE

2ND CIRCULAR



Click on the image to download a detailed guide of the Congress.

CONGRESS PROGRAM

• Friday 25, September

- 8:30-10:30AM: ISCA Board Meeting
- Concurrent for other attendees: Périgueux tour
- 10:30-11AM: Welcoming delegates and distribution of badges/gifts
- 11AM-12:45PM: Opening ceremony: Press Conference & Cocktail
- 12:45-2PM: Catered Lunch
- 2-4PM: ISCA General Assembly Meeting 1
- 4-4:15PM: Coffee Break
- 4:15-6:15PM: Around the world video session 1 (includes break)
- 7-9:30PM: Dinner at Guinguette Barnabé with live music

• Saturday 26, September

- 9-10AM: Presentation by Dominique Genty
- 10-11AM: Presentation by Laurent Bruxelles
- 11-11:15AM: Coffee Break
- 11:15AM-12:30PM: Presentations 'News from subterranean world'
- 12:30-13:30PM: Catered Lunch
- 1:30-2:30PM: Around the world video session 2
- 2:30-7:30PM: Lascaux IV tour
- 7:30-9:30PM: Dinner at Bistro le Centenaire

• Sunday 27, September

- 9-10AM: ISCA General Assembly Meeting 2
- 10-10:15AM: Coffee Break
- 10:15-11:15AM: Presentations 'News from subterranean world'
- 11:15-12PM: Partner Presentation
- 12-3PM: Catalog vendor show
- 1-3PM (Concurrent): Catered Lunch
- 3:30-5:30PM: Maxange Cave tour
- 5:30-7PM: Proumeyssac Chasm tour
- 7:30-10:30PM: Live concert and cocktail reception at Proumeyssac Chasm

• **Monday 28, September**

- 9-11AM: Les Eyzies Prehistory Interpretation Center
 - 9-10AM: European Commission lobbying working session
 - 10-11AM: ISCA General Assembly Meeting 3
 - Option 2 - 9:30-11AM: Prehistory Museum
- 11-11:15AM: Coffee Break
- 11:15AM-12:30PM: Prehistory Presentation by Frédéric Plassard
- 12:30-2PM: Catered Lunch
- Afternoon trips (reservation required)
 - Option 1 - 2:30PM: Rouffignac Cave
 - Option 2 - 2:30PM: La Roque St Christophe & Reignac Fortified house
- 7-11PM: Dinner and entertainment

• **Tuesday 29, September**

- 8:30-9:30AM: ISCA New Board meeting
- 9:30AM-12:45PM: Visit to Brantôme or Villars Cave tour
- 12:45-13:45PM: Catered Lunch
- 13:45-16:15PM: Visit to Brantôme or Villars Cave tour
- 18:45-7:30PM: Closing speech
- 7:30-11PM: Dinner show



PRE & POST CONGRESS TRIPS

• **PRE CONGRESS TRIPS**

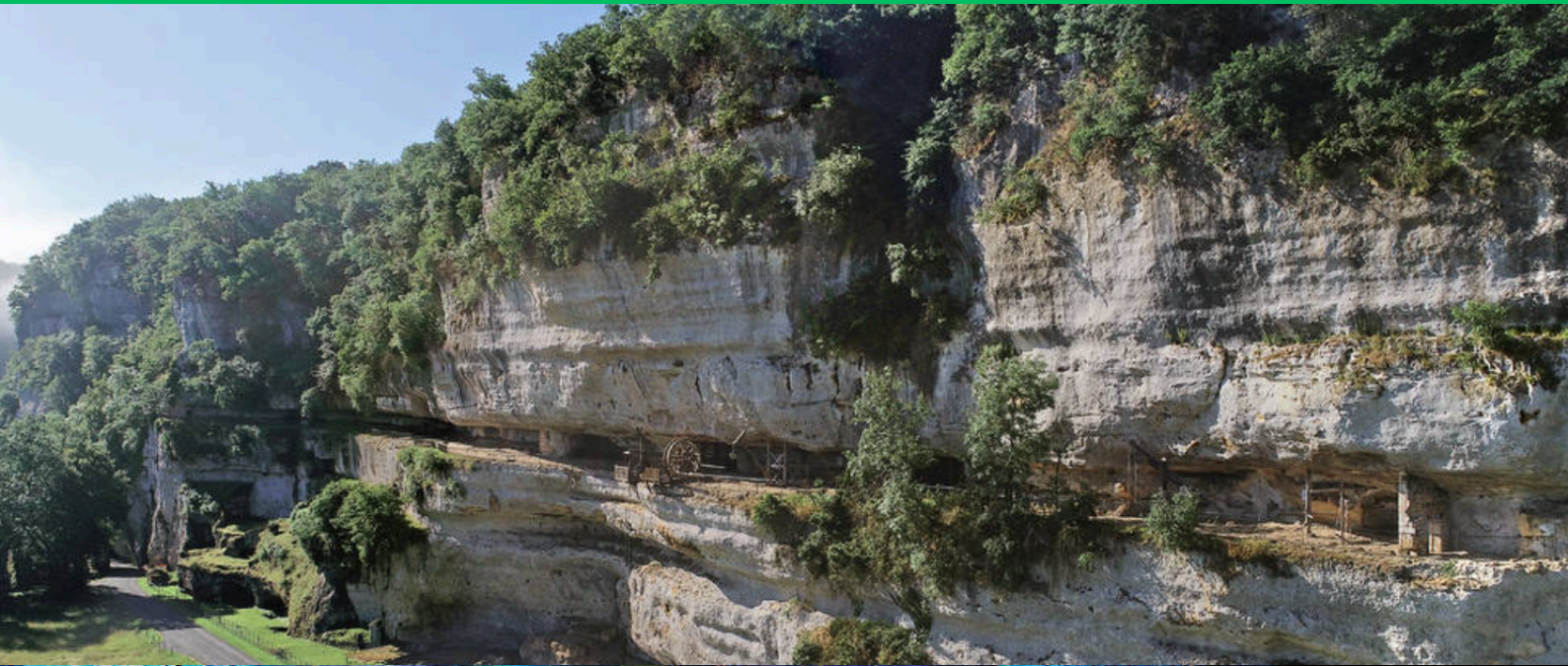
- **Wednesday 23, September**
 - Domme Cave tour
 - Milandes Castle tour
- **Thursday 24, September**
 - Tourtoirac Cave tour
 - Hautefort Castle tour

