



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION

ISCA Newsletter

March-April
2021

CONTENTS

Let's #IYCK2021

Welcome to the second newsletter in 2021, the **International Year of Caves and Karst**.

The following pages include information about the IYCK opening ceremony, which was held online on January 26th, as well as activities planned by different show caves in the world.

IYCK 2021

Organized by the **International Union of Speleology (UIS)**, the worldwide organization of cave and karst explorers, scientists, managers, and educators, the International Year of Caves and Karst seeks to explain the influence of caves and karst on the life of people.

ISCA 9TH CONGRESS

Have you already read the latest news on ISCA 9th Congress? Coming to **Texas** in 2022...



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION



ISCA, WE NEED YOU!

After the implementation of a new web design, it is time to upload some of the contents on our site. We need your help to include the latest information. **Don't forget to send your newest cave info and pics as soon as you can!**

FOLLOW US!



Our **Facebook page** is the best place to share your own materials in order to reach others! Do not forget to **like us!**

Message from the President

by Brad Wuest

Dear ISCA Members,

I hope your 2021 is off to a good start!

In the last newsletter I reported that most of my family and I had COVID-19 at the time I wrote my article. I am very happy to report that we all recovered well and now we have “herd immunity” in our family!

I also want to thank many of you for reaching out to see how we were doing after the winter storm that severely impacted Texas. My family owns and operates [Natural Bridge Caverns](#) in Texas, USA. We closed for one week due to the snow, freezing rain, ice, and record setting

freezing conditions. Millions of Texans lost electricity, heat, and water for extended periods of time. We made it through the storm fine with minimal damage compared to many others. On the bright side many children, including mine, enjoyed playing in the snow. The winter storm ended with greatly appreciated sunshine and warm weather.

I know in many parts of the world, show caves are still dealing with challenges from COVID-19 restrictions, closures, and ever-changing protocols.

We started the year with face mask mandates and restrictions to operate at 50% capacity. Then in February we could operate up to 75% capacity as COVID-19 hospitalizations significantly declined. Our Texas Governor just announced yesterday that we are now able to operate at 100% and face masks are strongly encouraged but no longer mandated.

At our show cave, we will gradually be increasing tour capacities so our guests and tour guides will be comfortable with the change. We also decided to continue requiring our employees to wear face masks at least through the end of March and we will still require our guests to wear masks when they are unable to social distance like when they are touring the cave. I know many of you are constantly having to make safety and operational decisions like these as circumstances change.

It is finally Spring here with hope for recovery after the winter storm amidst the pandemic. With the season comes Spring Holiday when children are on break from school for a week. With COVID-19 on the decline and our state lifting restrictions, we are hopeful that families will be traveling and visiting attractions like show caves! I hope that 2021 can be a year of recovery for all of us in the show cave industry.

A great tool to help all of us with that recovery is the [International Year of Caves & Karst](#) (IYCK) which kicked off on 26th January 2021 with a virtual opening ceremony. Let us know what your show cave is doing to celebrate the IYCK so we can share that on Facebook and future newsletters. And remember to post your events on the [International Year of Caves & Karst](#) website.



ISCA 8th Congress (Genga-Frasassi, 2018)

BRAD WUEST

President/CEO at Natural Bridge Caverns (Texas, USA) and ISCA President. Born in 1972 in New Braunfels (Texas), Brad is married to Lexi and they have four beautiful children: Ashley, Clara, Millie and Harrison.

Contact: bwuest@naturalbridgecaverns.com

As most of you know, ISCA conducted an international survey last year to determine the economic significance of the show cave industry, impact of COVID-19 on show caves, our employees, and the economy. In the first half of 2020 show cave visitation was down 59% amounting to 42 million visitors and revenue was down 61% amounting to 514 million Euros. The results of the [international survey](#) were shared worldwide to create awareness and help the show cave industry. Please let us know if you think ISCA should survey show caves again to collect data for the entire year of 2020.

Juanjo has produced another wonderful newsletter which I hope you enjoy reading and find value in.

If there is anything we can do to help you, or if you have any suggestions regarding what we can do to make ISCA even better, please let me know.

Happy Easter and my best wishes to all of you for a wonderful season.

God Bless,



President

International Show Caves Association



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION



From the editor: Happy IYCK2021

by Juanjo Tíscar



That's me before taking the elevator to the cave. Exciting!

Dear readers,

I hope you, your family and friends are healthy.

Many of us are already immerse in the **International Year of Caves and Karst** and even though the pandemic will not let us enjoy of many in-person events, there are many of you who are preparing really interesting online activities.

Please, do not forget to share them with the rest of us and I will be ready to post them on **Facebook**, **our website** and in future

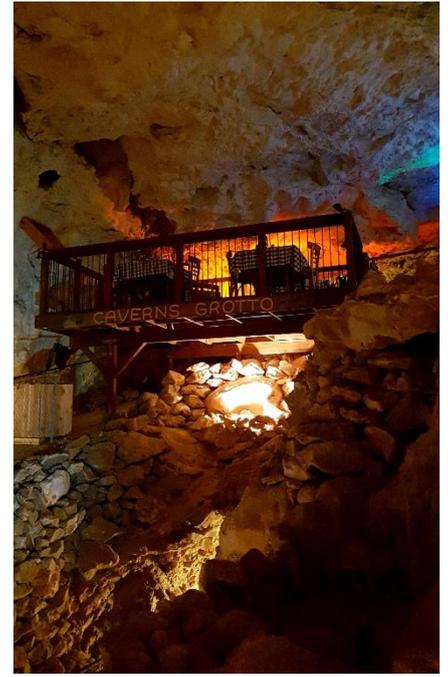
newsletters (by the way, if you missed the previous one, you can **download it** now). You can send a description, pictures and the materials you consider necessary. Everything is welcome!

I would like to contribute and share the following pictures with the ISCA community. In 2018, I went on a solo-roadtrip and visited the U.S. West Coast and about 500 miles of Route 66. I stopped at a restaurant in order to have a coffee and met an old woman. After telling her I liked caves, she encouraged me to go and visit "some caverns nearby". So, I thanked her, googled it... and voilà! I found them! **Grand Canyon Caverns (Arizona)**...I had prepared my roadtrip for months and I had not realised there was a cave on my way from Seligman to Kingman!



If you ever decide to 'Get your kicks on Route 66', don't forget to visit Grand Canyon Caverns.

I decided not to miss this great opportunity to visit an underground cave system along **Route 66**. Then, I paid a visit to **Grand Canyon Caverns**, which are **64m below the surface**. I had never seen an **elevator** in a cave! The experience was worth it and I really enjoyed it.



Grand Canyon Caverns has its own underground suite, restaurant, food supply (in case of a...;nuclear war?), and a mummified bobcat! I'm not kidding. Everything at GCC is so lovely, weird, funny...you must visit this place!

I promise I'll share more pics in future newsletters, and it would be great if you did the same. **What's the weirdest thing you've seen in a cave?**

Oh, did I tell you I wrote my first book? I guess so...Just in case! Click on the images and get the **English/Spanish version!** I'll sign it in our next congress in **Texas**. Promise!

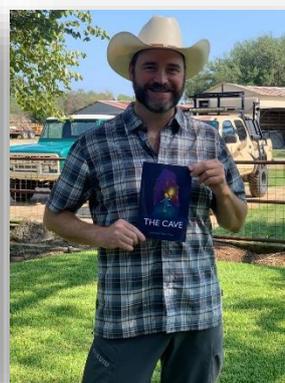
Kind regards from Spain,

Juanjo

Juan José Tíscar Moya
Contact: juanjotiscar@i-s-c-a.org



**ENGLISH
VERSION**



A great man...and a great book!



