

ISCA NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION



10TH ISCA CONGRESS: THREE WEEKS TO GO!

It's here! This month, the international show cave community gathers in Dordogne (France) for the 10th Congress of the International Show Caves Association, held under the theme "Beneath the Earth, Beyond Time."

You will find all the necessary information of the event on the next pages of the newsletter and also in the latest circular.

In addition, the 2026 ISCA & NCA Survey is almost ready! In this issue you will find some interesting data, but pay attention to our next newsletter for full details!

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!



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



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

Dear colleagues, friends, and members of the ISCA family,

We are now just a few weeks away from the 10th ISCA Congress in Dordogne, France, and preparations are entering their final stage. Everything is ready for what promises to be a highly engaging and memorable gathering of our international show cave community.

I warmly encourage all members to join us in this important event. The Congress is a unique opportunity to meet our extended show cave family, exchange experiences, and strengthen the cooperation that defines our association. I would also like to sincerely thank everyone involved in the organisation for their outstanding work and dedication in preparing this special edition.

Earlier this year, we also celebrated the successful 10th edition of the International Day of Caves and the Subterranean World. Once again, show caves from around the world took part in this initiative, helping to raise awareness of the importance, beauty, and fragility of subterranean heritage. My sincere thanks go to all members who contributed and shared their activities.

In November I will be participating in CUEVATUR (Spain), and I look forward to sharing some time with many friends there. These meetings are essential to reinforce dialogue between scientific, technical, and tourism-related perspectives within our sector but also to have fun and catch up with colleagues.

Finally, I would like to encourage you to continue sharing ISCA initiatives and opportunities with colleagues. Together, we continue to grow and strengthen the international show cave community.

Looking forward to seeing many of you very soon in Dordogne.

With kind regards,

Fritz Oedl
ISCA President

BY THE EDITOR



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



In June I had my cousin's wedding in France. We had so much fun!

Dear ISCA friends,

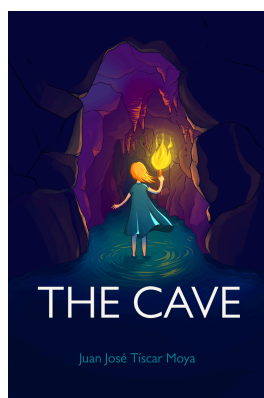
Welcome to the 37th volume of the ISCA newsletter. This is a very special issue as we are already waiting to celebrate the 10th ISCA Congress in France. It has been months of preparation, collaboration, and shared enthusiasm across our international community, and we are now ready to meet again in Dordogne. By the way, I was in France in June to celebrate a very special wedding with my family!

With the Congress just around the corner, final preparations are underway for what promises to be an exceptional gathering of cave managers, researchers, tourism professionals, and partners from around the world. This issue provides the latest updates and a preview of what participants can expect. We also present a first overview of the survey results, offering early insights into the current state of the global show cave sector. A more detailed analysis will be shared in a forthcoming publication, but if you come to the Congress, you will get all the data there!

As always, please don't forget my short tale: **The Cave** (*La Cueva*). You'll find it both in English and Spanish and It would 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 36 - Jul. & Aug.
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

LAST DAYS TO REGISTER FOR THE 10TH ISCA CONGRESS!



It's almost time. Please follow the registration instructions below before it's too late!

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 1/1



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION



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



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

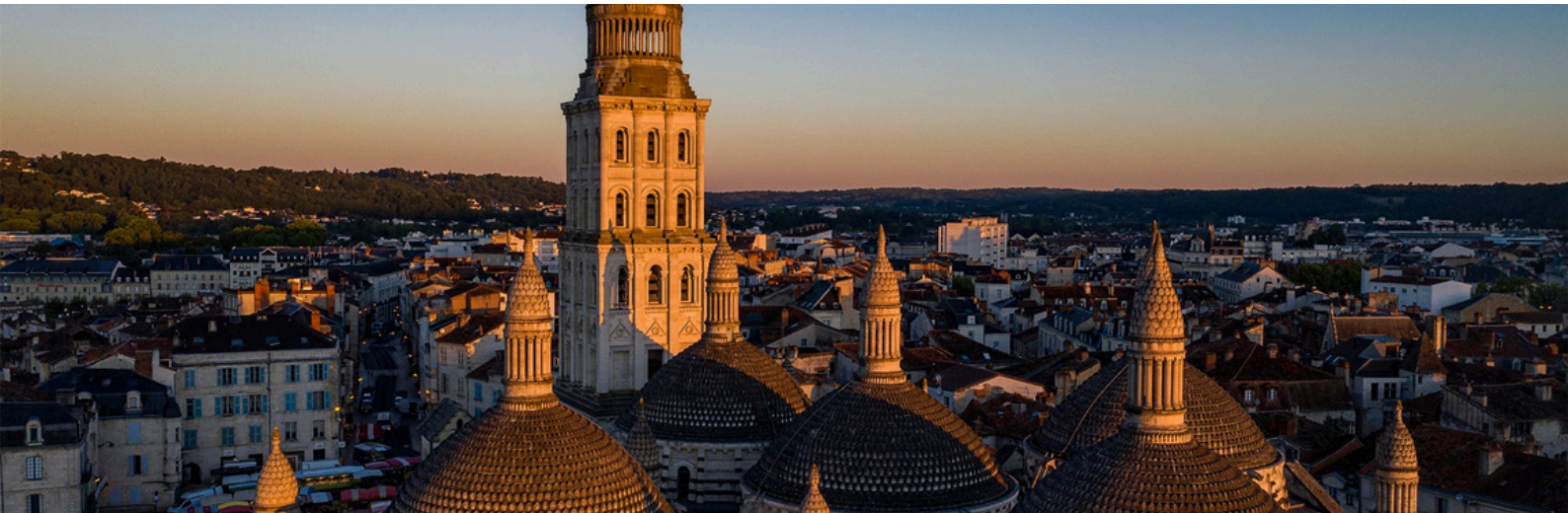
- **Wednesday 23, September**
 - Domme Cave tour
 - Milandes Castle tour
- **Thursday 24, September**
 - Tourtoirac Cave tour
 - Hautefort Castle tour