• **POST CONGRESS TRIPS**

- **Wednesday 30, September**
 - Sarlat tour
 - Lacave Cave tour
 - Rocamadour
- **Thursday 1, October**
 - Pech Merle Cave tour
 - Cognac Cave tour

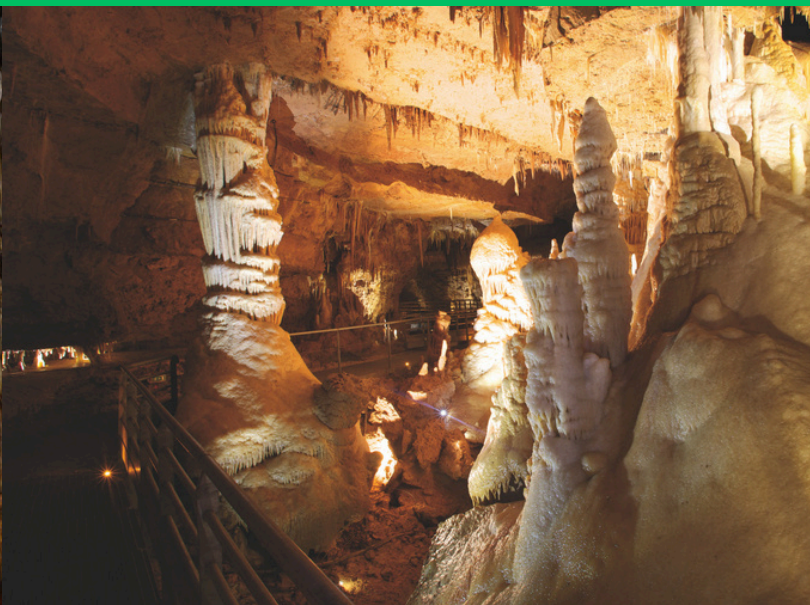
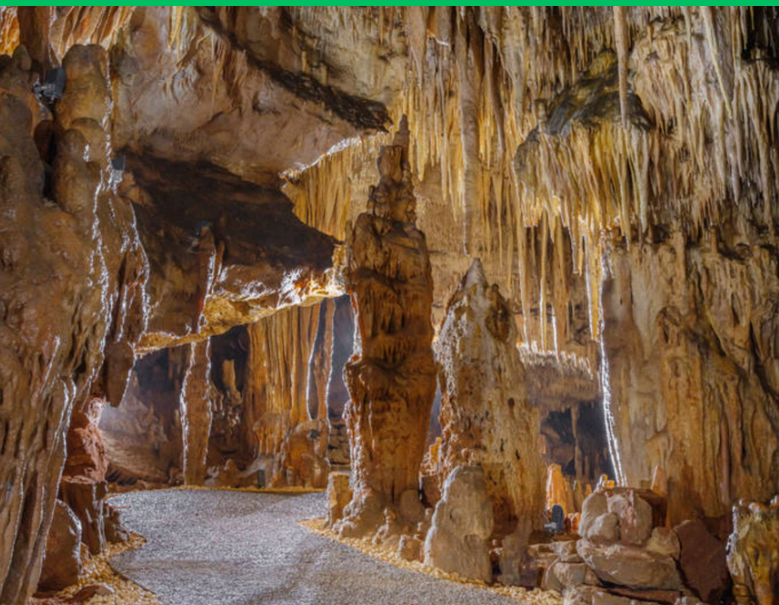
A SHORT GLIMPSE OF WHAT YOU'LL SEE AT THE CONGRESS





Gouffre de Proumeyssac
© Matthieu Ricard (traducteur officiel du Dalai Lama)

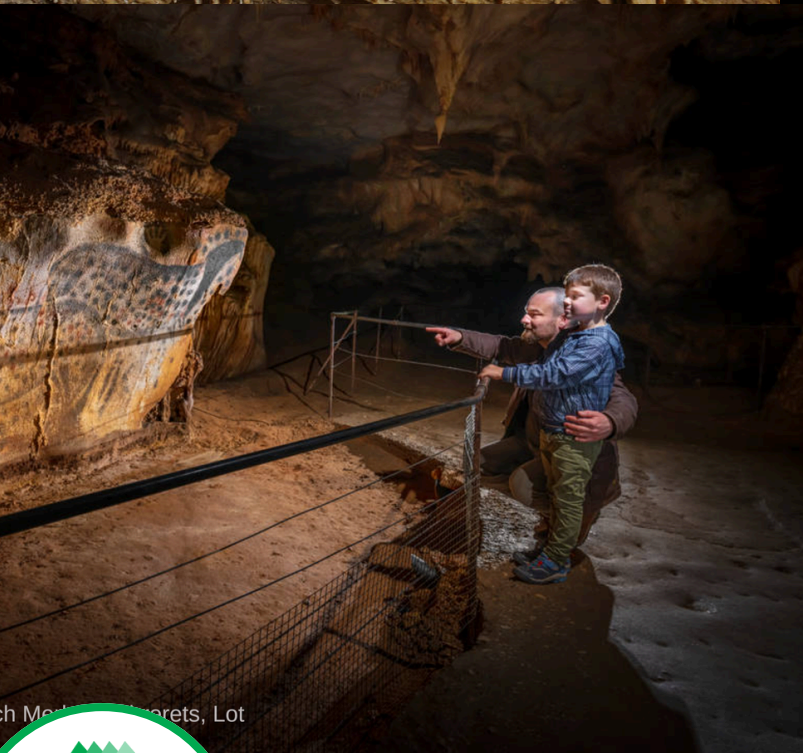




Préhistoriques de Cougnac - Bouquetin © Francis Jach



Grottes de Maxange ©



Château de Cougnac, Lot





Grotte préhistorique

LOOKING FOR HOSTS: 11TH ISCA CONGRESS 2030

The International Show Caves Association (ISCA) is now inviting show caves, associations, and organizations interested in hosting the 11th ISCA Congress in 2030.

Held every four years, the ISCA Congress is the most important international gathering of the showcave sector, bringing together cave managers, tourism professionals, researchers, educators, and industry leaders from around the world.

Hosting an ISCA Congress offers a unique opportunity to:

- Showcase your cave(s), region, and country to an international audience.
- Promote local tourism, heritage, and conservation initiatives.
- Strengthen international partnerships and professional networks.
- Share your achievements, innovations, and best practices.
- Position your organization as a leader within the global show cave community..