**SPANISH
VERSION**



Union Internationale
de Spéléologie



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION

“Explore, understand and protect”

- Click on the image and download your #IYCK2021 leaflet -



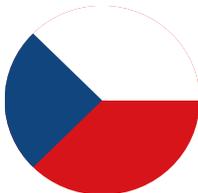
English



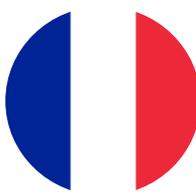
Chinese



Croatian



Czech



French



German



Hungarian



Italian



Japanese



Persian



Polish



Portuguese



Serbian
i) Latin
ii) Cyrillic



Slovenian



Spanish

IYCK 2021: Opening ceremony



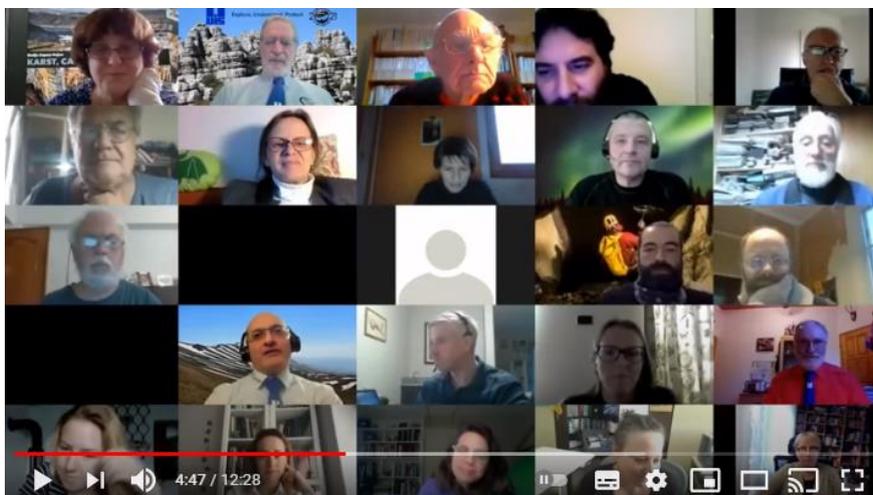
Video: International Union of Speleology

The **opening ceremony** for the **International Year of Caves and Karst 2021** was held online on January 26th, 2021. Members from the **UIS Bureau**, including the **UIS President Dr. George Veni**, introduced topics related to the **Union Internationale de Spéléologie (UIS)**. Hundreds of viewers were given the opportunity to learn more about the association's foundation, history, members, objectives, activities and publications, among other relevant and interesting data.

In addition to the previous information, the event's main goal was to introduce the aforementioned **International Year of Caves and Karst 2021**, encouraging cavers, associations and any interested individual to join this beautiful project.

After the ceremony, some of the members joined a **virtual meeting** in order to discuss some of the most relevant topics with regards to the International Year of Caves and Karst. The events were recorded and they are available for replay for anyone who could not attend or would like to watch it again.

- Click on the images to watch the videos -



Video: International Union of Speleology

IYCK 2021: Online celebrations

- Click on the images to watch -



IYCK 2021 Movie by **UIS**

Introduction to the International Year of Caves and Karst by the **Union Internationale de Spéléologie**.

A “Deeper Look” by **Natural Bridge Caverns**

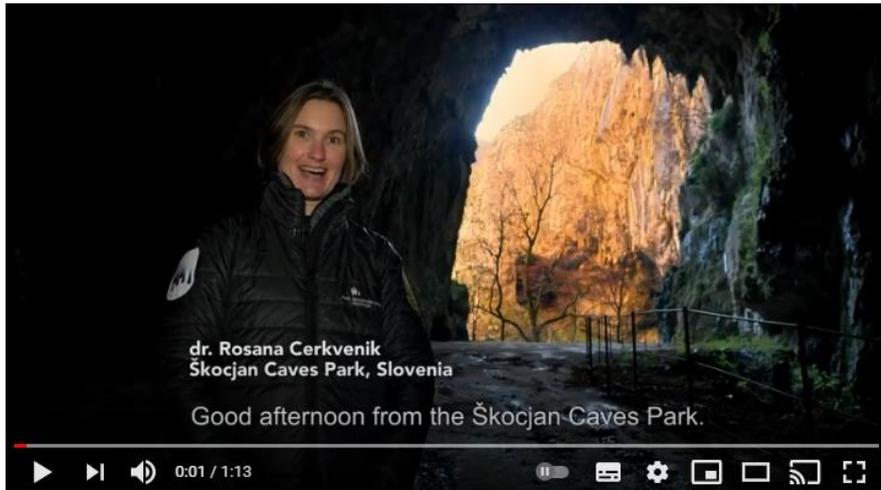
What is karst? Let’s find out thanks to **Natural Bridge Caverns**’ monthly web series.



Defining Caves and Karst by **Bluff Dwellers**

Excellent online series to learn more about the importance of caves and karst. Don’t miss it!



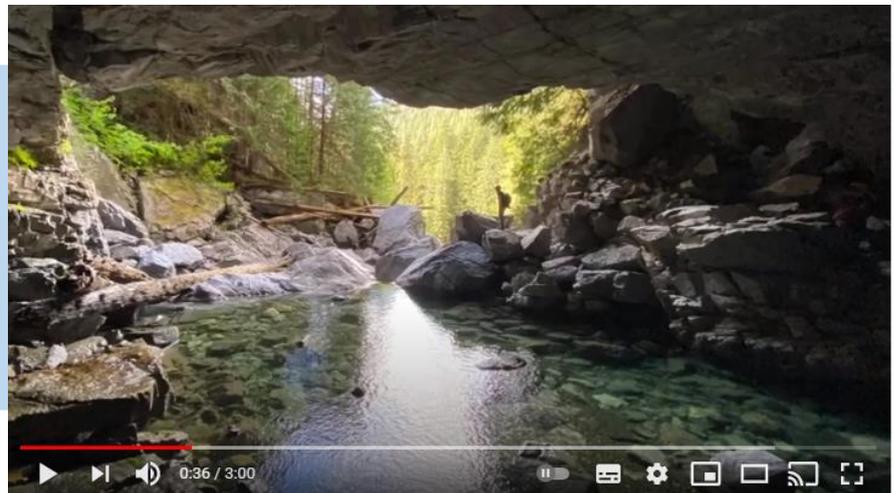


Classical Karst
by **Škocjan Caves Park**

Short video presentation of the ŠCP. Find out the activities scheduled for the International Year of Caves and Karst.

IYCK 2021
by **Horne Lake Caves**

A glimpse into the importance of caves and karst. Courtesy of a cave guide from **Horne Lake Caves and Outdoor Centre**.
Great work!



IYCK 2021
by **Austrian Speleological Association**

Coming from **Austria!** Excellent work to celebrate the IYCK 2021.
Pay attention, this video is in **German!**



IYCK 2021: Partners & events

Over **140 caves and organizations** from all over the world are already a **partner** of the International Year of Caves and Karst. If you want to join us, send your **logo** and **website** to webmaster@uis-speleo.org and you will soon appear on the **IYCK website**.

Use the same e-mail address to contact **UIS** in order to share any event which is taking place at your location. Remember to include the following data:

- **Date.**
- **Location.**
- **Event name.**
- **Event description.**
- **A link to more detailed information.**

Your announcement will be highly appreciated and it will be shortly included on the **events section**. Check it out in order to learn more about some of the confirmed events taking place worldwide to celebrate the International Year of Caves and Karst.

Did you know...?

- Disclosure -

We encourage you to download and use all of the IYCK files and information on the IYCK website. No permission is needed as long as you use it to promote the IYCK and teach the world about caves and karst. Please print, distribute, and share this information.

The **International Show Caves Association** would also like to promote your events, so we will be picking some of them in order to be posted both on our Facebook and in future newsletters.



C.E.N.M.- naturaleza
premio investigación 2018

- **Date.** 2021.
- **Location.** Online.
- **Event name.** Meet the Hypogenic Caves.
- **Event description.** On the occasion of the International Year of Caves, the Hypogenic Caves 2021 project is created to help identify hypogenic caves through images on social networks (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) and a website dedicated to them. During the 52 weeks of the current year an image of a cavity will be published weekly.
- **More information.**



- Send your picture now! -

2022 ISCA Congress & NCA Convention



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION



Hosted by:

**NATURAL BRIDGE
CAVERNS**

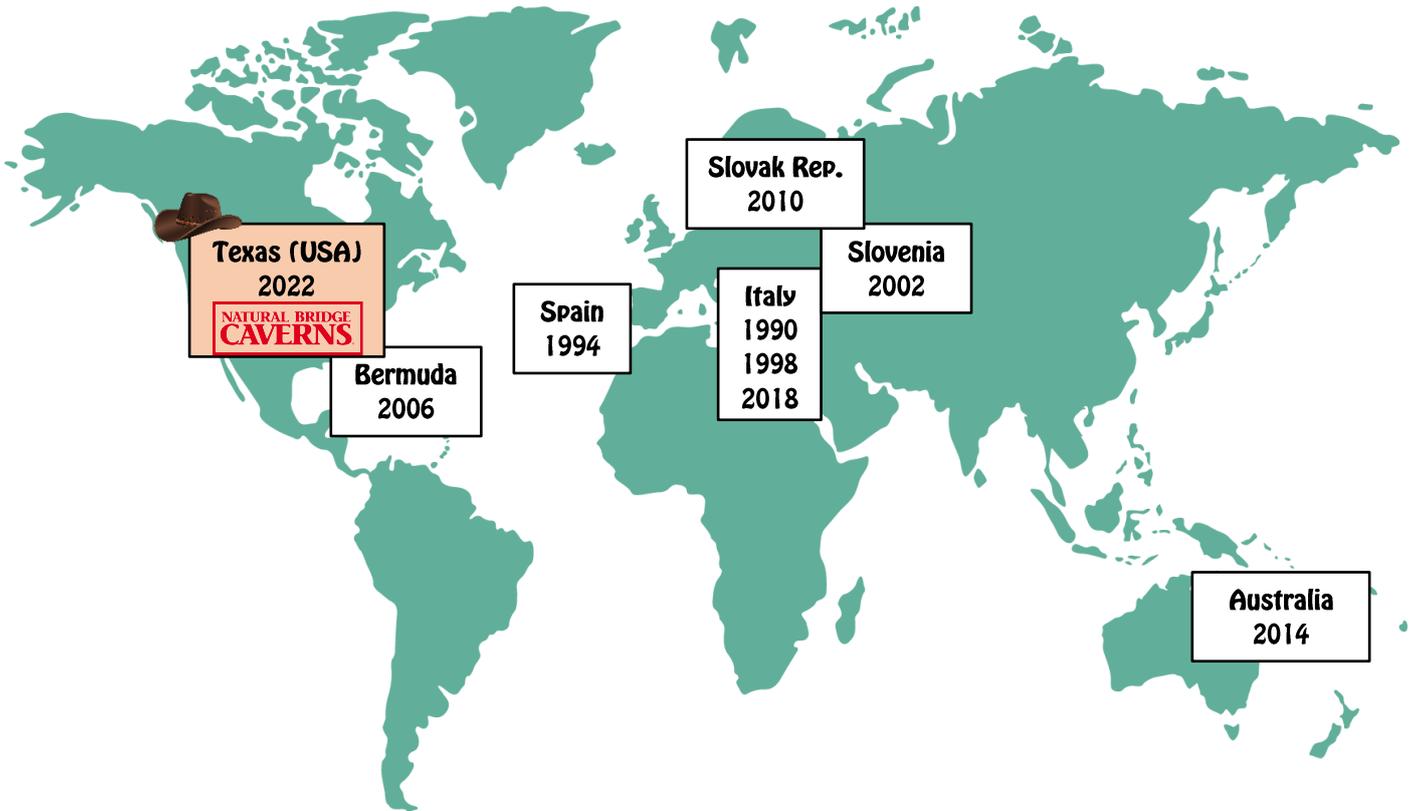
- Download our [previous newsletter](#) and find more information about the ISCA Congress and NCA Convention -

In **2018**, 46 delegations gathered to celebrate the 8th Congress of the **International Show Caves Association**. Our friends from all over the world visited **Genga-Frasassi (Italy)** and enjoyed the beauty of this lovely Mediterranean country. Caves and karst, again, played a major role in an event where knowledge is of common interest. In **2022**, the event will be celebrated together with the **National Caves Association Convention** in **Texas (USA)**, as it will be hosted by **Natural Bridge Caverns**. Since its foundation in **1990**, the **International Show Caves Association (ISCA)** has celebrated eight congresses.



Participants in ISCA's 8th Congress (Genga-Frasassi, Italy, 2018) – Photo by Franziska Oedl

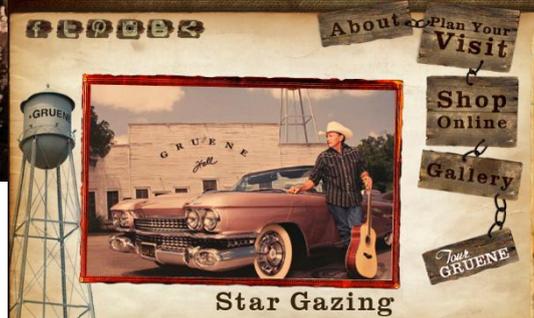
ISCA CONGRESSES



Next stop:
TEXAS (USA), 2022



GRUENE | HISTORIC DISTRICT
AT THE WATER TOWER



Hein-Jacques Gerstner

interviewed by Juanjo Tíscar



Hein-Jacques Gerstner

INFO

Full name: Hein- Jacques Gerstner

Date and place of birth: December 15th, 1965. Cape Town (South Africa)

Profession: Manager at **Gunung Mulu National Park & World Heritage Area**. Sarawak (Malaysia)

Hobbies: Swimming, kayaking (often in forced combination!)

Approx. number of caves visited: Between show caves (59), wild caves (38) and archaeological (27) ...maybe 124?

Contact: heing@mulupark.com

Nuno André Querido Jorge (Grutas de Mira de Aire and member of the ISCA Board of Directors) wanted us to contact **Mr. Hein-Jacques Gerstner** and ask him a series of questions. Now, it's time to see what Mr. Gerstner has got for us!

Nuno's question: Is there any event being planned at Mulu Park so that we can visit you soon?

A: Large events unfortunately not – even research visitation has been placed on hold.

Q: Are you planning anything to celebrate the International Year of Caves and Karst?

A: Yes, we would like to spread the news to our partners in Government and train our staff to spread the word. I would like to use the logo on some informative display – maybe even on the staff uniform for this year to encourage conversation.

Q: For those who have never heard of it, what can you tell us about Mulu Park?

A: Mulu National Park is situated in the northern region of **Borneo**, in a totally protected Park of 85,000 hectares of pristine rainforest. The three prominent Karst features are the limestone buttresses that is evenly spaced in the landscape, all containing an amazing amount (and size) of cave spaces. These spaces range from one of the largest cave passageways on the planet (Deer cave) to some of the largest spaces (Sarawak Chamber) and caves (Clearwater).

DID YOU KNOW...

The largest chamber room in the world is **Sarawak Chamber**, located in **Gua Nasib Bagus (Gunung Mulu Park)**. This chamber room is **230 feet high, 2,300 feet long, and 1,299 feet wide**. That means the chamber could hold **40 Boeing 747s** without overlapping them!



Q: What kind of activities do you offer?

A: 8x **Adventure caving** options, 4x **show caves**, 'elevated' **rainforest**, **trekking** to the limestone Pinnacles, **Forest Canopy walk**, various **trails**, like the infamous **Head Hunters Trail**. My favourite is a swim in the resurgence at **Clearwater Cave**.

Q: How did the pandemic affect you?

A: Badly. Apart from being closed, we are an **isolated destination, only reachable by flights**. When flights were reduced to one a week, our figures dropped out completely. The maintenance issues in a rainforest are always a factor - now it keeps all the staff employed and busy.

Q: How many visitors do you have in a normal year? How many visitors did you have in 2020?

A: About **23,000 on average** per year. In **2020**, we were extremely lucky to have received a total of **4,139 visitors**.

Q: How would you convince a person to visit Mulu Park?

A: To qualify for **UNESCO** world heritage status, a property needs to tick 4 major criteria. Mulu ticks all 4 boxes and is the only cave orientated property to do so. The pristine rainforest surrounds and the setting of the caves within the landscape, is unrivalled. The traditional local tribes and cuisine tops up the experience.

Q: What kind of weather can we expect to find there? Which is the best season to visit?

A: **Hot, humid**. Summer all year round with virtually **no distinct seasons**, except for the rainy season. The season for tourists normally revolves around June/July, the drier months. I like the fringe months, like March and September to get a bit of both. The rainforests springs to life when the rainy season starts. The **rain** is part of the magic.

Q: What is the most amazing experience you have ever had in a cave?

A: A successful rescue after 10 hours in **Cango Caves**, South Africa, in 2001.

Q: Who would you like us to interview in the next newsletter? What would you like to ask him?

A: I think my friend, **Andy Spate**, the Australian. I would like to know what made him interested in caves in the first place and if his beard is real!?!