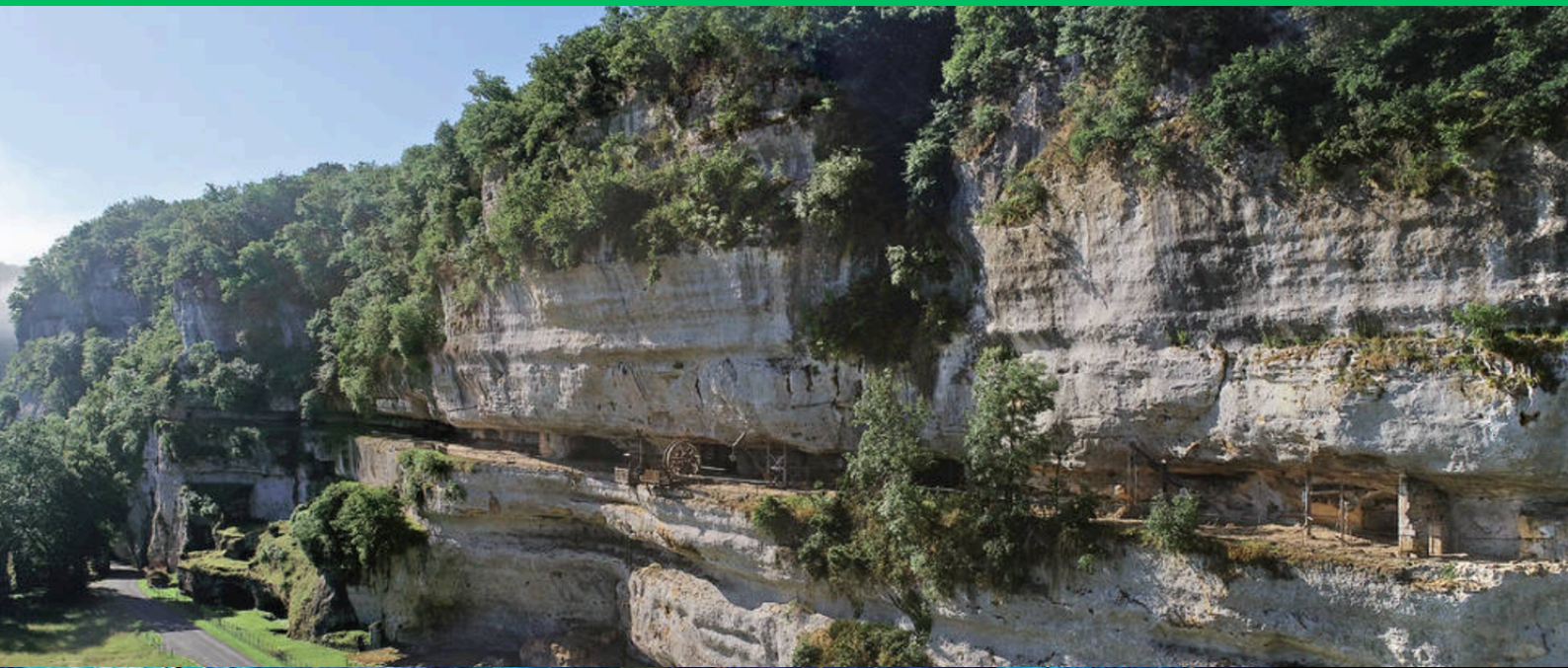
• POST CONGRESS TRIPS

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



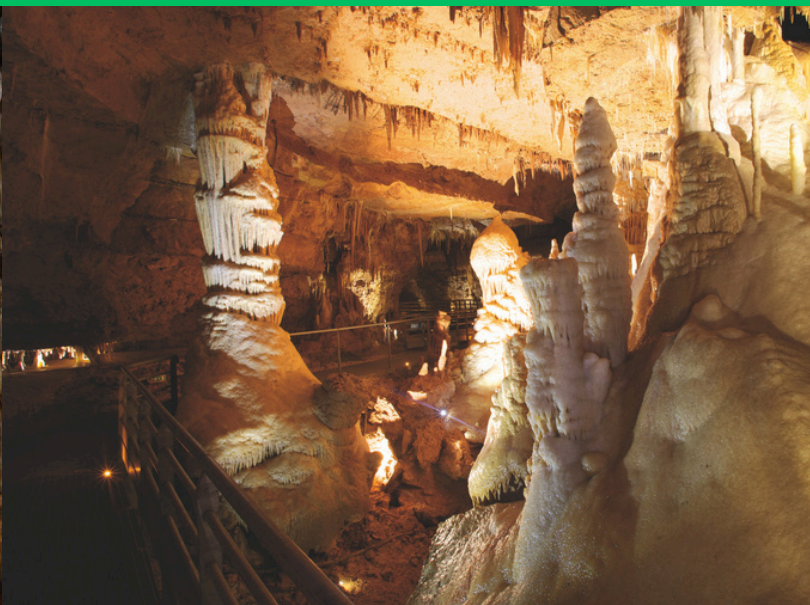
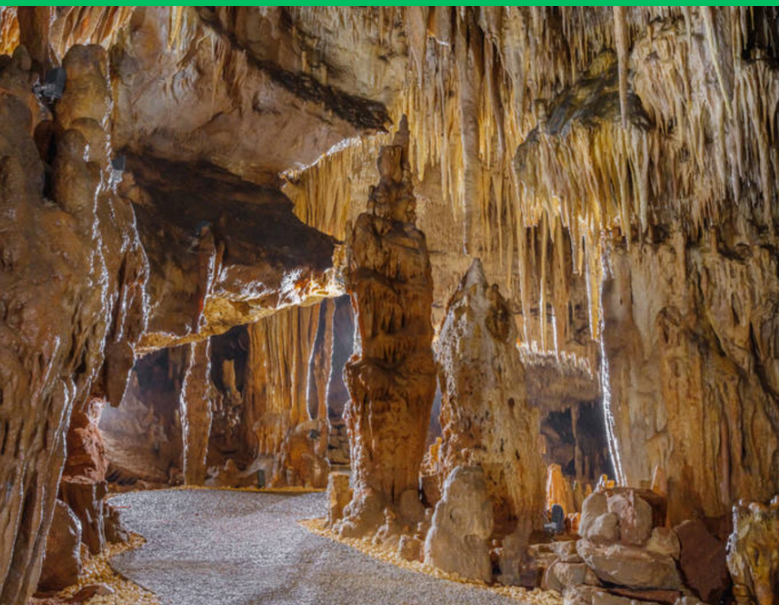
A SHORT GLIMPSE OF WHAT YOU'LL SEE AT THE CONGRESS





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





Les Grottes de la Vache - Bouquetin © Francis Jach



Grottes de Maxange ©



La Grotte du Fau - Cabrerets, Lot





Grotte préhistorique

ABOUT DORDOGNE

Located in the heart of southwestern France, Dordogne (Périgord) is a region of natural beauty, deep history, and outstanding underground heritage.

Famous for its dramatic limestone landscapes shaped over millions of years, the area is home to an exceptional concentration of caves, prehistoric art, and subterranean rivers that have fascinated researchers, explorers, and visitors for generations. These underground environments reveal not only geological processes of great scientific value but also an extraordinary human legacy. Iconic sites such as Lascaux, Rouffignac, Proumeyssac, and Villars illustrate a long-lasting relationship between nature, geology, and human presence in the region, offering unique insights into early human lifestyles.

Above ground, Dordogne is equally captivating. Medieval towns, fortified hilltop castles, and picturesque villages are scattered across a landscape of valleys, rivers, and forests, reflecting both its historical depth and enduring rural charm. The region is also known for its lively traditional markets, where local producers offer seasonal and high-quality products in a vibrant social atmosphere. Its celebrated gastronomy, including truffles, foie gras, walnuts, duck specialties, and local wines, provides a rich and authentic expression of French culinary tradition and regional identity.

The combination of cultural heritage, natural landscapes, and living traditions makes Dordogne a particularly unique destination in Europe. It is a place where history is not only preserved but also experienced in daily life, through its architecture, its cuisine, and its strong connection to the land.

