

ISCA NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION



ISCA CELEBRATES JUNE 6

One more year, the celebration of the International Day of Caves and the Subterranean World was a great success as a lot of show caves joined June 6 by means of a wide variety of activities and special offers. Some decided to include the materials provided in our previous newsletter, and others carried out amazing and interesting plans for families and, especially, children. Don't miss any of these in the following pages. Big thanks to those who joined #CaveDay one more time.

WELCOME TO ISCA!

Two new members have recently joined the International Show Caves Association. These are Cayman Crystal Caves and the Bulgarian Association for Cave and Eco Tourism. Welcome to ISCA!



BECOME AN ISCA MEMBER

Do you own or manage a show cave? Would you like to publish your own materials in our newsletters? Are you willing to become a member of the International Show Caves Association? Find out more on how to become an ISCA Member. Join us!



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION

LETTER BY THE PRESIDENT



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

Dear show-cave colleagues,

I hope you all are healthy and having a great early summer season at your caves! This edition of our ISCA Newsletter will probably reach you in a really busy period, so that is why we will try not to take much of your time.

First of all, and in order to expand our ISCA community and reach a wider audience, I want to encourage everybody to provide us with e-mail contacts of show caves in your country who might be interested in receiving our newsletter every other month. Our secretary Juanjo will be pleased to add all these new addresses to our mailing list.

In second place, we have recently celebrated the International Day of Caves and the Subterranean World, which was successfully followed by many caves worldwide. Despite some discussion about changing this date had arisen in the last few months, ISCA would like to guarantee the continuity of this event on June 6 for the years to come. As the main initiators of the International Day, our association has already made enormous efforts to provide the public with information regarding the extreme value of our caves systems worldwide, as well as the economic impact of our business. Therefore, and in order to help us in the promotion of #CaveDay, it would be great if you sent us a short report about the events organised. In my little country, Austria, there are 32 show caves. In the last years, most of them offered free entrance for children on June 6. This year, Eisriesenwelt Cave also provided children with a customised hood related to #CaveDay.

Last but not least, we would also be interested in knowing if you are willing to join the next ISCA Conference in Borneo/Mulu National Park in September/October 2024. The number of participants will be limited and an expected number of attendees would be really helpful. This will be a very special ISCA event that might probably occur just once in your life! Join us!

My brilliant secretary Juanjo and I will be happy to receive any comments and suggestions which help us improve the role of ISCA.

Yours sincerely,
Fritz Oedl

BY THE EDITOR



JUANJO TISCAR
ISCA SECRETARY
SPAIN

SECRETARY@I-S-C-A.ORG

Dear ISCA friends,

The summer season is already here and I hope your show caves are now being visited by thousands of people from every country in the world.

I wanted to welcome the Bulgarian Association for Cave and Eco Tourism (BAPET), who are now ISCA members after having visited my hometown some months ago. Besides, Cayman Crystal Caves also joined us in the last weeks, and that's great news!

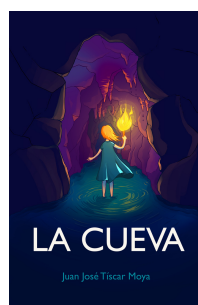
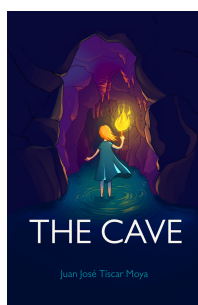
#CaveDay was celebrated in many places and in many different ways! CEIP Ausiàs March (a school located in my hometown) decided to join us by shooting a film about a group of young students who visit three different caves in order to find a hidden treasure. What an adventure!