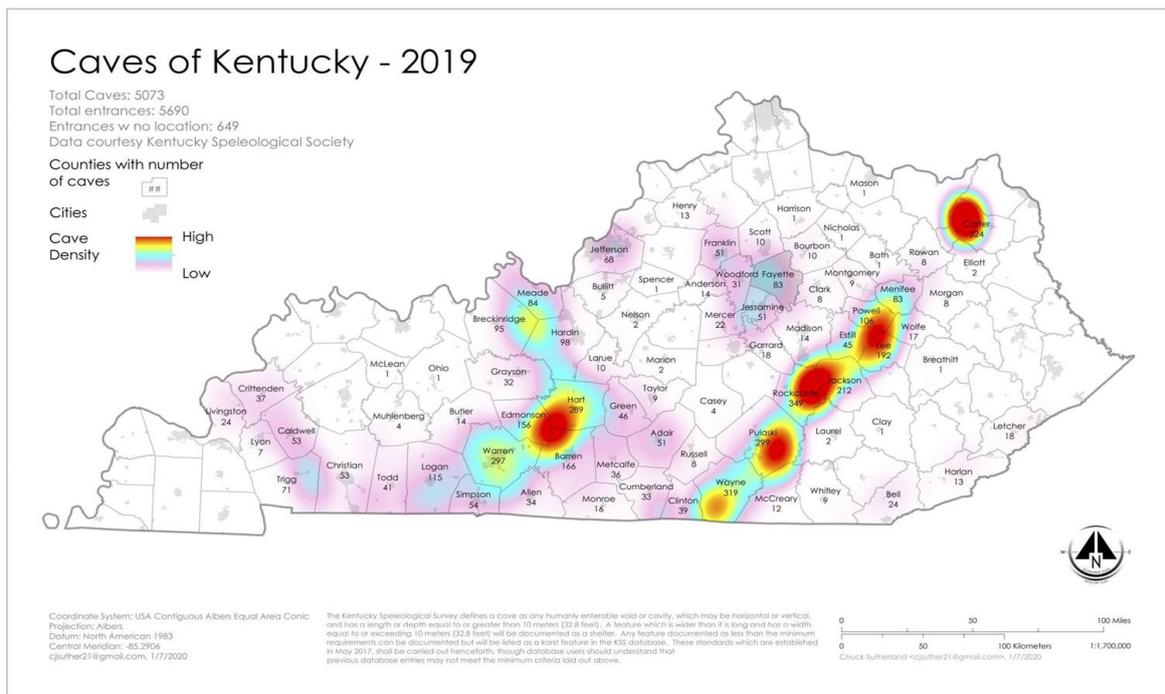
Hein-Jacques Gerstner (right), Brad Wuest (centre) and other cavers en route to the Baradla Cave (Hungary). Photo provided by Hein-Jacques Gerstner.

First Cave and Karst Working Group for Kentucky

Organizations including the **Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves**, the **Kentucky Speleological Survey, Inc.**, **Mammoth Cave National Park**, the **Kentucky Geological Survey**, **University of Kentucky** and **Western Kentucky University** are working together to create a wider knowledge base for **cave biology** in order to **protect cave habitats and the species inhabiting them**.

Since there is a great number of caves which have never been visited by a biologist, a great effort is needed in order to understand these systems and be able to protect them accordingly.

Thankfully, the organizations above are aware of the importance of taking action. Kentucky, a state which accounts with **over 5,000 caves**, including Mammoth Cave National Park, which is home to thousands of years of human history and a rich diversity of plant and animal life. That is the reason why it earned the title of **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and **International Biosphere Reserve**.



Caves of Kentucky. Image: Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves

Learn more about the **KNP** ongoing projects in their **annual report**



Oil drilling on sensitive New Mexico public lands puts drinking water, rare caves at risk

- Read the full article by Jennifer Oldham (National Geographic)

A [National Geographic](#) investigation has found that Permian Basin energy exploration could taint residential aquifers with pollutants—as well as Carlsbad Caverns and other cave systems.

“At 4.3 miles long, Parks Ranch Cave in southeastern New Mexico is the second longest gypsum cave in the Western Hemisphere. The cave and its multiple branches are among 550 that crisscross a fragile, sinkhole-prone geologic region renowned for Carlsbad Caverns. Now, the desert’s cave ecosystems and energy companies could be on a collision course”.

II Colombian Congress of Speleology

The **II Colombian Congress of Speleology** will be **virtual** and you are welcome to attend it on **June 8-13 2021**. More information: [II Colombian Congress of Speleology](#)



36th Brazilian Congress of Speleology

Hosted every two years by the [Sociedade Brasileira de Espeleologia](#), this years' congress has been postponed and will be held on **20-23 April 2022**. Find all the details here: [36th Brazilian Congress of Speleology](#)



International Tourist Guide Day

In 1990, the **World Federation of Tourist Guide Associations (WFTGA)** established **February 21st** as the **International Tourist Guide Day**. Since then, the event has been supported every year by many organizations and other collectives in the field of tourism. This special date aims at raising awareness on the importance of tourists guides and their role as cultural ambassadors of the regions they represent. Despite the pandemic, many events have been scheduled worldwide, and the **International Show Caves Association** would like to **thank** tourist guides for their **excellent work at promoting our cultural heritage**.

Click on the following image and watch the message by **Liza Zeiler**, a qualified tourist guide who represents Austria's nine provinces.

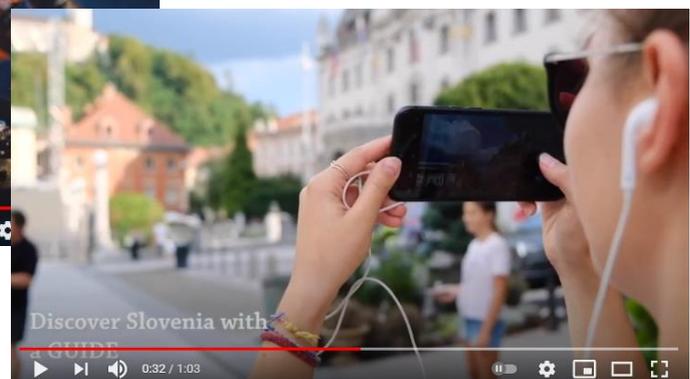


Video: MAK - Museum für angewandte Kunst, Wien

In Croatia, occasional rural tours took place in in **Krka National Park, Varaždin city, and Garešnica** in order to celebrate the **ITGD 2021**. More friends from **PRO Tourist Guide (Romania)** and **Feel Slovenia (Slovenia)** also shared a video to **reach and congratulate** tourist guides from other countries. **Click to watch!**



Video: PRO Tourist Guides



Video: Feel Slovenia

Frasassi Caves (1971-2021) celebrate the 50th anniversary of their discovery

by Consorzio Frasassi

In 2020 the **Frasassi Caves** started to plan a series of initiatives to celebrate one of the greatest events in its history, the celebration of its discovery in 1971. These actions included the **European Destination Excellence Award** (EDEN), the presence in **Lonely Planet**'s top ten best destinations, reaching **160.000 visitors** and setting a **balanced budget**.

Even though we have made a great effort, we will have to reconsider and readapt some of the aforementioned objectives in compliance with the current situation and the anti-**Covid** security protocol. It never crossed our minds to abandon the idea of honouring the anniversary, but since our lives have changed so much in the last year, we decided to make use of other tools which may help us in our way to success. Therefore, digital instruments and **technology** have been embraced by our organization in order to take the opportunity to seize their advantages.

Last December, for example, we had the honour to welcome a very special guest, the well-known tenor **Andrea Bocelli**. From the Ancona abyss of the Frasassi Caves, his Christmas musical greeting was streamed live on his **Facebook** fan page. A few days later, on Christmas night, the event was also **broadcast** on a renewed national channel, **Canale 5**. The result of this important marketing action was sensational: **millions of views** both online and on TV. The effect of this event was soon palpable. The social profiles of the Frasassi Caves grew at all levels, especially in the case of followers and viewers coming from all over the world. Consequently, visit numbers also experimented a considerable growth.

Did you miss Andrea Bocelli's performance at Frasassi Caves?

WATCH AGAIN



Last January we hosted the cameras of **Linea Bianca**, one of the leading programs broadcast by **RAI**, our **national channel**, concerning tourism and, in particular, **mountain tourism**. The report went on the air on 23rd January. Later, we were visited by **National Geographic**, and a beautiful documentary including pictures of every kind is expected to be published in April.

In February we went back to social media platforms thanks to the TV presenter **Oswaldo Bevilacqua** – a very famous professional in Italy thanks to his program “**Sereno Variabile**” (**Rai2**). He also made a beautiful report and it was then published on his Facebook fan page, reaching thousands of views in only a few days.

The excellent outcome of such initiatives has confirmed our initial considerations: it is essential to focus on **digital media** in order to promote the anniversary of the discovery in the most successful way. Undoubtedly, we will also carry out **in-person celebrations** and other initiatives which we consider mandatory

This is therefore a year of events which should have a wide media coverage. Most initiatives are supposed to take place in spring and summer, starting from April and lasting until September. Actually, September 25th is the official date of the anniversary of the discovery.

The **Giro d'Italia** (Tour of Italy), one of the world's most famous multiple-stage cycling races, will begin in Genga/Frasassi. As long as there is no health emergency taking place in our region, the event will take place on May 24th. Whatever happens, we are confident that the event will have a wide media coverage.

2021 has just begun and there is a fresh restart waiting for us. This is the year of the Frasassi Caves. The **Consorzio Frasassi** would like to wish a safe year to the whole underground world, and it would be our pleasure to welcome you in Frasassi Caves.



Frasassi Caves, 50 years of a life-changing discovery

- ISCA would like to congratulate the Frasassi Caves (our home) for their 50th anniversary -

Coves de Sant Josep (Spain) is now hiring: boatmen recruitment!



*A boatman guides tourists through Coves de Sant Josep (Spain).
Photo: José María Lorenzo González.*

One of Europe's most incredible caves is now hiring tourist guides with a specific peculiarity: they must also be able to **propel a gondola**. Over a hundred people have applied to become a **boatman** (or **boatwoman**) in **Coves de Sant Josep, Spain**.