Dordogne will be the perfect inspiring setting for exchange and discovery during the ISCA & FFTS Congress. Here, the dialogue between past and present continues to evolve, offering a deeper understanding of the subterranean world and its importance for science, culture, and future generations.



ABOUT PÉRIGUEUX

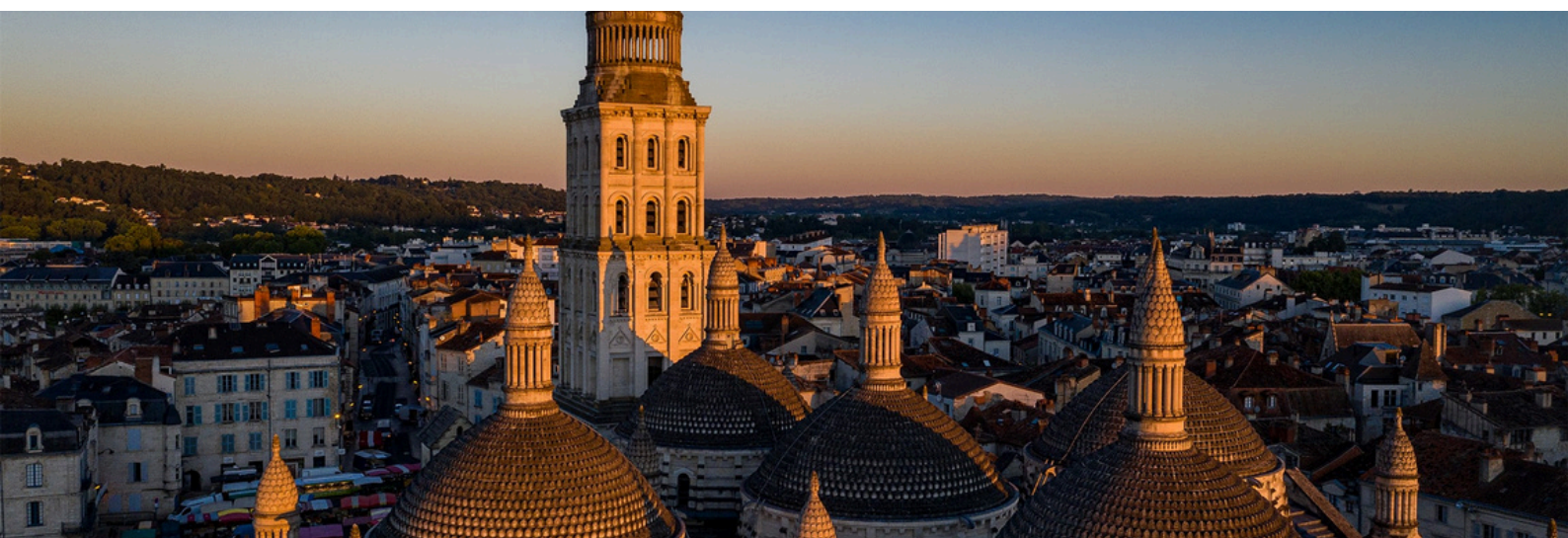
Périgueux is one of southwestern France's most historic and character-filled cities. As the capital of the Périgord, it offers a rich blend of heritage, culture, and modern energy, making it an ideal hub for the ISCA & FFTS Congress.

Its long and layered past is visible throughout the city. The Vesunna archaeological site, built around the remains of a remarkable Roman domus, reveals the importance of the ancient Roman settlement of *Vesunna*. Nearby, the Saint-Front Cathedral (part of the UNESCO World Heritage listing of the Routes of Santiago de Compostela in France) illustrates centuries of architectural evolution, blending Romanesque origins with later Byzantine-inspired influences.

The compact historic centre invites visitors to explore at a relaxed pace through narrow medieval streets, lively squares, and riverside promenades along the Isle River. Each corner reveals a mix of architectural styles, from timbered houses to elegant 18th-century façades. The atmosphere is further enriched by bustling markets, artisan shops, and cafés, while cultural events and exhibitions animate the city throughout the year.

Périgueux is also renowned for its gastronomy, deeply rooted in the traditions of the Périgord region. Local specialties such as truffles, walnuts, foie gras, duck confit, and regional cheeses define a cuisine that is both authentic and refined. Weekly markets offer an immersive experience of local produce and regional identity.

With excellent accessibility, welcoming atmosphere, and quality accommodation, Périgueux is an ideal base for exploring the wider Dordogne region. It combines historical depth, cultural vibrancy, and contemporary energy, making it both a strategic congress location and an inspiring destination.