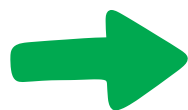
The Congress combines technical visits, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, and the ISCA General Assembly, creating lasting benefits for both hosts and participants.

Organizations interested in exploring the possibility of hosting the 11th ISCA Congress in 2030 are invited to contact the ISCA Board for further information.

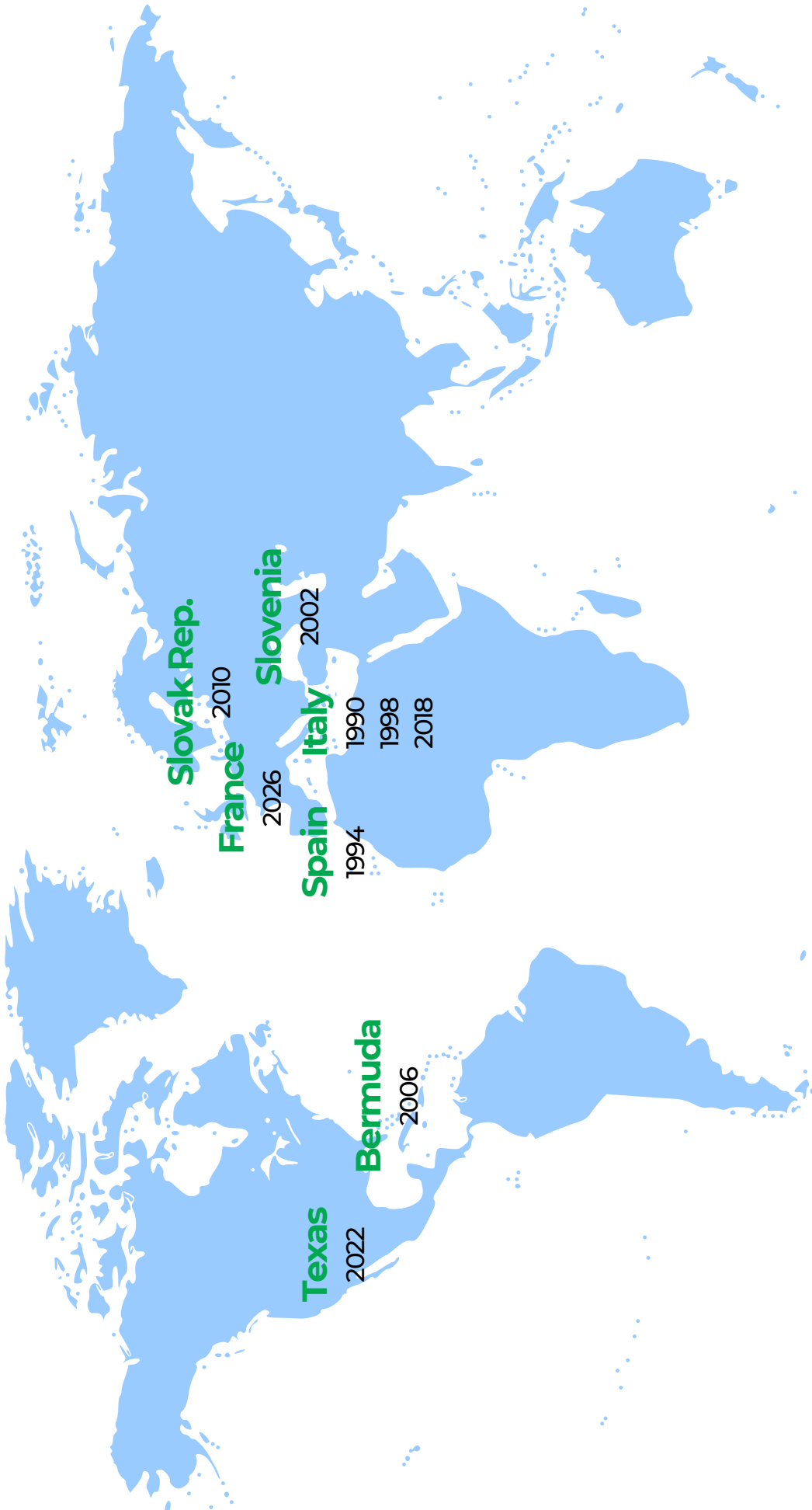
Join us in shaping the future of the international show cave community!

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

See all ISCA Congresses so far!



ISCA Congresses



10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CAVES AND THE SUBTERRANEAN WORLD!

The International Show Caves Association (ISCA) proudly celebrated the 10th anniversary of the International Day of Caves and the Subterranean World on June 6, 2026. Once again, show caves, associations, and organizations from many countries joined the initiative through a wide variety of activities aimed at promoting awareness and appreciation of subterranean heritage.

The event was announced by ISCA President, Friedrich Oedl, followed by a press release focused on the celebration of June 6. Throughout the world, show caves organized guided tours, educational programmes, exhibitions, social media campaigns, and special activities for visitors of all ages. Many sites also distributed #CaveDay magnets, posters, and promotional materials, helping bring the celebration beyond the caves themselves and into homes and communities.

This year's edition was especially meaningful as it marked ten years of international collaboration in support of caves, underground heritage, education, tourism, and conservation. ISCA would like to sincerely thank all show caves, associations, professionals, and volunteers who contributed to the success of this initiative and helped strengthen its international visibility.

Thank you to everyone who celebrated June 6 and shared their passion for caves with visitors and communities around the world. See you next year!

International Show Caves Association está con **National Cave...** ...
 Publicado por Juanjo Tíscar Moya · 39 min ·

🌐 Celebrate June 6 with ISCA!

🗨️ The International Day of Caves and the Subterranean World marks its 10th anniversary in 2026, and we invite show caves, organizations, and visitors worldwide to join the celebration.

📄 Read the official message from ISCA President, Friedrich Oedl, and download the international press release prepared for this special occasion.

👉 Organize activities, share your events, use the #CaveDay hashtag, and help us promote the beauty and importance of the underground world.

🤝 Together, let's continue growing this global celebration of caves and subterranean heritage!

👉 Press release: <https://shorturl.at/q381q>

👉 Letter from the President: <https://shorturl.at/MA5cH>

#CaveDay #showcaves #ISCA #FFTS #ACTE #NCA #BAPET Ver menos

June 6 opening post on social media by ISCA.