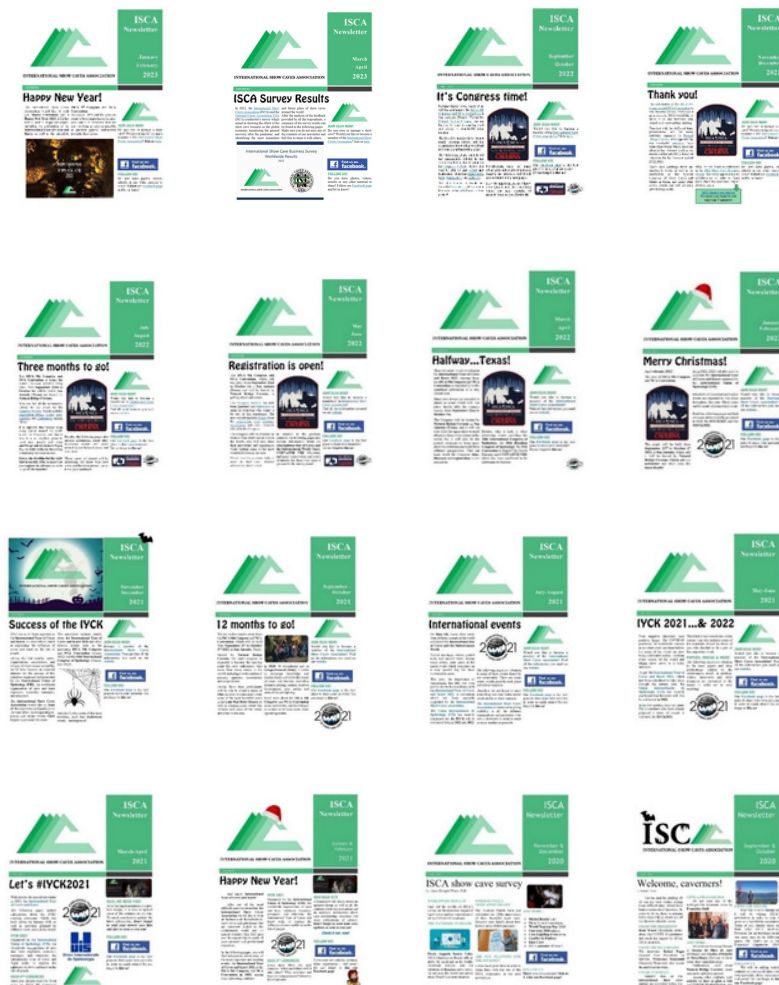
CEIP Ausiàs March students celebrating #CaveDay in Spain!

My girlfriend asked me to participate and I played the role of the children's father. Yup, it seems I am getting older because she never said I could be part of the group of students. I really enjoyed the experience, and so did the children, who loved sharing the video at their graduation party.

Oh, and my book! Thanks to those who contact me and show interest in the novel. I really love getting some feedback from other caverns!



ISCA LIBRARY



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

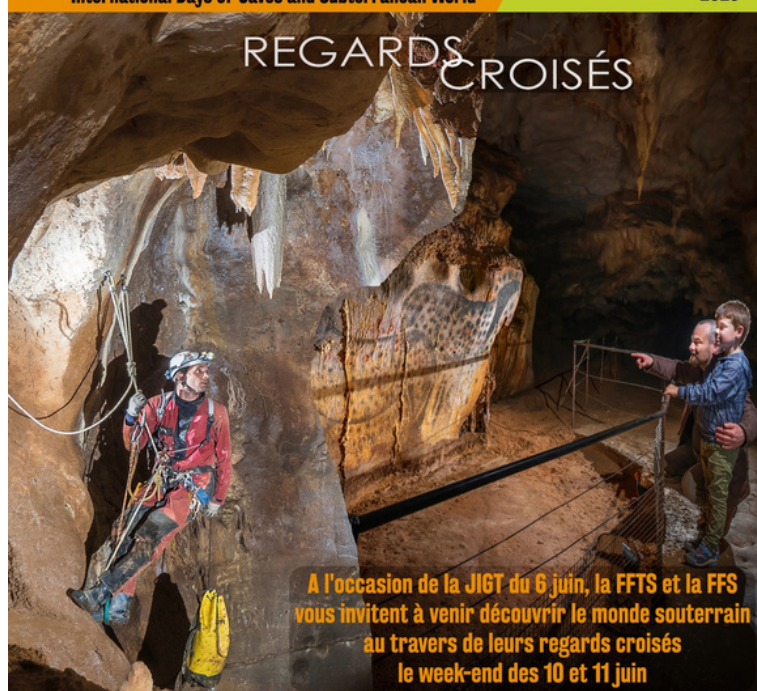
JUNE 6 CELEBRATIONS - INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CAVES AND THE SUBTERRANEAN WORLD

Fédération Française du Tourisme & Patrimoine Souterrain & Fédération Française de Spéléologie

Les membres de la FFTS et de la FFS s'unissent pour vous faire découvrir le monde souterrain

**Journées Internationales
des Grottes Touristiques
et du Monde Souterrain**
International Days of Caves and Subterranean World

**10 et 11 juin
2023**
June 10 and 11
2023



Regards croisés sur le monde souterrain
Converging Views on Subterranean World
www.ffts.fr
www.ftspeleo.fr / #jigt2023



Celebration of the International Day of Caves and the Subterranean World 2023.