FIRST GLANCE AT THE 2026 ISCA & NCA SHOW CAVE SURVEY

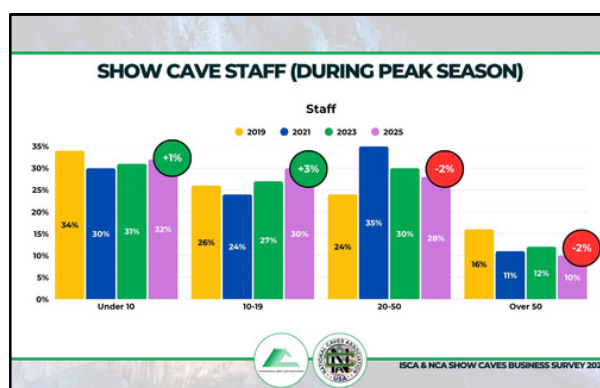
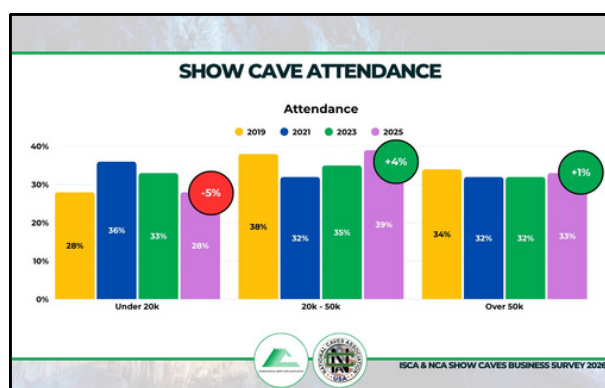
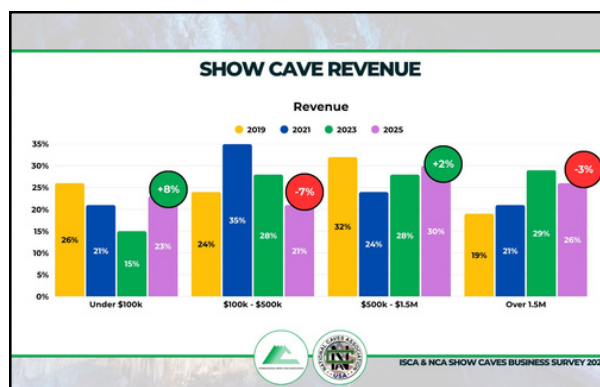
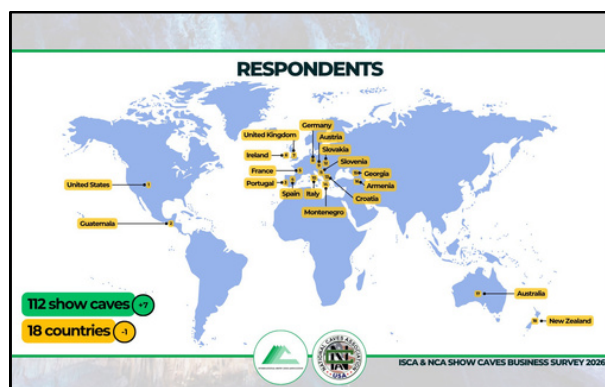
We are pleased to present a first glance of the results of the 2026 International Show Cave Survey.

The survey was open from January 1 to April 30, 2026, during which more than 100 show caves and organizations from around the world contributed valuable information about visitor numbers, economic impact, employment, management practices, and current challenges facing the sector.

Following the closing of the survey, the data analysis phase began on May 1 and has continued throughout the summer. The large amount of information received has provided an excellent overview of the current situation of the international show cave industry and will help identify trends, opportunities, and areas of common interest for cave managers worldwide.

In this issue, we are sharing only a brief preview of some of the findings. A comprehensive report, including detailed statistics, regional comparisons, and sector analysis, will be released soon.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the show caves, associations, and professionals who took the time to participate. Your collaboration makes this project possible and helps strengthen our understanding of the global show cave sector.



CAVE LIGHTING'S BUSINESS TRIP REPORT: SHOW CAVE VISITS AND LIGHTING PROJECTS IN THE UNITED STATES (PART 2)

information provided by Alexander Chrapko



Don't miss the first article in the previous ISCA Newsletter (Volume 36)!

Endless Caverns

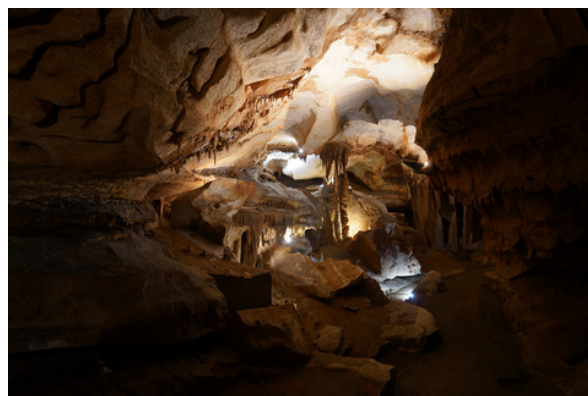
Following the visit to Skyline Caverns, the itinerary continued to Endless Caverns. This show cave is situated on a campground and operates as a relatively old, privately managed cave system.