Grottes et Patrimoines Souterrains - FFTS
 Journée Internationale des Grottes et du Monde Souterrain - 2 h

#savethedate #6juin Journée Internationale des Grottes et du Monde Souterrain

A cette occasion, la FFTS - Fédération Française de Tourisme et Patrimoine Souterrain et ses membres vous proposent de vous aider à mieux connaître le patrimoine naturel et culturel des sites patrimoniaux souterrains en vous partageant des informations et des fun facts à propos du milieu souterrain.

Les membres de la FFTS vous invitent également à venir découvrir l'émotion et la richesse d'une découverte de sites souterrains.

Liste et carte des sites : <https://www.grottesdefrance.org/carte-et-liste-espaces.../>

Plus d'infos prochainement sur notre site web et nos réseaux.

#jigms #patrimoinesouterrain #CaveDay #ISCA International Show Caves Association #grotte #mine #troglodytique Ver menos

Ver traducción

Traversez le porche des Grottes EN TYROLIENNE 6 et 7 juin de 10h30 à 16h30

Avec TAUPE CANYON

Des voyages au centre de la Terre entre rêve et réalité

Atelier d'initiation à la géologie Samedi 6 juin - 10h30

COURNIOU

Durée : 45 min • 30 personnes • À partir de 8 ans

Sur réservation

June 6 was celebrated in France one more year. Photo: FFTS.

6 JUIN 2025
JOURNÉE INTERNATIONALE DES GROTTES ET DU MONDE SOUTERRAIN

Magnêt offert à chaque famille www.fts.fr

ACCUEILLIR - PROTÉGER - ÉMERVEILLER

Comme tous les sites membres de la FFTS, le 6 juin, les Grottes d'Isturitz et d'Oxocelhaya offriront à chaque famille un magnêt du logo marquant l'événement.

À cette occasion, Florian Berrouet présentera et dédicacera le livre "Isturitz & Oxocelhaya de z à a - Abécédaire à remonter le temps"

Le site proposera également :

- Visite spéciale photo à 9h
- Visite spéciale sonore "Résonances" (projet soutenu par la Région Nouvelle-Aquitaine) à 17h.

Grottes d'Isturitz et Oxocelhaya

Le 6 juin, préparez-vous à plonger dans l'aventure !

June 6 was celebrated in France one more year. Photo: FFTS.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CAVES AND THE SUBTERRANEAN WORLD

6TH JUNE 2026

USE #CAVEDAY TO BE FEATURED IN OUR STORY

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CAVES AND SUBTERRANEAN WORLD

STUMP CROSS CAVERNS

Special events in the UK. Photo: Stump Cross Caverns.

Special events in the UK. Photo: Stump Cross Caverns.

Journée Internationale des Grottes & du Monde Souterrain

Découvrir l'invisible, protéger l'essentiel

6 Juin 2026

Celebration of June 6 in Rodrigues Island. Photo: François Leguat Cave Reserve.

Celebration of June 6 in Rodrigues Island. Photo: François Leguat Cave Reserve.



The Spanish Show Caves Association (ACTE) celebrated June 6 in Valporquero Cave. Photo: ACTE.



The Spanish Show Caves Association (ACTE) celebrated June 6 in Valporquero Cave. Photo: ACTE.



Austria celebrating June 6. Photo: Eisriesenwelt.



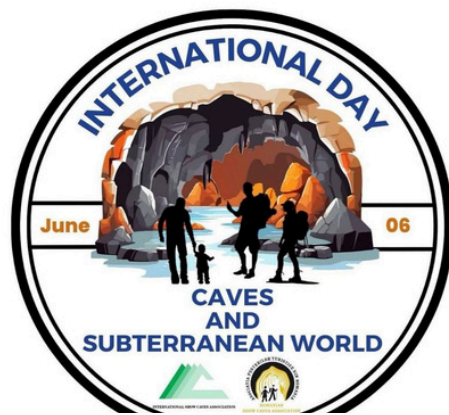
In Northern Ireland they also celebrated June 6. Photo: Marble Arch Caves.

ZIUA INTERNAȚIONALĂ A
**PEȘTERILOR
 TURISTICE**

*Recomandarea perfectă pentru
 weekend în familie!*

- Descoperă magia lumii subterane
- Timp de calitate alături de cei dragi
- Amintiri de neuit într-un loc unic