The celebration of the International Day of Caves and the Subterranean World (aka 'Cave Day') on June 6 was welcomed by different associations and show caves worldwide.

Among many other different events, there were a lot of special offers and engaging activities for families and children. As it would be impossible to cover all these celebrations in one single publication, we would love to collect as much data as possible in order to add it to our #CaveDay Dossier (see page 9). Therefore, we would greatly appreciate if you sent us your materials (especially photos with a description) to secretary@i-s-c-a.org.

#CAVEDAY CELEBRATIONS

Our most sincere congratulations to French show caves and associations who greatly supported #CaveDay 2023.. Click on each poster to visit their website.



#CAVEDAY CELEBRATIONS

In America, Cave of the Mounds shared different materials to celebrate #CaveDay. The Spanish Show Caves Association became one of the most active members online, too.



Video by Cave of the Mounds to celebrate #CaveDay 2023. Cave of the Mounds Facebook Page.

Geology of Caves

Learn more about caves with our guide Ashley! From formations to sinkholes, Ashley covers a lot of science of caves in celebration of Caves and Karst Day today.



Cuevas Turísticas

6 de junio a las 18:40 · 🌐

La Geoda de Pulpi también se une al seis de junio. El Día Internacional de las **#CuevasTurísticas** no acaba con este vídeo, todavía tenemos muchas sorpresas que ofrecerte en el **#CaveDay**.

Anímate a conocer más esta iniciativa, que diferentes entidades presentamos ante **#UNESCO**, y a saber más sobre las **#Cuevas** y las **#Minas** de la Asociación de **#CuevasTurísticas** Españolas.

<http://ow.ly/zrQS50OH0pw>

#ACTE



The Spanish Show Caves Association and its show caves were among the most active members. ACTE Facebook Page.



#CAVEDAY CELEBRATIONS

Grutas de Mira de Aire (Portugal) and Natural Bridge Caverns (Texas, USA) also joined the online celebration of June 6.



#CaveDay was celebrated in Portugal, too. *Grutas de Mira de Aire.*



Grutas de Mira de Aire

6 de junio a las 11:00 · 🌐

Hoje celebramos o nosso dia. Desde há alguns anos que as Grutas de Mira de Aire se juntaram às suas parceiras espalhadas pelo mundo fora a celebrar o Dia Internacional das Grutas e do Mundo Subterrâneo. **#DayCave**
Temos vindo a tentar, juntamente com os nossos amigos gestores de grutas que esta data seja reconhecida oficialmente pela UNESCO.
Durante o ano de 2022 a **International Show Caves Association** realizou um inquérito que foi respondido por grutas de 25 países diferentes ... **Ver más**