Hopefully, they will soon be given the opportunity to guide tourists through the passages of a beautiful cavity which welcomes **200.000 visitors every year**.

Did you miss the article about Coves de Sant Josep in our **previous newsletter?**

Unique Cave Clam Runs for the ‘Mollusc of the Year 2021’ Title

Congeria kusceri, the only known freshwater bivalves inhabiting caves, are running for the ‘Mollusc of the Year 2021’ Award. They can be found in secluded **karst underground cave systems** of **Croatia** and **Bosnia-Herzegovina**. The five species were chosen from over 120 nominations. The winning mollusc will get its whole genome sequenced, at the **LOEWE-Centre Translational Biodiversity Genetics**. Would you like to learn more about the five species running for the title?



Photos (from left to right): Priscila Salloum, Marco Gargiulo, Víctor Tuset, Bernardo Reyes-Tu. Posted on TGB

Learn more about these species

Cave Science Pills

Framed within the **International Year of Caves and Karst**, the **Cave Science Pills** are a series of online lectures organized by the **Italian Speleological Society**, the **Italian Show Caves Association**, and the **Speleopolis Association**, and sponsored by the **International Union of Speleology**, the **International Show Caves Association**, and the **Italian Alpine Club**.

Two cave lectures will be held by young **researchers** and **cavers** who participate in each episode and discuss about **scientific research themes** carried out in **Italian caves**.

Despite the presentations will be in **Italian**, easy and understandable language will be used so that any viewer from another country can follow the contents. Besides, **English slides** will be used so as to make it easier for everyone. According to the organization, “The small lectures will be recorded and translated and will form an online archive to be used for didactic purposes. This collection of lectures can then be updated with new episodes every year.”

The **International Show Caves Association** would like to thank the different organizations for their effort in promoting knowledge acquisition thanks to these didactic events.

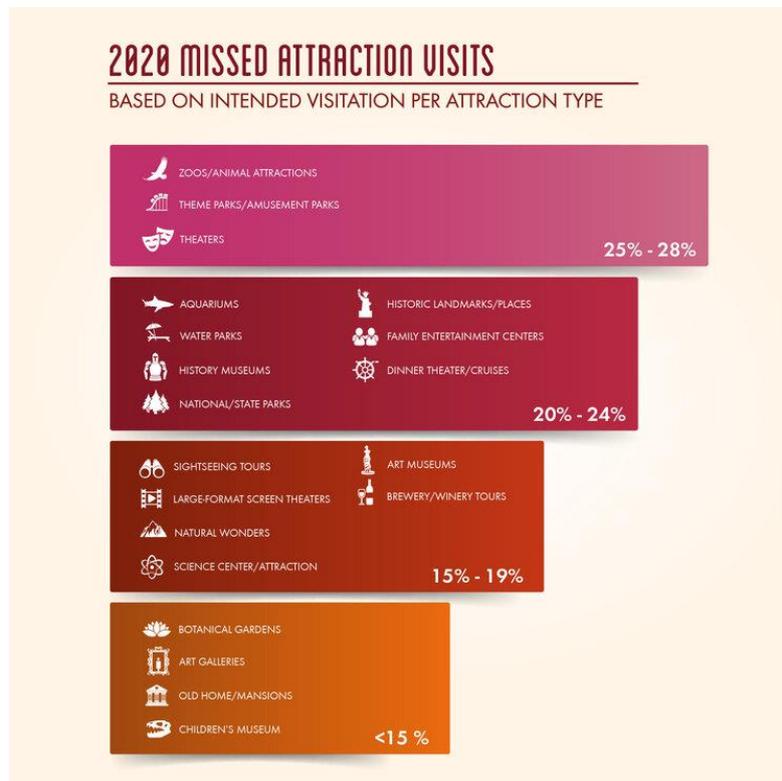


2020: 89% of visitors missed attractions

source: [PGA V Destinations](#)

According to [Voice of the Visitor 2021](#), if there had been no pandemic crisis, 89% of visitors would have visited one or more attractions last years. Even though it may seem that there is nothing positive to mention with regards to the crisis, the truth is that this “stay home” period has served many to **increase their savings**.

As the article says, “according to the **U. S. Bureau of Economic Analysis**, consumer **spending fell 12.6%** in April 2020 as states (in the USA) implemented lockdowns. This is in line with the **New York Times** report that found between March and November 2020, many Americans’ **personal savings grew by 173%** compared to the same period in 2019.”

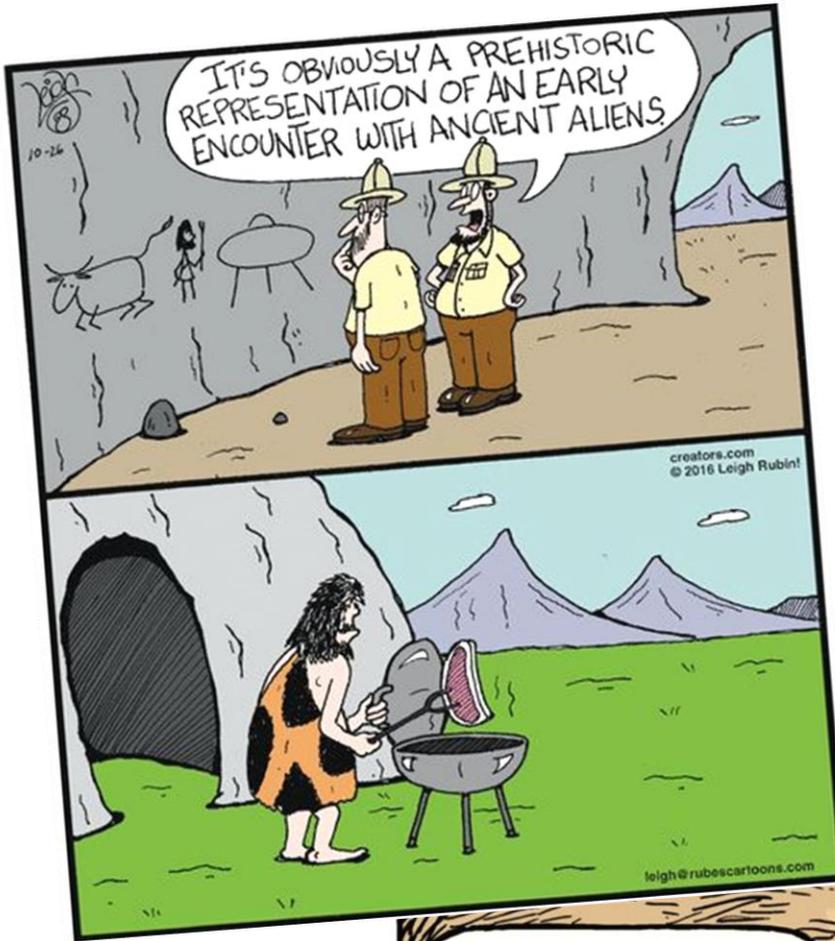


2020 missed attraction visits. Image: Voice of the Visitor 2021

Moreover, the fact that most travel plans were cancelled is highly associated with visitor risk tolerance levels and the safety measures implemented by international governments, so there is no reason to think people are not willing to travel.

Actually, the **International Show Caves Association** is sure that people from every corner in the world will choose caves and other underground destinies among the main attractions during the present years and those to come. Be prepared! There are many cavers who are looking forward to visiting your beautiful spots!

The funny side of life



Source: GoComics



Source: ComicsKingdom

Moulins Bleus

interview by Angela M.H. Schuster

images by Jason Gulley

Article by *The Explorers Journal*



Image: Jason Gulley (*The Explorers Journal*)

- Read the full article -

With a surface area of 1.7 million square kilometers, the **Greenland ice sheet** is second in size only to that which cloaks **Antarctica** and covers some **79 percent** of the largest island on Earth. If the ice sheet were to melt—and melting it is in the face of **climate change**—it would result in a worldwide sea-level rise of 6 meters.

For the past two decades, **glaciologists** have been working to understand the mechanics of the melt, but their models had largely fallen short when it came to explaining the exponential rate at which it was happening. That was until recently, when a trio of **intrepid explorers** ventured into a suite of **moulins**, vast ephemeral ice caves previously thought **too dangerous to investigate**.