*Te așteaptă o experiență
 fascinantă pentru
 toată familia!*

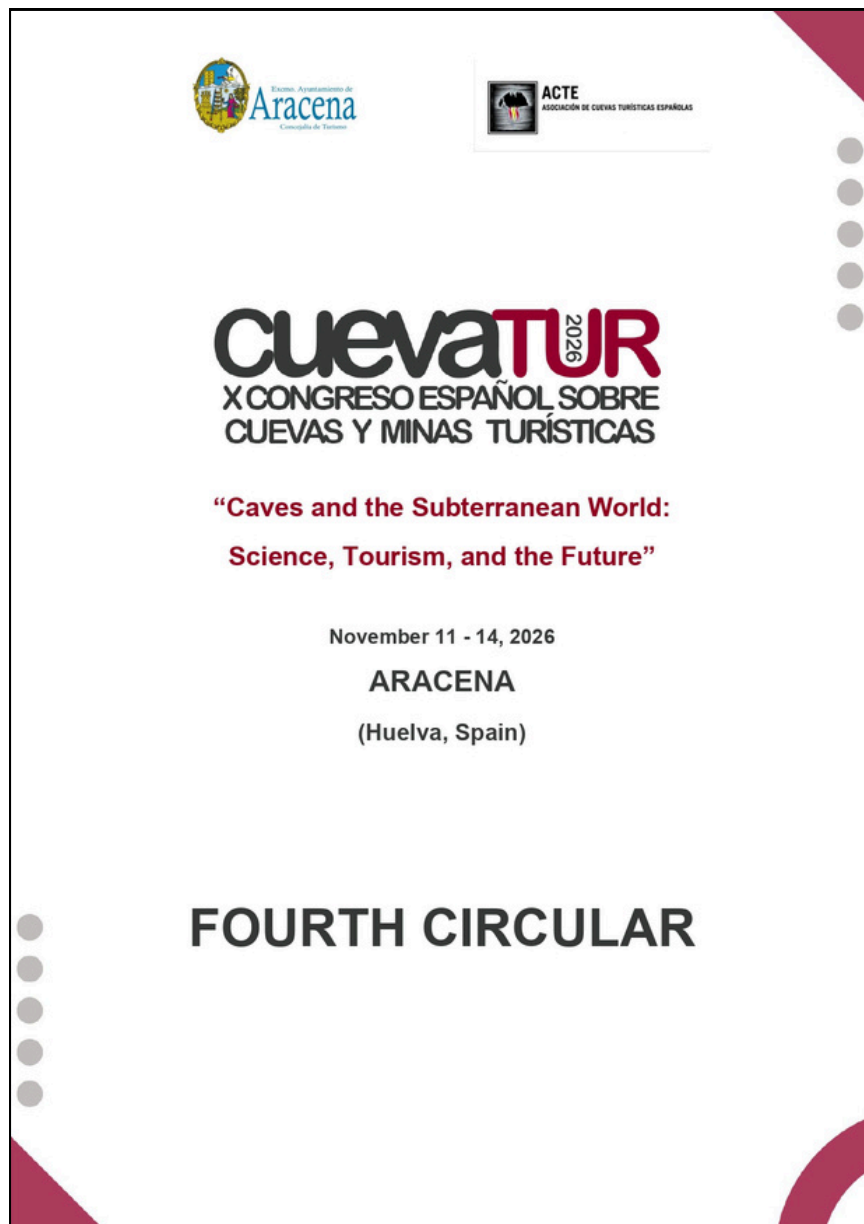


June 6 in Romania. Photo: Asociația Peșterilor Turistice din România.

CUEVATUR 2026

Aracena (Huelva, Spain) will host the 10th edition of CUEVATUR, the Spanish Congress on Show Caves and Mines, from November 11 to 14, 2026. Organized by the City of Aracena and the Spanish Association of Show Caves (ACTE), CUEVATUR will once again be an excellent opportunity to learn, exchange knowledge and experiences with national and international participants, and discover the latest advances in sustainable underground tourism.

Preparations for the congress continue to move forward successfully, while circulars remain available for those wishing to begin planning their participation. Don't miss CUEVATUR 2026!



CAVE LIGHTING’S BUSINESS TRIP REPORT: SHOW CAVE VISITS AND LIGHTING PROJECTS IN THE UNITED STATES (PART 1)

information provided by Alexander Chrapko



Date: April 2026

Participants: Alexander Chrapko, Lubov Chrapko

Locations in the U.S.: Colorado, Virginia, Pennsylvania.

Destinations: Glenwood Caverns, Luray Caverns.

Cave Lighting’s Official Website

Background and Start of the Trip

During the NCA Convention in October 2025, a tour of Glenwood Caverns was arranged with Kathy Miller. In addition, the first phase of the new lighting system installation at Luray Caverns had been completed in March, making it necessary to review the results on site and discuss the second phase of the project with cave management. These objectives led to a business trip to the United States beginning on April 12, with planned destinations in Colorado and Virginia.

As the itinerary allowed for a significant amount of available time between project activities, the opportunity was taken to visit additional show caves. In total, nine show caves across three states were explored during the trip. The following report shares observations and impressions.



Luray Caverns. Photo: Cave Lighting.

Glenwood Caverns

Arrival in Colorado took place on April 12, followed by three days of work at Glenwood Caverns from April 13 to 15 with Kathy Miller and Becca Gabriel. Sessions in the conference room were combined with fieldwork in the caves, creating a productive schedule and allowing valuable exchanges of ideas. Both Kings Row and Fairy Cave were explored in detail and traversed several times. Participation in guided tours also provided insight into Becca Gabriel's interpretation and presentation of the caves from a visitor's perspective. By the end of the visit, all necessary data had been collected. Upon returning to Germany, this information will be compiled into an initial report to support a preliminary budget and the first technical concepts for the new lighting system.



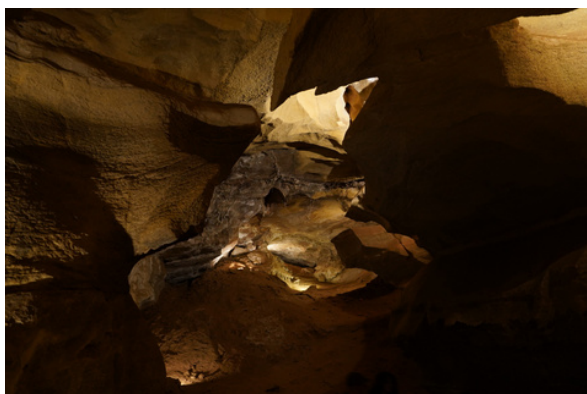
Glenwood Caverns. Photo: Cave Lighting.



Glenwood Caverns. Photo: Cave Lighting.

Cave of the Winds Mountain Park

After three days at Glenwood Caverns, the journey continued toward Boulder. With time available in the schedule, a detour was made to Colorado Springs to visit Cave of the Winds. Thanks to arrangements made with the assistance of Kathy Miller, it was possible to join a regular guided tour. The experience was highly enjoyable, and the guide's excellent presentation largely compensated for the somewhat dated lighting system throughout the cave. Following a week of wintry conditions in Colorado, the trip continued to Virginia, where temperatures rose from approximately 42°F to 82°F. The first day was devoted to visiting two museums at Luray Caverns rather than cave-related activities. On Sunday, the Classic Car Museum and the Open-Air Museum were explored, with Isabel Graves providing a guided tour that greatly enhanced the experience.



Cave of the Winds Mountain Park. Photo: Cave Lighting.



Cave of the Winds Mountain Park. Photo: Cave Lighting.

Luray Caverns

Sufficient time was available to explore the cave under both the new and existing lighting systems, with results exceeding expectations. The difference is especially evident in Cathedral Hall, where the original lighting remains in place. The older system appears harsh, overly bright, and widely dispersed, creating an overwhelming effect. In contrast, the new LED lighting installed by the Cave Lighting Team provides softer, more balanced illumination. It avoids glare and allows visitors to appreciate the cave's details more comfortably. This is considered one of the main strengths of the new system. Overall, the project has been highly successful and represents a significant achievement in implementing the lighting concept. There is every confidence that the second phase will achieve similarly strong results.



Luray Caverns. Photo: Cave Lighting.



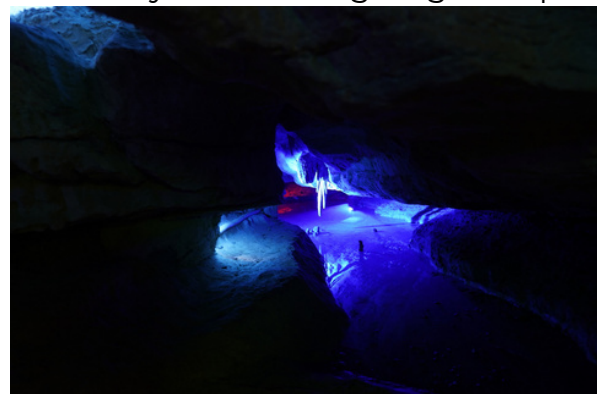
Luray Caverns. Photo: Cave Lighting.