GRUTAS DE MIRA DE AIRE

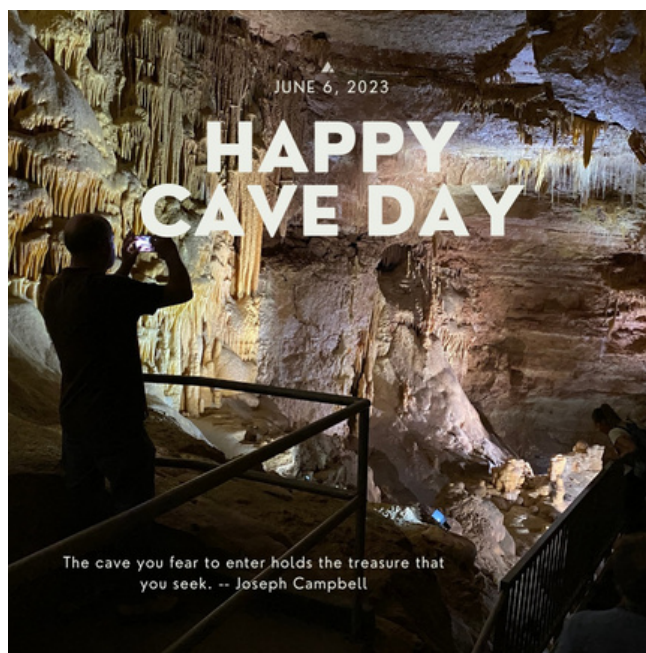


Natural Bridge Caverns

6 de junio a las 18:34 · 🌐

Happy Cave Day! We are celebrating caves all month here at the caverns (because a day is not enough), but today, all around the world, cavers are united in sharing great photos, beautiful stories, and exciting news about their favorite cave.

Learn more about all the caves in the US at the National Cave Association: <https://cavern.com/>



Natural Bridge Caverns supported #CaveDay from the USA. *NBC Facebook Page.*

#CAVEDAY CELEBRATIONS



Children were given hoods on June 6. Eisriesenwelt (Austria)

In Europe, Eisriesenwelt (Austria), Gouffre de Padirac (France) and Cave of the Lakes (Greece) supported #CaveDay by means of different activities and giveaways.



AUJOURD'HUI C'EST LA JOURNÉE INTERNATIONALE
DES GROTTES ET DU MONDE SOUTERRAIN

REJOIGNEZ-NOUS AU GOUFFRE DE PADIRAC

Gouffre de Padirac also joined #CaveDay on social media. *Gouffre de Padirac Facebook Page.*

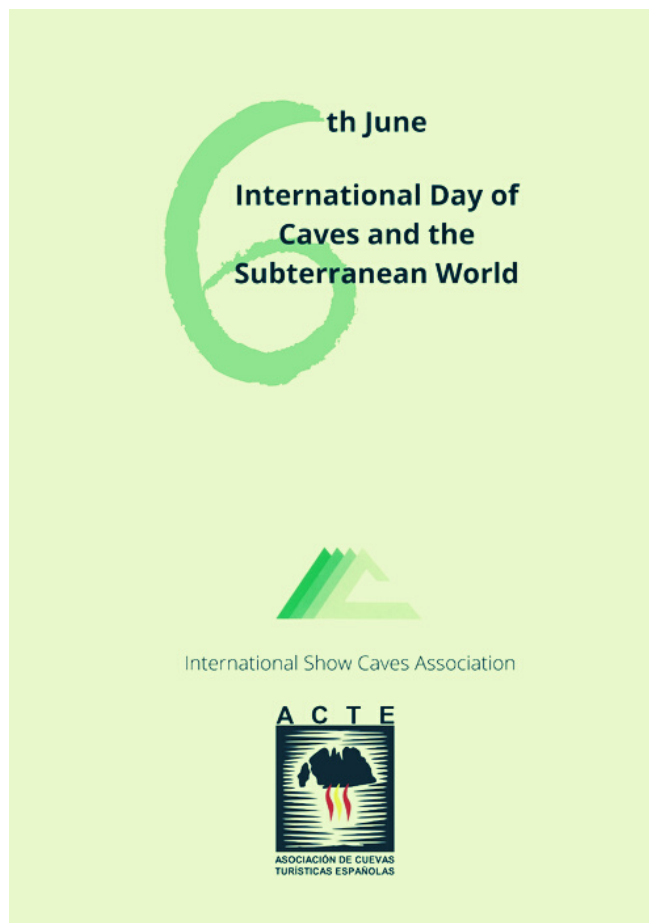


Visitors attending the lecture for the ancient Greek myth of the Cave of the Lakes at an amphitheater. *Cave of the Lakes.*



Cave of the Lakes
Kastria Achaea - Kalavrita - Greece

#CAVEDAY DOSSIER



Dossier on the International Day of Caves and the Subterranean World. English version.

As we explained in our previous newsletter, the International Show Caves Association and the Spanish Show Caves Association have worked together in order to prepare a document which collected the most essential information about the International Day of Caves and the Subterranean World and its importance for the show cave industry.