The guided tour was notably more engaging than the one at Skyline Caverns. While the lighting installation is broadly comparable in technical approach, greater attention has been paid to preventing visitor glare and reducing the development of lampenflora associated with artificial illumination.

The tour duration was approximately one hour. The cave guide, a young male presenter, provided detailed and informative explanations, contributing to an overall positive visitor experience. The cave itself made a strong impression, particularly due to its spacious chambers and the extensive stalactite formations on display.



Endless Caverns. Photo: Cave Lighting.



Endless Caverns. Photo: Cave Lighting.

Shenandoah Caverns

Shenandoah Caverns had already been visited in October 2025 during the NCA Convention, including a guided tour. During the return visit, an unexpected meeting took place with General Manager Joe Procter. A highly informative conversation covered the cave's history, family ownership, development, guided tours, and other topics, leading to an invitation for a more in-depth visit, which was gladly accepted.

The cave remains an impressive natural attraction, but its lighting system no longer meets modern standards. Some outstanding formations are insufficiently illuminated, while visible cables, wiring, and certain fixtures create glare. Although this preserves the cave's natural character, the overall lighting design appears outdated by contemporary show cave standards.



Shenandoah Caverns. Photo: Cave Lighting.



Shenandoah Caverns. Photo: Cave Lighting.

Grand Caverns

Later that day, a meeting was held with the management team of Grand Caverns. The cave had already been visited during the October 2025 NCA Convention and was considered one of the region's most remarkable show caves, second only to Luray Caverns.

Following successful contact with the management, a two-hour meeting took place inside the cave. Discussions focused on its history, lighting system, geological formations, guided tour operations, and future objectives. The exchange also provided an opportunity to share observations and recommendations that may support the planning and implementation of future lighting projects.



Grand Caverns. Photo: Cave Lighting.



Grand Caverns. Photo: Cave Lighting.

Lincoln Caverns

Lincoln Caverns was the final show cave visited during the trip to the United States. Although it was not located directly on the route to New Jersey, a deliberate detour was made in order to include it in the itinerary.

Upon arrival, staff at the ticket counter were already aware of the visit, and a dedicated cave guide was assigned to lead the tour through both show caves. Throughout the visit, the care and dedication invested in the maintenance and operation of the site were clearly evident. It became immediately apparent that significant emphasis is placed on both the preservation and presentation of the cave system.

Following the tour, an opportunity was provided to meet with Ann Dunlavy, the general manager and owner of the cave. A brief but insightful conversation took place, focusing on cave tourism as a business as well as the responsibilities associated with operating a modern show cave.

A central aspect highlighted in the discussion was the intention that visitors should not only experience the visual beauty of the cave during their tour, but also leave with a deeper understanding of its formation, history, and significance. The cave is therefore deliberately used as a place of education and learning.



Lincoln Caverns. Photo: Cave Lighting.



Lincoln Caverns. Photo: Cave Lighting.



Conclusion

The overall outcome of the trip to the United States was very positive. It was an intensive two-week program during which nine show caves were visited. Three of these involved active on-site work, while the remaining sites were visited, observed, and analyzed.

In summary, most of the caves encountered still rely on outdated installations. Many lighting and electrical systems date back approximately 40 to 60 years. Although these systems are regularly maintained, they no longer meet contemporary technical, design, and safety requirements in many areas. As a result, lighting systems are often inefficient and no longer aligned with the needs of modern show cave operations.

Cave operators and management teams are generally aware of these limitations. However, in many cases, financial resources or organizational capacity for initiating and implementing modernization projects are insufficient. This is where Cave Lighting Team can provide support, as the planning and implementation of modern cave lighting systems are part of its core expertise.

A representative example of this approach was the work at Glenwood Caverns. A three-day on-site engagement allowed for detailed discussions of technical and conceptual aspects with cave management, as well as knowledge exchange. At the same time, important input was provided for future modernization and lighting concepts.

Each project must be assessed individually. The initial step involves a detailed analysis of site conditions, operator objectives, and the current organizational structure of the show cave. Only after these fundamentals are defined can modern technologies be applied effectively, systems designed, technical specifications developed, and long-term solutions implemented.

Above all, it is essential that the operator of a show cave has a clear understanding of the intended outcome. Two general approaches can be identified: some operators design their show caves primarily according to their own vision, while others place consistent emphasis on the visitor experience.