Skyline Caverns

Virginia proved to be unexpectedly rich in show caves, with several located in close proximity to Luray Caverns. This concentration made it possible to explore multiple caves over the course of two days. The first visit was to Skyline Caverns. The cave itself is of considerable geological interest; however, the guided tour experience was assessed as rather average in quality. Regarding the lighting system, expectations were naturally limited given its age of approximately 50 to 60 years. The installation was carried out by an electrical company that did not appear to have specific expertise in cave lighting design. As a result, the fixtures seem to have been placed in a rather improvised manner, primarily serving the purpose of basic illumination rather than a carefully considered lighting concept.



Skyline Caverns. Photo: Cave Lighting.



Skyline Caverns. Photo: Cave Lighting.

To be continued... (Don't miss our next newsletter!)

BAGUMBAYAN CLASSIFIED CAVES RESTORATION INITIATIVE (PHILIPPINES)

by Sheryl Grace Buenaventura

The classified caves of Barangay Masiag, Bagumbayan, Sultan Kudarat, were surveyed in February 2020 through a collaborative effort involving the Sarangani Bay Area Outdoor Club (SBAOC), PENRO Sultan Kudarat, MENRO Bagumbayan, and the Sultan Kudarat Rescue Team (SKRT). This initiative resulted in the mapped documentation of the cave systems and laid the foundation for future conservation efforts.

Building on this work, restoration activities carried out on March 28–29, 2026 focused on repairing damaged formations and promoting sustainable cave conservation practices. The initiative was led by Mikko Cuevas and co-led by Ruffilyn Dua under the Cave Restoration and Exploration Projects, Inc. (CREP Inc.), in coordination with local government units, environmental agencies, community stakeholders, and academic volunteers.

Restoration activities included waste removal, non-invasive cleaning of vandalized surfaces, and the careful repair of damaged speleothems following established conservation protocols. These efforts highlight the importance of responsible intervention and technical guidance in protecting fragile cave environments.



Non-invasive removal of graffiti carried out by student volunteers from Sultan Kudarat State University.
Photo: Mariel Grace Jamero.

The Bagumbayan caves contain a diverse range of active and intricate speleothems, including rimstone terraces, flowstones, and shallow depositional pools. Some depositional areas contain calcite accumulations and developing cave pearls, indicating ongoing mineral formation under highly sensitive conditions. Due to their fragility, these features are particularly vulnerable to disturbance. Through restoration work and community engagement, the initiative supports the long-term conservation of these cave systems, contributing to the preservation of both their natural processes and scientific value.



Speleothem repair conducted in accordance with established conservation protocols adapted from the techniques of Michel Mansur of the Cave Formation Repair Project. Photo: Neena Rachel Marie Panal.

We gratefully acknowledge all partners and volunteers whose dedication and support made this initiative possible. Our sincere appreciation goes to the Provincial Government of Sultan Kudarat, the Provincial Tourism Office, the Local Government Unit of Bagumbayan, and the Barangay Local Government Unit of Masiag for their guidance and assistance. We also recognize the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) Tacurong, the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (MDRRMO) Bagumbayan, local guides, and the volunteers from Sultan Kudarat State University for their valuable contributions to the successful implementation of this initiative.



A multi-sectoral team of partners and volunteers inside the Bagumbayan classified caves. Photo: Ruffyln Dua.

18TH EUROSPELEO FORUM & MEETING OF CROATIAN SPELEOLOGISTS (PAZIN 2026)



The 18th EuroSpeleo Forum & Meeting of Croatian Speleologists (MUNDUS SPELAEUS 2026) will take place in Pazin, Istria (Croatia) from 13 to 15 November 2026, marking the first time that Croatia hosts Europe's leading speleological gathering.

Held under the auspices of the European Speleological Federation (FSE) and supported by the Croatian Speleological Federation (HSS), the Commission for Speleology of the Croatian Mountaineering Association (KS HPS), and the City of Pazin, the event combines the EuroSpeleo Forum with the annual Meeting of Croatian Speleologists into a single international conference.

Situated in the heart of Istria, a region famous for its karst landscapes and rich speleological heritage, Pazin provides the perfect setting for this unique meeting. The programme will bring together explorers, researchers, scientists, and enthusiasts from across Europe to exchange knowledge, present new discoveries, strengthen cooperation, and promote high standards in cave exploration and conservation.

Participants can expect an engaging mix of lectures, films, exhibitions, and networking opportunities celebrating every aspect of the underground world. Whether an experienced caver or a newcomer with an interest in speleology, attendees will find inspiring sessions and the opportunity to become part of an active and passionate international community.

Further information can be found [here](#).

CALL FOR ISCA MEMBERS: 'WORLD OF SHOW CAVES'



As you already know, we are currently working on World of Show Caves, a new digital publication by ISCA that will showcase the diversity and richness of our global community. This book will feature ISCA members with photographs, key information, and a short profile, celebrating our shared mission to preserve and promote the underground world.

As several members have informed us that they are still gathering materials and preparing new photographs, we have decided to postpone the first edition and publish it directly in 2027. This additional time will also allow new members and other interested participants to prepare their contributions and be included from the beginning.

Our goal is to create a high-quality publication with the widest possible international representation. After the first release, the book will continue to be updated with new information, images, and, we hope, many new ISCA members. On the following page, you will find a detailed description of the materials required for inclusion in the publication. We kindly encourage all members who have not yet submitted their content to begin preparing it and send the materials when ready.

See below to find the materials needed in order to include your show cave in World of Show Caves. If you need any further clarification, please do not hesitate and contact us.

Images (highest quality available):

- 1 main/cover image (if possible, in horizontal/landscape)
- 2 images for use as thumbnails
- The official logo of your show cave
- Please indicate if any image has copyright restrictions.