The final dossier, which can be downloaded both in English and Spanish, is expected to be translated into other languages as more national associations would be able to add their information and present it to their representatives both in local and national governments, as well as to UNESCO ambassadors in order to support the celebration of June 6. Our next goal is to reach as many representatives as possible, and that is where the rest of national associations play an important role.

Please, if you are interested in supporting this cause or have any other suggestion or doubt, contact the International Show Caves Association at secretary@i-s-c-a.org.

CAYMAN CRYSTAL CAVES



CAYMAN CRYSTAL CAVES
CAYMAN ISLANDS

WWW.CAYMANCRYSTALCAVES.COM
INFO@CAYMANCRYSTALCAVES.COM



One of the hidden treasures in Cayman Islands. Cayman Crystal Caves.

Cayman Crystal Caves (Cayman Islands), situated in a lush tropical forest in Northside, Grand Cayman, recently became a new ISCA Member. This outstanding place offers a visit through the surrounding tropical forest area and three amazing caves.

Hundreds of years ago, pirates used these caves as hideouts, and also as shelters from the elements, including hurricanes. Legend has it that there are pirate treasures buried in some of these caves. As the Cayman Islands became populated, locals used the surrounding lush lands as farmlands, and mined the caves for rich fertiliser. In the last half century farming stopped, as the population switched to more lucrative jobs within the tourism and financial sectors.

In the early 1990s, Christian and Ole Sorensen undertook an in depth search and exploration of all caves in the Cayman Islands, and began talks with the Cayman Islands government on developing a cave attraction based on the experience from the family's development of the very successful Harrison's caves in Barbados. After a few years, it was realized that the crystal caves of Old Man Bay were extremely unique and stood above any other caves in the Cayman Islands, and for that matter, most of the world. It took almost another two decades to purchase the various parcels which encompass the caves and surrounding rain forest, as well as devise a route to the landlocked site from the main road. In the last few years of planning the attraction, the Berksoy family, who have vast experience in the tourism sector, joined the Sorensen family in this venture and together they have seen Cayman's newest and very exciting nature tourist attraction to completion.

BULGARIAN ASSOCIATION FOR CAVE AND ECO TOURISM (BAPET)



**BAPET
BULGARIA**
WWW.BAPET.NET
OFFICE.CENTRE@BAPET.NET



Lepenitza Cave (Bulgaria). Google Images.

The Bulgarian Association for Cave and Eco Tourism (BAPET) have also joined ISCA. BAPET is a voluntary, independent, non-political and non-governmental association which aims at promoting caves and eco tourism. The main goal of BAPET is to support civil society development in the field of cave and eco tourism by creating appropriate conditions and opportunities for sport, tourist, archeological, cultural and patriotic activities. Bulgaria offers numerous and increasing possibilities for development of cave and eco tourism. These are all necessary requisites for the rapid development of the country, including natural, cultural and historical monuments, which are attractive destinations.



In March, BAPET visited ISCA in Spain.

DRACH CAVES

CUEVAS DEL DRACH

CUEVAS DEL DRACH
MALLORCA, SPAINWWW.CUEVASDEARTA.COM/EN/
INFO@CUEVASDELDRACH.COM

Cuevas del Drach (Mallorca, Spain). Chema Lorenzo González.

Cuevas del Drach (Drach Caves) are considered to be among Europe's most famous show caves. Located on the southeastern coast of Mallorca, they are visited by hundreds of thousands of visitors every year, being Mallorca's top tourist attraction. The tour not only includes a walking part, but it also allows visitors to take a boat trip. The camera work ([click here to download](#)) by Chema Lorenzo González, professional Spanish photographer, shows the beauty of Cuevas del Drach. Thanks to the cave's staff and Chema for collaborating with us.



Cuevas del Drach (Mallorca, Spain). Chema Lorenzo González.



Cuevas del Drach (Mallorca, Spain). Chema Lorenzo González.