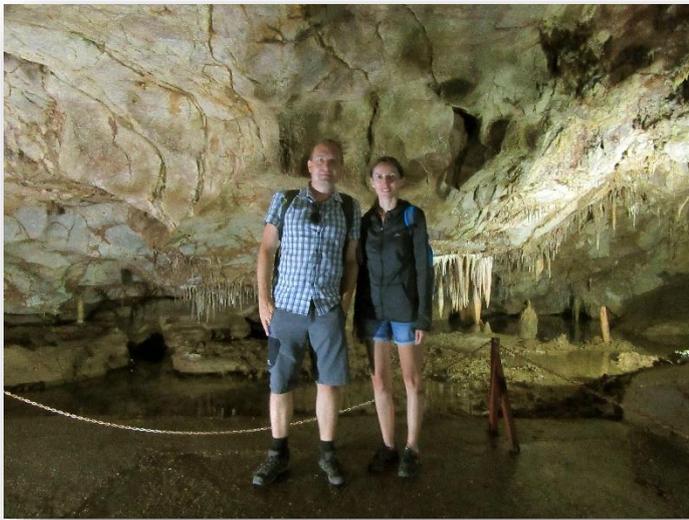
The Explorers Journal caught up with glaciologists **Matt Covington** of the **University of Arkansas** and **Jason Gulley** of the **University of South Florida**, along with formidable ice climber **Will Gadd**, shortly after the October release of their ice-breaking paper, published by the **American Geophysical Union**.

THE EXPLORERS JOURNAL

THE OFFICIAL QUARTERLY OF THE EXPLORERS CLUB SINCE 1921 

Pavel Gejdoš, the 325-caves man

by Juanjo Tíscar



Pavel (left) with a friend at Shpella e Gadimës (Marble Cave) in Kosovo

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Full name: Pavel Gejdoš

Date and place of birth: September 17th, 1977 (Brno, Czech republic)

Studies: Journalism and Marketing at Masaryk University

Current job: PR and Social Networks Manager of the **Cave Administration in the Czech Republic**, and season-guide in **Výpustek Cave**

Hobbies: Wait for it...caving!

Contact (Give him some time. He may be in a cave!)

Some weeks ago **Pavel** contacted me because he said he would be on the top of the ISCA top-cavers list (see next page) without doubt. I have to admit that I first doubted about it, but I was completely wrong! Pavel has visited over 300 caves (325 to be exact, though he may have visited some more while I write these lines!).

The first I saw when I read his e-mail was an Excel document with a really detailed description of each one of the caves visited by Pavel (country, cave name, types of souvenirs, photo permission, price...). I couldn't tell the feeling when opening that file. "Do I really like caves?", I thought. I do! But Pavel plays another league.

2	State	Cave	Visit	DIA	Lep	Stoc	Selfgt	Discovered	Open	Light	Electric.	Visit	Lenght	GPS	Photo	Charge
					orel	knag					light	(m)	all			
170	Maďarsko	Tapolcai Tavasbarlang	10.8.2010				volně	1903	(1912?)1937	elek.	1928	340(180)	1000/3280	46°52'60"N, 17°26'36"E	ANO	NE
171	Maďarsko	Tettyei Mészufa-barlang Pécz	31.10.2016						(odnep.?) 1906,2007	elek.	2007	258	258	46°5'58"N, 18°14'6"E	ANO	NE
172	Maďarsko	Vass Imre barlang	17.11.2019					1954	1998	elek.	1998	400	2185	48°29'53"N, 20°32'13"E	ANO	NE
173	Makedonie	Spilja Vrelo Matka	19.8.2018				volně	1992	1995	elek.	1995	140	100/550	41°55'49"N, 21°17'32"E	ANO	NE
174	Malta	Ghar Dalam	x.10.2000	(dia)			volně	1865	1933	elek.		80	144	35°50'11"N, 14°31'41"E	ANO	NE
175	Malta	Ninu's Cave (Gozo)	x.10.2000					1888		elek.		10	20	36°3'4"N, 14°15'53"E	ANO	NE
176	Malta	Xerri's Grotto (Gozo)	x.10.2000				volně	1923	1925	elek.	1960	20	20	36°3'4"N, 14°15'41"E	ANO	NE
177	Německo	Altensteinerhöhle	31.7.2011	DIA		sti	volně	1799	1802	elek.	1905	280	1960	50°49'44"N, 10°20'45"E	ANO	NE
178	Německo	Attahöhle Attendorf	9.5.2014	DIA	(lep)	STI-B		1907	1907	elek.	1907	560	6670	51°7'32"N, 7°54'54"E	NE	
179	Německo	Barbarossahöhle Rottleben	10.8.2008	DIA	LEP	STI-B		1865	1866	elek.	1895	800	1100	51°22'32"N, 11°2'12"E	ANO	2,00 €
180	Německo	Bären- and Karsthöhle Sonnenb	8.5.2015					1834	1834	elek.	1934	271	292	48°22'15"N, 9°12'54"E	ANO	NE
181	Německo	Binghöhle	6.7.2008		LEP	STI-B		1905	1906	elek.	1908	270	300	49°48'43"N, 11°12'58"E	ANO	1,00 €
182	Německo	Dechenhöhle Iserlohn	10.5.2014	DIA	LEP	STI-B		1868	1868	elek.	1890	360	17000	51°21'56"N, 7°38'40"E	NE	
183	Německo	Karsthöhle Dienstedt	30.7.2011					1953	1994	elek.	1994	155	340	50°48'51"N, 11°10'31"E	ANO	NE
184	Německo	Drachenhöhle Syrau	6.7.2007	DIA	LEP	STI-B		1928	1928	elek.	1928	350	550	50°32'33"N, 12°4'55"E	ANO	2,50 €
185	Německo	Eberstadter Tropfsteinhöhle	4.8.2012	DIA	LEP	sti		1971	1973	elek.	1973	616	588	49°28'52"N, 9°20'51"E	NE	
186	Německo	Einhornhöhle Osterode	9.8.2008	DIA		sti		(1541)	1908	elek.	1895/1928	492	610	51°38'6"N, 10°24'16"E	NE	
187	Německo	Erdmannshöhle Hasel	1.8.2008	DIA	LEP	STI-B		(1271)	1773	elek.	1899	356	2185	47°38'55"N, 7°53'44"E	NE	
188	Německo	Goetzhöhle	31.7.2011					1915	1934	elek.	1934/2000	485	242	50°33'55"N, 10°24'24"E	ANO	NE
189	Německo	Gutenberger Höhle	10.5.2015					1889	1890	elek.	1967	160	180	48°32'33"N, 9°31'20"E	ANO	NE
190	Německo	Höhle Heimkehle	10.8.2008	DIA	LEP	sti		1357	1920/1954	elek.	1920	720	2136	51°29'49"N, 10°57'17"E	ANO	5,00 €

Just a small piece of Pavel's Excel file. All the 325 caves are carefully detailed

Pavel started visiting show caves at the age of 12, when his father took him to visit **Punkva Caves** in the Moravian Karst (Czech Republic). From then on, he felt there was something special and decided to visit other national and international caves, such as **Grotta Gigante** (Italy) in 1990. Then, he decided to go further: paying a visit to all the European Show caves.

Still far from the objective (I'll never be as close!) he has visited 321 European show caves (there are about 600 hundred). He's been to another 30, but you know what? He got there too soon and the cave was still closed. So he took a picture at the entrance and left!

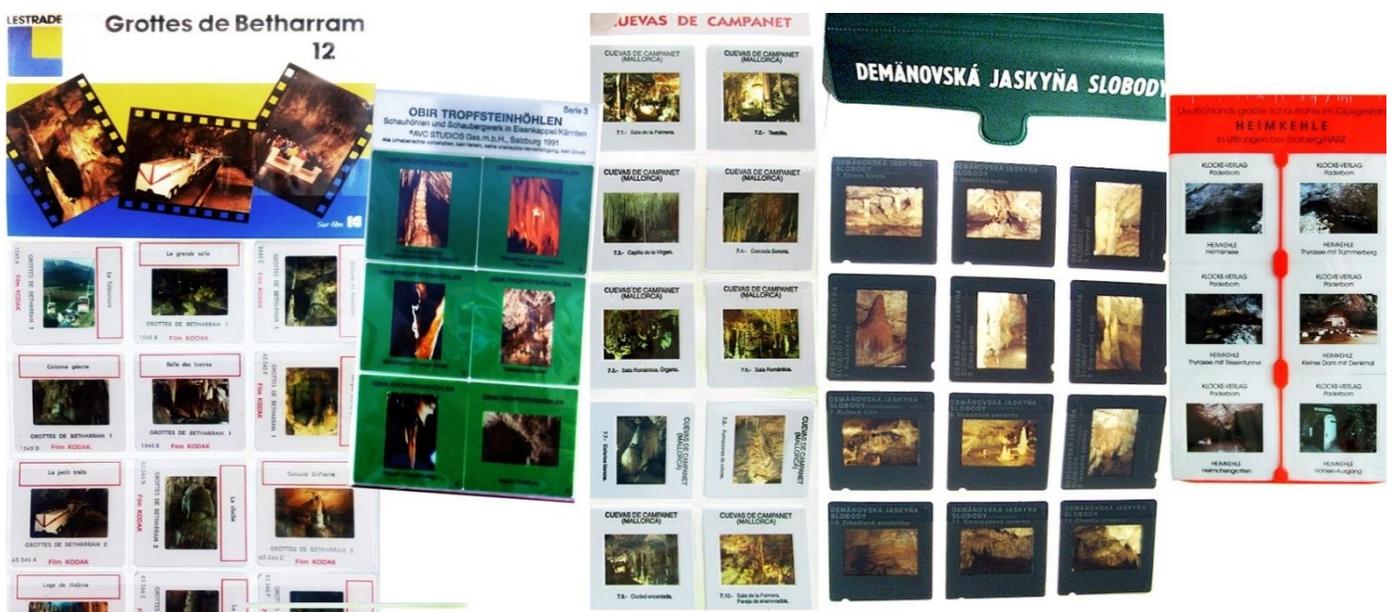
Pavel is working on a book which covers all the European cave and karst systems, and he also built his own website with details about the many caves he knows: **don't miss it!**

In 2019 he started working for the **Cave Administration in the Czech Republic**, linking his passion with his everyday routines.