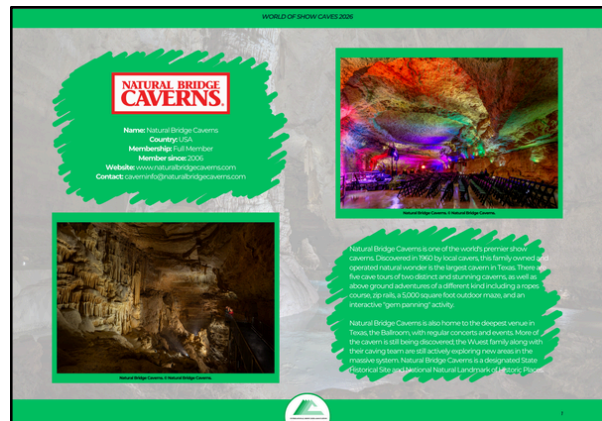
Text (max. 80 words):

- A short description of your cave or association

Information:

- Name of the ISCA member.
- Country.
- Member since (year).
- Website.
- Contact email (general).

Please send all materials to Juanjo: secretary@i-s-c-a.org



PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

UIS BULLETIN
Union Internationale de Spéléologie

Volume 67-1 - June 2025 - ISSN 2820-5316

Brazil is ready to welcome participants to



the world's premier speleology event, including the major celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the UIS

- More than 1,100 registrants from 51 countries
- 466 papers (communication and posters)
- 6 Symposia and 16 Technical-Scientific Sessions
- Six inspiring keynote lectures
- Special UIS and Congress Award Ceremonies

EuroSpeleo Newsletter January 2026



Dear caving friends

In the name of the FSE Bureau I would like to thank all delegates who full their task correctly and act as information gateway between the FSE and the cavers in their organization. Unfortunately, some delegates do not always do their job in redistributing general information coming from the FSE.

A new addition to the statutes highlight this task: "The delegates and vice delegates are responsible to ensure the information exchange between the FSE and their speleological organization... which includes means of members of the delegate's organization."

The 2024 General Assembly Meeting of the FSE will take place on 16th of April 2026 (EPR04, EFC17). It will be an online meeting. Delegates will receive a formal invitation and provisional agenda from the FSE's Secretary General shortly, which also will include an internet link to join the GAIA.

The next gathering of the European cavers, the 18th EuroSpeleo Forum (ESF) is also in preparation by our colleagues from Croatia. The ESF is foreseen to take place on the peninsula of Istria in the first half of November 2026.

For your calendar: Next General Assembly Meeting (GAM) and preliminary info on the next EuroSpeleo Forum (ESF)

FSE Partners: AV, Hordis, Scurion

CAVE TALK NEWSLETTER September 2025

OFFICERS

President: Dennis Boyer
Vice President: Mark Bishop
Secretary Treasurer: Bob Holt
Regional Directors: [List of names and contact info]

Final word from President Boyer

This is my last note as President of the NCA, and as I become a member of the very elite "Past President Club", I want to express my appreciation to all in this organization, a truly family oriented group. It is comforting to know that we can count on each other.

During the past two years, I have felt like the Wizard of Oz, with the power "behind the curtain" because of the untiring dedication of our Executive Director, Bob Holt, our Convention Coordinator, Susan, Regional Directors and Committee Members. They have made this job very easy.

I have been feeling concerned that our numbers and dollars at War Eagle Cavern have been slightly down so far this year - worried that we are neglecting something or doing something wrong. But, after talking with fellow members representing both large and small operations, it seems that many of us are in the same boat. Makes me feel a little better that it is not

Spelunca REVUE DE LA FEDERATION FRANÇAISE DE SPELEOLOGIE n° 178

Costa Rica: descente de canyons
Baliseage ancien des grottes
Ain Merzuzan, un gouffre géant en Libye
Biospéléologie: spéléologues et scientifiques s'associent pour faire progresser la connaissance




6th June

International Day of Caves and the Subterranean World


International Show Caves Association

ACTE
ASOCIACION DE CUEVAS TURISTICAS ESPAÑOLAS



THE CAVE

Juan José Tíscar Moya



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

SUBTERRANEAN FRAMES



6th ISCA Congress in Slovakia, 2010. Photo: Heros Lobo.

Would you like to share your own photograph? Send it to SECRETARY@I-S-C-A.ORG

HELP US PRESERVE ISCA'S HISTORY

ISCA is working to complete and enrich our historical archive. Since its foundation in 1989, countless meetings, projects, and friendships have shaped our community, and we want to make sure those memories are preserved for future generations. If you have any materials from previous meetings, please share them with us. Thank you!



ISCA Foundation meeting in 1989.

WHAT CAVE IS IT?

CAVE #48



What cave is it? Photo: Best Western Inn of the Ozarks

HINTS

HINT #1 - Arkansas's oldest show cave, welcoming visitors since 1893.

HINT #2 - Located near Eureka Springs in the Ozark Mountains of the USA.

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

PREVIOUS ANSWERS

Last month's CAVE #47 was Vilenica Cave (Slovenia).

Vilenica Cave, located in Slovenia's Karst region, is one of Europe's oldest show caves, welcoming visitors since 1633. Famous for its impressive chambers, stalactites, and rich literary heritage, it combines natural beauty with cultural significance. Guided tours lead visitors through spectacular underground passages shaped over millions of years by water and limestone.

They have now been an ISCA member since early 2026!

ISCA CALENDAR

2026

July 20-27 - International Summer School in Biospeleology (Ic Ponor (Apuseni Mountains, Romania)

September 14-17 - 2026 NCA Convention (Diamond Caverns, Park City, KY, USA)

September 23 - October 1, 2026 - 10th ISCA Congress (Dordogne, France)

November 11-14 - CUEVATUR X: Spanish Congress of Show Caves and Mines (Spain)

November 17-20 - IAAPA 2026 US (Orlando, Florida, USA)

2027...and more!

2027 - 2027 NCA Convention (Rushmore Cave and Adventure Park, Rapid City, SD, USA)

2028 - 2028 NCA Convention (Cave of the Mounds, Blue Mounds, WI, USA)

2028 - CUEVATUR XI: Spanish Congress of Show Caves and Mines (Spain)

2029 - 2029 NCA Convention (Cumberland Caverns, McMinnville, TN, USA)

2030 - 11th ISCA Congress (TBD)

2030 - 2030 NCA Convention (Lincoln Caverns, Huntingdon, PA, USA)

NOTE: THESE DATES MAY SUFFER CHANGES.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE AN EVENT?

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



JOIN US AND GET YOUR ISCA MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE!



All the ISCA members in good standing already have their 2026 ISCA Membership Certificate. Therefore, these can already be displayed at different show caves worldwide. If you have not received yours, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will be taking care of it. And if you wish to become an ISCA member in order to get yours, please reach out and learn more on the benefits. It's not just a certificate!