ILLUMINATING THE ESCAPE OF KING HEINRICH IV



CAVE LIGHTING
GERMANY

WWW.CAVELIGHTING.DE
INFO@CAVELIGHTING.DE

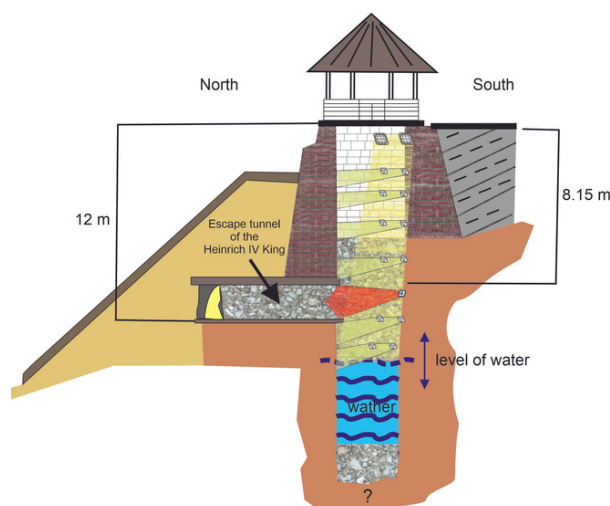
Written by Raquel Daza Brunet (Cave Lighting)

History and significance

In this article we will talk about a special and small well of the Harzburg Castle. The well through which King Heinrich IV escaped due to the Saxon uprising in 1073/1074. Recently, Cave Lighting was hired to illuminate that important part of the story.

Heinrich IV, the protagonist of our story, was born in Goslar in 1050. Between 1065 and 1068 he had several castles built in the Harz mountains. Harzburg Castle (Hartesburd), was the first to be built, with strong walls and truly royal buildings. These castles were built thanks to the hard work of Saxon slaves, and they were mainly used to protect the Reichs Bannforst and the Imperial City of Goslar. But the truth is that they were also used to suppress the Saxons who lived in the area. The crews of these castles were Swabians (Germans from the region), who, being "self-sufficient", earned the wrath of the population and the Saxon princes through constant attacks.

Under the leadership of Otto V. Northei, the Saxons demanded that the king stop this war looting. But the King did not react to these demands and instead he withdrew from the imperial palace of Goslar to his impregnable Harzburg. The Saxon farmer nobles followed him and built a stockade castle on today's Sachseberg. King Heinrich IV escaped from this siege on the night of August 9, 1073, taking with him imperial regalia. According to tradition, the leak occurred through a 18-metre water supply tunnel into the castle well. The Saxons continued to besiege Harzburg with the Swabian garrison until, in 1074, after winning a battle in the Homburg an der Saale area, they managed to force the king into Gerstungen in a treaty to razing and destroying the castle complexes around the Harz. This ended the rebellion of the Saxons.



Illustrating the escape of King Heinrich IV. Cave Lighting.

ILLUMINATING THE ESCAPE OF KING HEINRICH IV



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GERMANY

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Cave Lighting's work

From this royal history, Cave Lighting works consisted to give light to the escape of the Heinrich IV king. We created the perfect show light to enjoy the well and its tunnel in just one week. In this project we had to use ropes and techniques of vertical progression, including all the material necessary to go up and down the well. It should be noted that the well has water and that its level can vary.

Our illumination system consisted of 15 luminaries, 1 small power cabinet and tens of meters of vertical wiring and drilling. Three kinds of scenic luminaries to light the walls until the bottom of the well. All the luminaries installed support ranges of -25°C to $+45^{\circ}\text{C}$ and ensure a smooth and pleasant journey throughout the tunnel. In this project, the cabling was installed on the well walls from up to down until the surface of the water level. All the cables were fastened with plastic clips and bridles were used to ensure a strong hold on the wall.