He has visited all **14 show caves in Czech Republic** (did you guess wrong?) and he would like to invite us all to visit these magnificent creations of nature. Besides, he has been to France, Spain, Slovenia, Slovakia, Switzerland...and many other countries.

There's something Pavel does not like about show caves. Not being able to take **pictures**. He says only in about 10% he was not allowed to do it. "You need to record what you lived in the past. It's beautiful to look back and have proof of the beautiful caves you've visited. In addition, photography is free advertising for caves!", he admits.

Something else you need to know about Pavel is that he collects slide-sets from those available at every show cave he visits.



Pavel's favourite souvenir

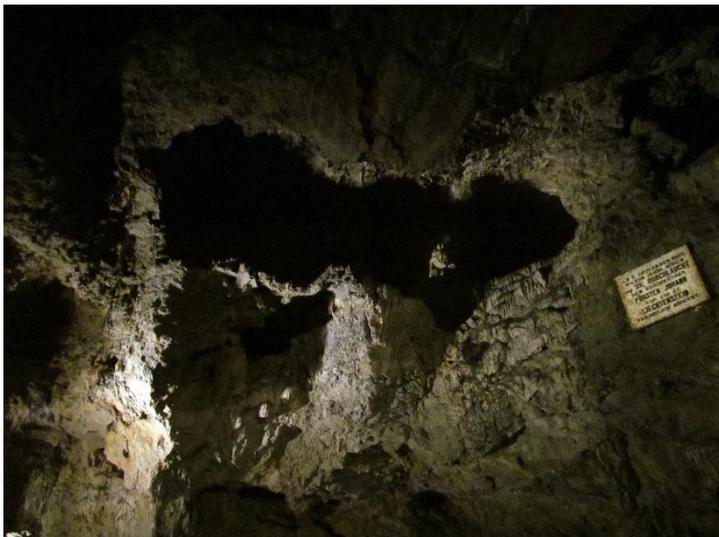
Pavel would like to share with us some pictures taken at different European caves. These can be found on the following page. There you go, **Pavel!** Well deserved! **Will anyone beat this true caver?**

RANKING: TOP-CAVERNERS

1. Pavel Gejdoš – 325 caves!
2. Hein-Jacques Gerstner – 124 caves
3. Heros Lobo – 101 caves
4. Rafael Pagés – 100 caves
5. Juanjo Tíscar – 25 caves
6. Nuno Jorge – 18 caves

How many caves have you visited?
juanjotiscar@i-s-c-a.org and let us know!





Photos taken by Pavel at different caves in Czech Republic (Javoriske caves and Vypustek cave), France (Demoiselles Grotte and Lastournelle Grotte) and Italy (Grotta Gigante)



Applying the values of geoethics for sustainable speleotourism development

Antić, A., Peppoloni, S. & Di Capua, G. Applying the Values of Geoethics for Sustainable Speleotourism Development. Geoheritage 12, 73 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12371-020-00504-0>

- Read the full article -

Really interesting article about the strategies to promote the protection and eco-friendly management of caves while these prove to be a major element of the economy and employment. “The aim of this paper is to raise the awareness about the need to apply the values of geoethics to speleotourism, stimulating new fields of discussion within the scientific and technical communities involved in studies and activities related to geotourism and geoheritage. The possibilities of developing new ways to manage caves, in order to promote a sustainable socio-economic development of local communities, have to be balanced with the protection of natural environments as much as possible.”

Examining the spatial variability of geosite assessment and its relevance in geosite management

- Read the full article -

Pál, M., Albert, G. Examining the Spatial Variability of Geosite Assessment and Its Relevance in Geosite Management. Geoheritage 13, 8 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12371-020-00528-6>

This article focuses on the relation between scientific content and tourism facilities in a series of geosites: “Assessment is the initial step for experts on geoheritage and geotourism when designating geosites in a certain area. During this process, geologically interesting outcrops, formations and places are examined with the use of different criteria to see if they are suitable for geoconservation and geotourism purposes.”

Special announcement

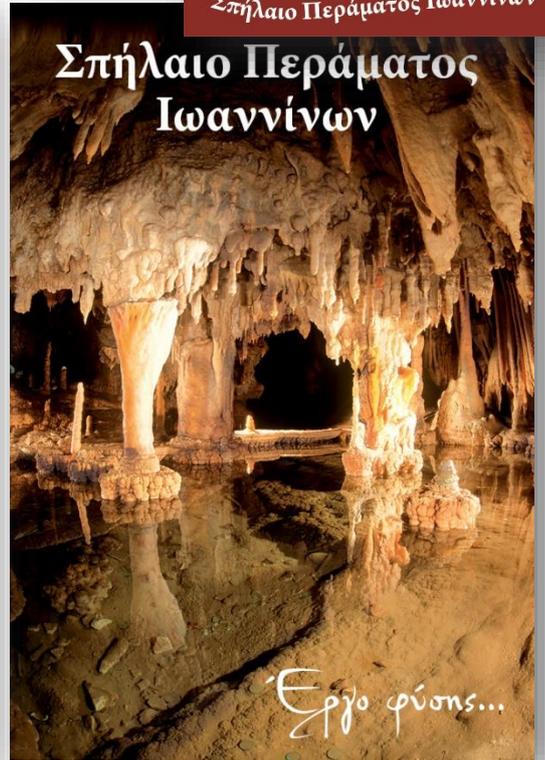
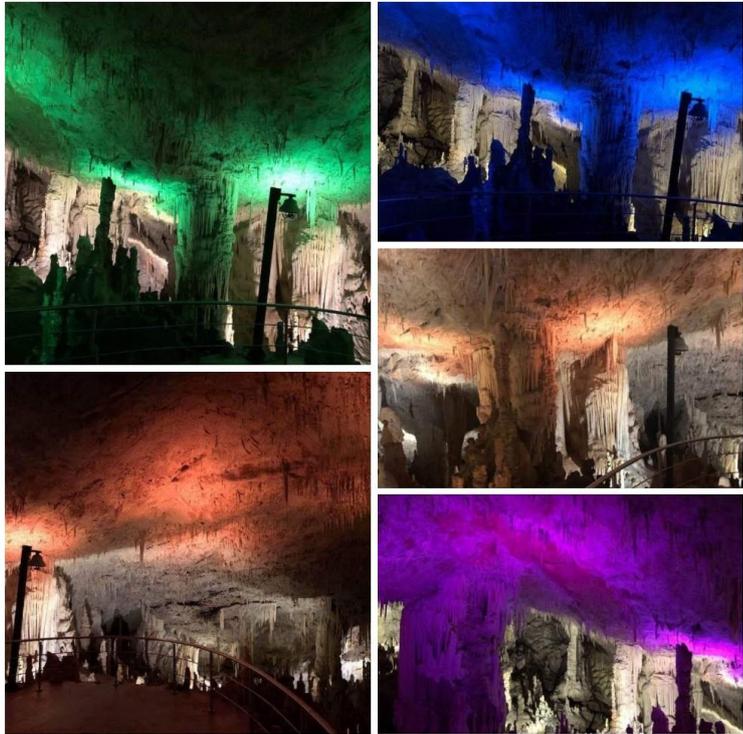


Don and Nurul on their wedding day

The International Show Caves Association would like to congratulate **Don Haider** and his wife, **Nurul Hidayah**, who recently got married on New Years Day. Don is the Managing Director of the Cave Management Group in Malaysia which managed Dark Cave and they are advocates for the Batu Caves system. Don has attended numerous ISCA Congresses, Conferences and Meetings and many of you will remember his friendliness, thoughtfulness and smile. Wishing them a lifetime of love and happiness!