PAYMENT AND RENEWAL FORM UPDATES

The recommended method for members in **Europe** and other countries with minimal or no fees is:

BIC / SWIFT #: RVSAAT2S
IBAN / Account #: AT36 3500 0000 4212 9189
Beneficiary Bank Account Name: ISCA

Payments coming from **outside Europe** can be made through **PayPal** as fees could be lower. Our PayPal account is **isca@eisriesenwelt.at**

Update: you do not need to send us a Renewal Form if your data have not changed.

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE ISCA COMMUNITY

The International Show Caves Association now offers two community channels to help our members stay connected: Telegram and WhatsApp. By scanning the QR codes below, you can join the groups and take part in ongoing conversations within the global ISCA family.

These groups are spaces where members can:

- Share publications and resources related to show caves
- Receive ISCA updates such as newsletters, surveys, and announcements
- Exchange information on upcoming congresses, conferences, and meetings
- Share your own materials, experiences, and questions
- Connect with colleagues from around the world in real time

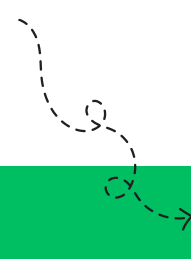
These channels do not replace our official email communications. Instead, they provide an additional, more dynamic way to stay in touch and collaborate beyond borders and time zones.

We encourage all members to join and help us build an active, supportive, and knowledgeable international community.

Scan the codes and join us!



You can also
click here!



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 an ISCA member, congratulations! You will receive your ISCA Membership Certificate.

MORE INFORMATION ON OUR [WEBSITE](#)

ANY MORE DOUBTS?
CONTACT SECRETARY@I-S-C-A.ORG

Is there anything else you need?

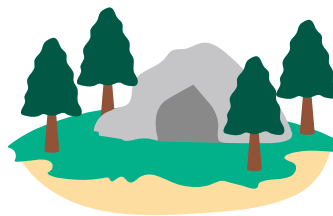
Make sure you visit our website in order not to miss anything:



[NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS](#)



[APPLICATION FORM](#)



[ABOUT US](#)



[ORGANIZATION](#)

DO YOU NEED ANY FURTHER INFORMATION?
CONTACT SECRETARY@I-S-C-A.ORG

YOU CAN ALSO MEET US ON WHATSAPP & TELEGRAM BY SCANNING THE QR CODES BELOW



FUTURE ISCA EVENTS DEPEND ON YOU

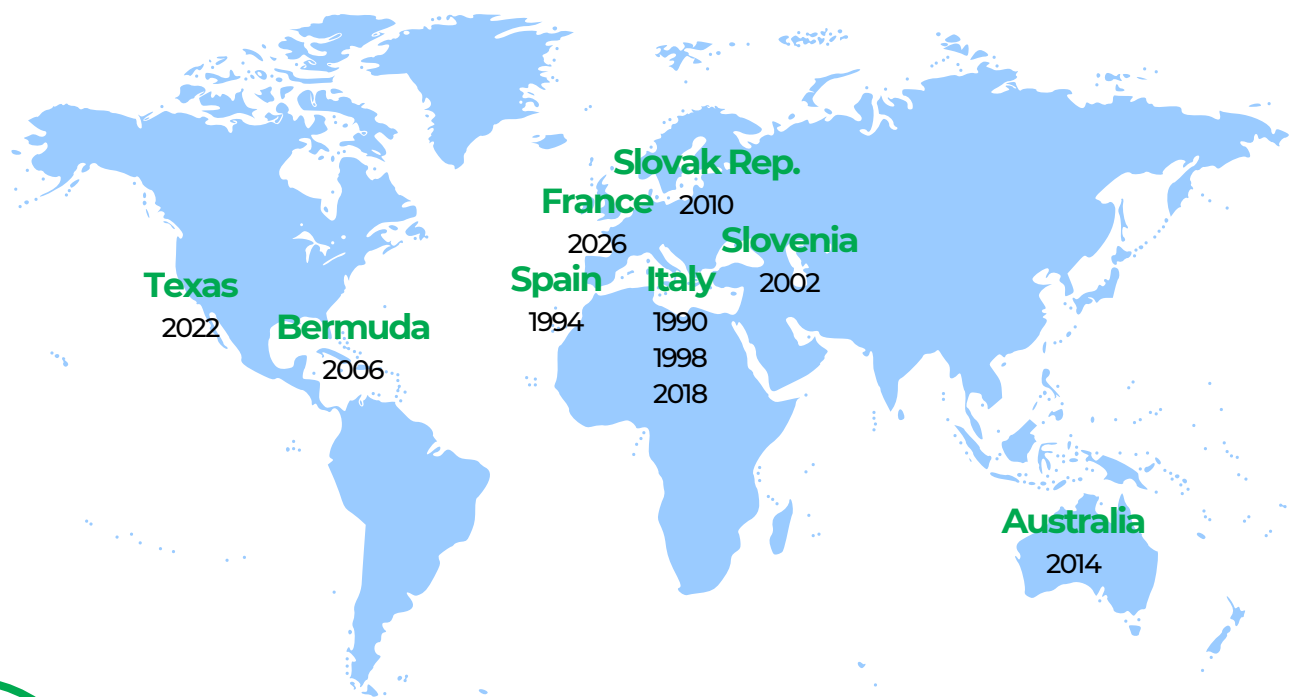
Would you like to host an ISCA event?

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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President

Friedrich Oedl, Austria

Secretary

Juan José Tíscar Moya, Spain

First Vice-President

Rafaél Pagés Rodríguez, Spain

Treasurer

Francesca Serpentine, Italy

Second Vice-President

Nuno André Querido Jorge, Portugal

ISCA Directors

Director

Guilhem de Grully, France

Director

Lorenzo Burzacca, Italy

Director

Heros Augusto Santos Lobo, Brazil

Director

Peter Gažík, Slovakia

Director

Jakub 'Kuba' Gabris, Czech Republic

Director

Yvonne Wagner, Germany

Director

Joe Klimczak, USA

Scientific & Technical Committee Chair

Juan José Durán Valsero, Spain

Prehistory Commission Chair

Joëlle Darricau, France

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.

Would you like to contribute? Contact us!

Special thanks to everyone who collaborated.

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

ISCA Newsletter

July 2026 - Volume 36

Editor: Juan José Tíscar Moya

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