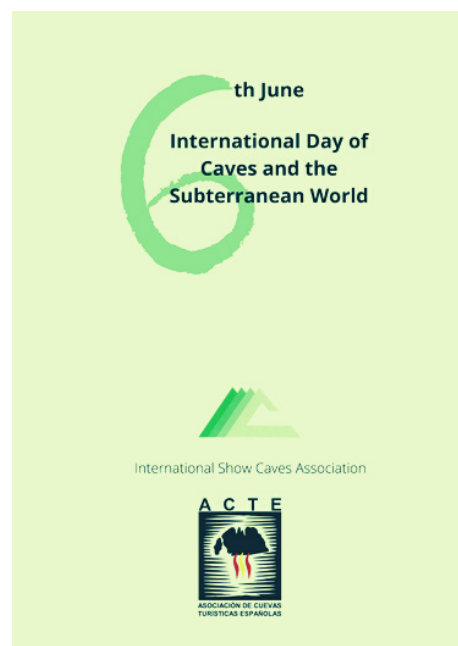
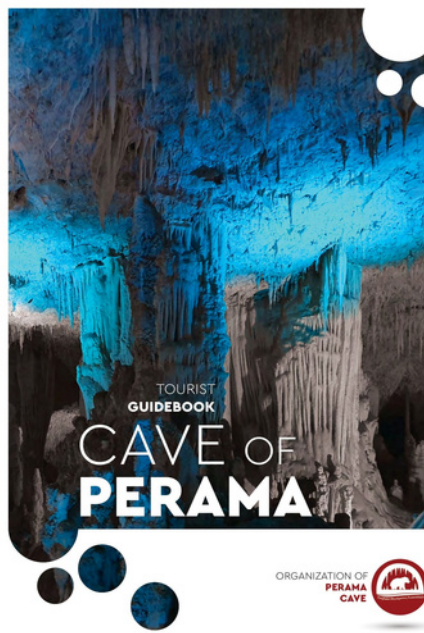
Cave Lighting's work. Cave Lighting.

In addition, we did an illumination show with our luminaries to make the tourist visit more interesting. At the end of the project that got more complicated because customer decided to protect well from visitors and installed on the top of well greed with 5 x 5 cm dimension, which made inner space of well and illumination invisible.



Cave Lighting's work. Cave Lighting.

LATEST PUBLICATIONS



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

THE FUNNY SIDE OF CAVES



By penwill. Toonpool.



By may. Toonpool.

WHAT CAVE IS IT?

CAVE #31



The beauty of the underground. Xema Lorenzo González.

HINTS

HINT #1 - This cave is located in an island.

HINT #2 - It is believed to have been visited since the 16th century.

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

PREVIOUS ANSWERS

Last month's CAVE #30 was Cave of the Mounds (Wisconsin, USA).

Cave of the Mounds (Wisconsin, USA) is on Brigham Farm, which was founded in 1828 by Ebenezer Brigham, the first European settler in Dane County. Years later, his great nephew, Charles Brigham, and his family operated the property primarily as a dairy farm, but occasionally leased quarry rights to local contractors, and thus in 1939 the Cave was discovered! In 1988, Cave of the Mounds earned the National Natural Landmark designation, entering into a public-private partnership with the National Park Service. This partnership ensures that the Cave will be managed & protected for future generations as a prime example of Wisconsin's Natural Heritage.

ISCA CALENDAR

2023

- July 26 - 29 - 37th Brazilian Congress of Speleology (Curitiba, Brazil)
July 26 - 30 - NSS Convention 2023 (Elkins, West Virginia, USA)
October 2 - 5 - NCA Convention 2023 (Lake Sashta Caverns, Redding, California, USA)
October 19 - 22 - Bulgaria 3rd Balkan Speleological Congress (Sofia, Bulgaria)
November 14 - 17 - IAAPA (Orlando, Florida, USA)

2024

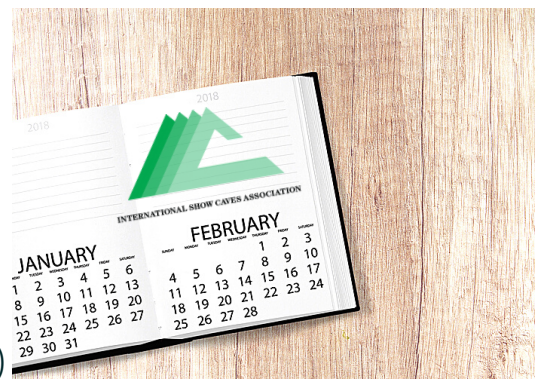
- April 17 - International Bar Appreciation Day
November 18 - 21 - IAAPA (Orlando, Florida, USA)
September - October 2024 - ISCA Conference (Mulu National Park, Malaysia)
2024 - NCA Convention (Niagara Cave, Harmony, Minnesota, USA)

2025 & 2026

- April 17 - International Bar Appreciation Day
2025 - NCA Convention (Luray Caverns, Harrisonburg, Virginia, USA)
2025 - 19th International Congress of Speleology (Belo Horizonte, Brazil)
2026 - 10th ISCA Congress

NOTE: THESE DATES MAY SUFFER CHANGES.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE AN EVENT?
CONTACT SECRETARY@I-S-C-A.ORG



JOIN US

How to become an ISCA member?