More fundamentally, every show cave must prioritize two core principles: visitor safety and the protection of the cave as a biotope. Only once these requirements are fully ensured should additional aspects be addressed, such as visual presentation, multimedia integration, interpretive content, or design-oriented lighting effects.

If a show cave does not meet essential safety and conservation requirements, all other measures lose their long-term value. Safety and cave protection must therefore always form the foundation of every modern show cave and lighting project.

Special thanks to the Cave Lighting Team for the materials provided. 

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.

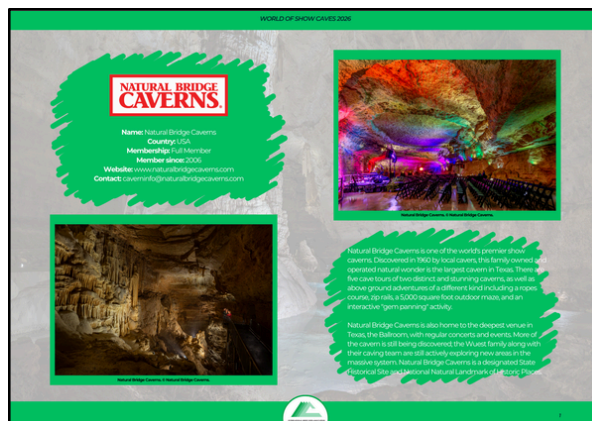
Text (max. 80 words):

- 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

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 have taken the time to complete the questionnaire for the 2026 General Assembly Meeting (GAM) and preliminary info on the next EuroSpeleo Forum (ESF).

A new addition to the statutes highlights this year: "The delegates and vice delegates are responsible to ensure the information exchange between the FSE and their speleological organisations" which indirectly means that members of the delegate's organisation must be kept informed of the FSE's activities and decisions.

The 2026 General Assembly Meeting of the FSE will take place on 14th of April 2026 (19th-20th April). 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 GAM.

The next gathering of the European cavers, the 18th EuroSpeleo Forum (ESF) is also in preparation by our colleagues from Croatia. The ESF is known 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, Korda's, Scurion

CAVE TALK NEWSLETTER September 2025

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 Host, 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 just me.

OFFICERS

President: Dennis Boyer
Vice President: Mark Bishop
Secretary: Bob Host
Treasurer: Susan
Past President: Joe Hovacek
Regional Directors: [List of names and regions]

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

John Grimes, Larry Gentry, [List of names]

DIRECTOR EMERITUS

Steve Rucka, [List of names]

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
Biospéologie: spéléocaves et scientifiques s'associent pour faire progresser la connaissance

th June

International Day of Caves and the Subterranean World

International Show Caves Association

ACTE
ASOCIACIÓN DE CUEVAS TURÍSTICAS 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



5th ISCA Congress in Bermuda, 2006. Photo: Alexander Chapkro.

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 #49



What cave is it? Photo: FFTS.

HINTS

HINT #1 - Famous for its dramatic vertical access, where visitors descend into the abyss.

HINT #2 - This cave is often referred to as the "Crystal Cathedral".

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

PREVIOUS ANSWERS

Last month's CAVE #48 was Onyx Cave Park (USA).

Onyx Cave Park, located near Eureka Springs, Arkansas, is the state's oldest show cave, welcoming visitors since 1893. Hidden in the Ozark Mountains, it offers a relaxed and family-friendly underground experience featuring striking rock formations, quiet chambers, and self-guided audio tours. Visitors can explore at their own pace and discover unique spots such as the Witches Fireplace and other whimsical formations. Above ground, the park also offers additional activities including gemstone mining, axe throwing, and a gift shop with local souvenirs.

ISCA CALENDAR

2026

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)

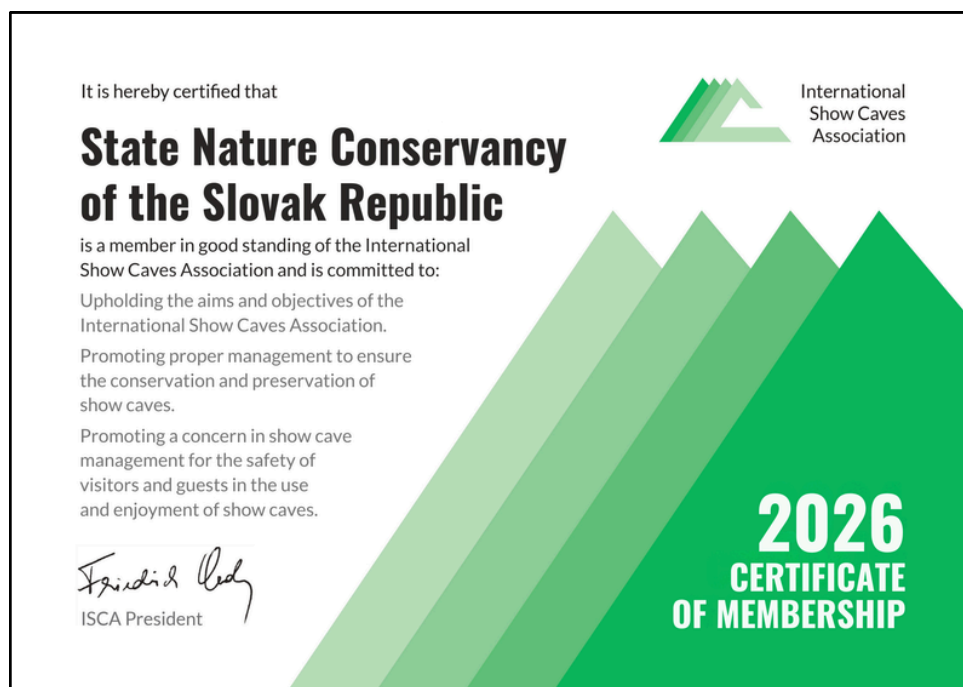
NOTE: THESE DATES MAY SUFFER CHANGES.

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?

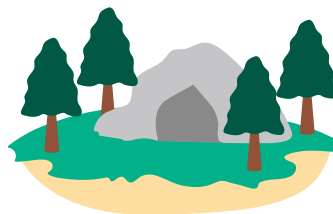
Make sure you visit our website in order not to miss anything:



[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?

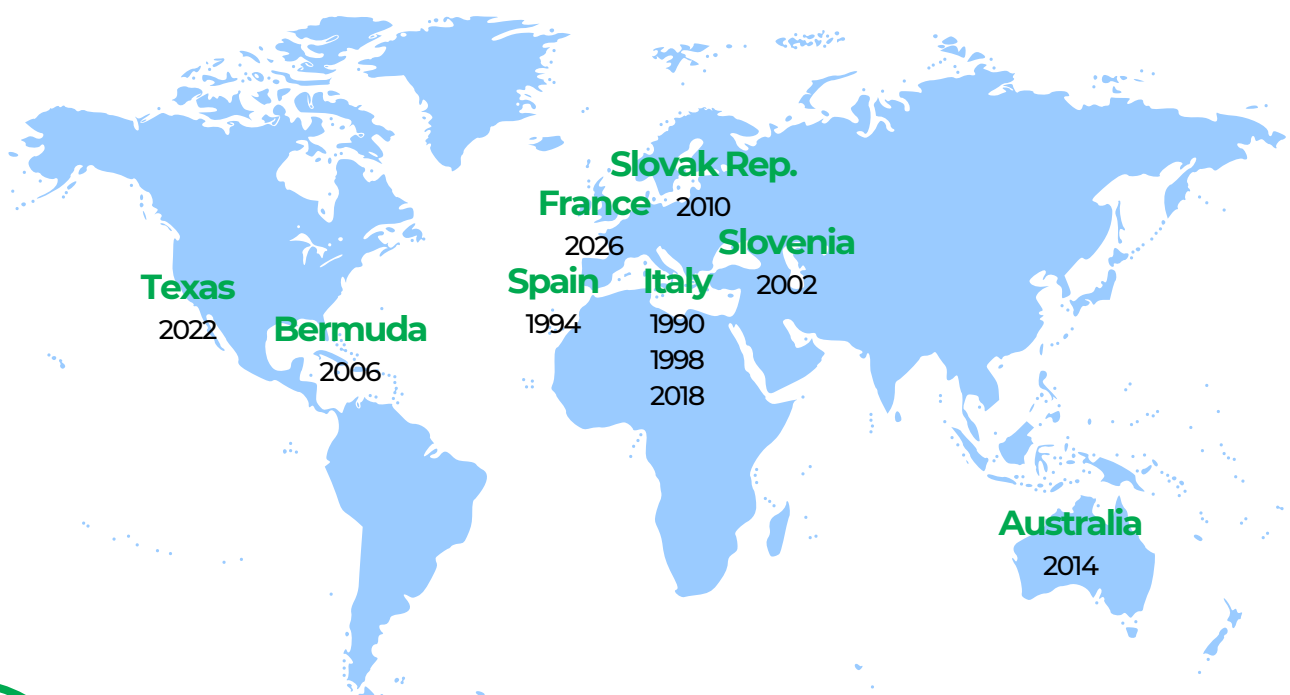
1. **ISCA Congresses.** They are held every four years, preferably during the months of October and/or November. The venue for future congresses shall be determined in the General Assembly of the preceding Congress. General Assemblies take place during each ISCA Congress and they are expected to be held 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

ISCA Officers

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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

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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

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WWW.I-S-C-A.ORG