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

MORE INFORMATION ON OUR [WEBSITE](#)

DOUBTS?

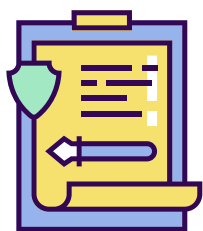
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Is there anything else you need?

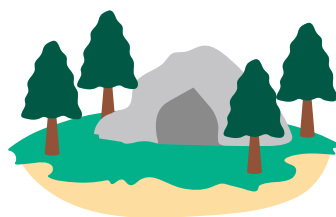
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DO YOU STILL NEED SOMETHING ELSE FROM US?

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FUTURE ISCA EVENTS DEPEND ON YOU

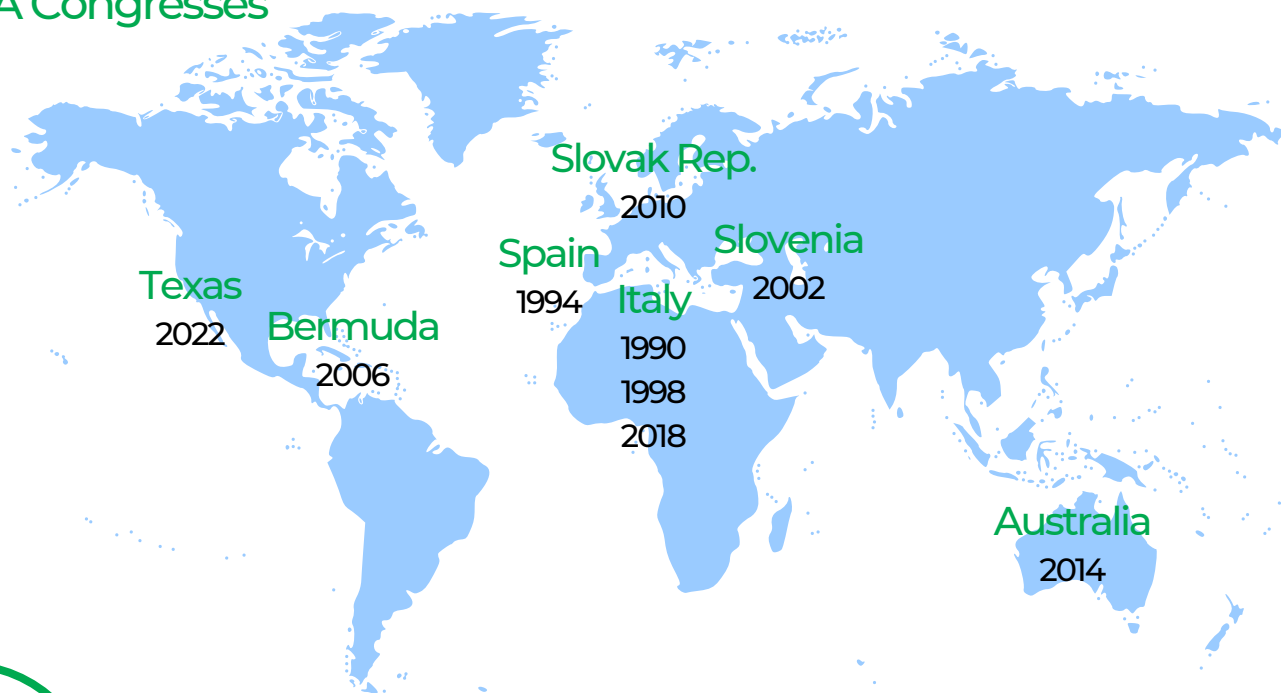
Would you like to host an ISCA event?

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

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ISCA NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION

ABOUT US

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

Special thanks to everyone who collaborated.

ISCA Newsletter

July, 2023

Editor: Juan José Tíscar Moya

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

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