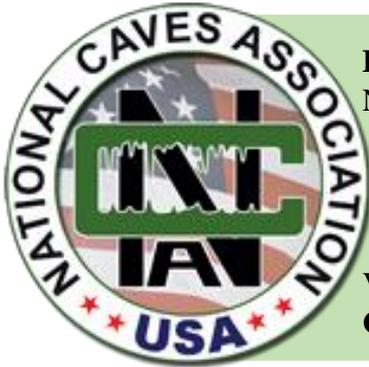
Cave of Perama, Greece

If **Greece** is already famous due to their beautiful historical and cultural heritage, don't miss the following pictures sent by the team at **Cave of Perama**. There seems to be more than a hidden treasure in the house of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. More info: [English](#) – [Greek](#)



Σπήλαιο Περάματος
Ιωαννίνων!!
Υπομονή!!!!

Latest publications



Bob Holt, NCA Executive Director, brings us the latest NCA updates:

[Cave Talk: February 2021](#)

[Cave Talk: March 2021](#)

Visit CAVERN.COM and learn more about the National Caves Association.



Union Internationale
de Spéléologie

A special bulletin by the **Union Internationale de Spéléologie** with everything you need to know about the **International Year of Caves and Karst 2021**.

[Download now!](#)

More about the **UIS** [HERE](#)



Dr. Nadja Zupan Hajna, member of the **Karst Research Institute**, has published her book **Karst, Caves and People** and it is already [available online!](#)

ZRCSAZU

Share your knowledge!

Is there any other publication you would like to share?

Send it to juanjotiscar@i-s-c-a.org and we will publish your materials in future newsletters.

Call for Papers: Carbonate Critical Zone Petrology, Mineralogy, and Geochemistry in Karst Systems

Dear Colleagues,

As the guest editors of the *Minerals* Special Issue on “Carbonate Critical Zone Petrology, Mineralogy, and Geochemistry in Karst Systems”, we would like to cordially invite you to contribute (either alone or with a colleague/post-doc, etc.) with research paper or review to this Issue.

Special Issue: Carbonate Critical Zone Petrology, Mineralogy, and Geochemistry in Karst Systems

Guest Editors: Dr. Jason Polk and Dr. Ilenia D’Angeli

Submission Deadline: 30 July 2021 (More time can be granted if necessary)

Website: https://www.mdpi.com/journal/minerals/special_issues/cczpmgks

Should your response be positive, we would appreciate receiving within the next two months a short tentative **abstract** (150–200 words) describing the topic covered in your contribution. Papers can be submitted at any time up until the deadline as they will be published *on an ongoing basis*.

Minerals is an MDPI open-access journal (indexed in Web of Science, current Impact Factor 2.380). *JCR category rank*: 6/21 (Q2) in Mining & Mineral Processing; 11/30 (Q2) in Mineralogy. The Article Processing Charge (APC) is 1800 CHF (Swiss Francs) per accepted paper.

There are numerous **benefits** to publishing in *Minerals*: (1) open access and high visibility—unlimited access, broad database coverage, and various promotional activities and academic event presentations; (2) rapid turn-around—The median values of the "Article Processing Time" (from submission to publication) is 42 days in 2019.

Please feel free to **contact** the Editorial Office (minerals@mdpi.com or kimura.xia@mdpi.com), if you have any questions or concerns.

We very much hope that you can accept this offer and we look forward to hearing from you!

Drs. Jason Polk and Ilenia D’Angeli

Guest Editors of Special Issue "Carbonate Critical Zone Petrology, Mineralogy, and Geochemistry in Karst Systems



minerals

International show cave meeting and workshop by Cave Lighting

INTERNATIONAL
CAVE MEETING

GIANT ICE CAVE
DACHSTEIN

WORKSHOP
HOLISTIC TOURISM CONCEPT

A
KIND
OF
PASSION

10/21/2021
TO 10/24/2021
OBERTRAUN-AUSTRIA
INVITING OUR CAVE FRIENDS!





#SPELEOMEDIC



SPELEOLOGY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION:

WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF
THE SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF ITALY & TETIDE

Further information [HERE](#)



14 PSEUDOKARST
Chęciny 22-25.06.2021

14TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON PSEUDOKARST



APRIL 22ND-25TH, 2021

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW [HERE](#)



6TH EUROSPELEO PROTECTION SYMPOSIUM

26TH - 30TH OCTOBER, 2021



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HYDROGEOLOGISTS CONGRESSES



BRAZIL, 47TH IAH CONGRESS – BELGIUM, 48TH IAH CONGRESS

22ND - 27TH AUGUST, 2021 // 6TH - 10TH SEPTEMBER, 2021

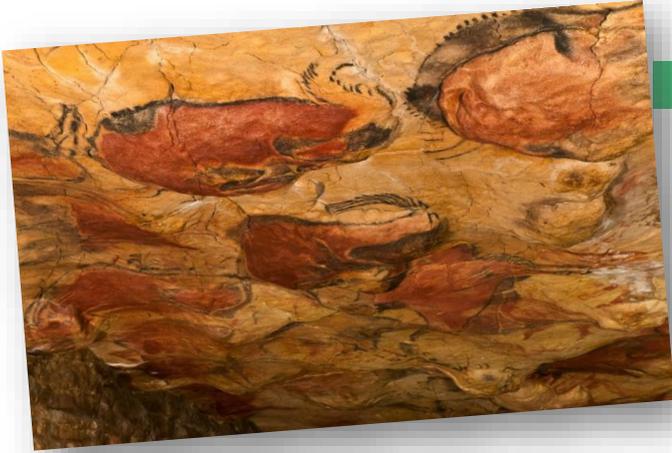


**47TH IAH
CONGRESS
BRASIL 2021**



48th IAH Congress
BRUSSELS BELGIUM 2021
Inspiring Groundwater

What caves are these?



CAVE #7

Hint 1:

This cave is located somewhere in Europe.

Hint 2:

These were the first European cave paintings for which a prehistoric origin was suggested and promoted.

CAVE #8

Hint #1:

It is located in South Dakota (USA).

Hint #2:

It is the sixth longest cave on earth according to its +140 miles of cave passageway.



SEND YOUR ANSWERS

JANUARY/FREBRUARY ANSWERS:

Cave #5 was Grottes d'Isturitz et Oxocelhaya (France)

Cave #6 was Howe Caverns (Ney York, USA)

You can send your answers, too!

Contact: juanjotiscar@i-s-c-a.org



ISCA Calendar

PLEASE NOTE

Some of these events may suffer variations.
You may contact the organization for confirmation.
Do you want to add or modify an event?
Contact us! juanjotiscar@i-s-c-a.org



2021 - International Year of Caves and Karst

17th April, 2021 – National Bat Appreciation Day
 22nd - 25th April, 2021 – 14th International Symposium on Pseudokarst
 May 2021 – US Geological Survey Karst Interest Group Meeting
 3rd - 7th May, 2021 – Australian Cave and Karst Management Association Conference
 6th June, 2021 – Int. Day of Caves and the Subterranean World
 28th June - 2nd July, 2021 – NSS Convention 2021
 14th - 18th June, 2021 – 28th Int. Karstological School “Classical Karst”: Regional Karstology
 22nd - 24th June, 2021 – EuroKarst 2021: The EU Congress on Karst Hydrogeology and Carbonate Reservoirs
 22nd -25 th June, 2021 – 2nd Columbian Congress of Speleology
 11th - 14th July, 2021 – Karst Record IX (KR9) Conference
 25th July -1st August, 2021 – 18th Int. Congress of Speleology
 16th - 20th August, 2021 – 34th Int. Geo. Congress: Global Karst Critical Zone and Land Use Planning
 22nd - 27th August, 2021 – 47th IAH Congress (Brazil)
 28th August - 4th September, 2021 – 19th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology
 September 2021 – Fort Stanton Cave Science Conference
 6th - 10th September, 2021 - 48th IAH Congress (Belgium)
 30th September - 3rd October, 2021 – 26th International Cave Bear Symposium
 21st - 24th October, 2021 – Cave Lighting Workshop
 26th - 30th October, 2021 – 6th EuroSpeleo Protection Symposium
 29th October - 2nd November, 2021 – Speleo Kamaraton

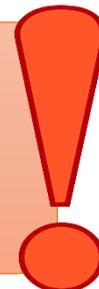
2022

20th - 23rd April, 2022 – 36th Brazilian Congress of Speleology
 29th September – 8th October, 2022 – ISCA’s 9th Congress and NCA Convention (San Antonio, Texas)
 2022 – NSS Convention 2022 (Custer, South Dakota)

ISCA deadline!

Everything sent **before April 20th, 2020** will be collected and taken into account to appear in ISCA’s newsletters.

 **Contact: juanjotiscar@i-s-c-a.org**





INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION

Join us and become an ISCA Member

Visit www.i-s-c-a.org for details and follow us on **Facebook!**



Don't miss any of the following websites...



**Union Internationale
de Spéléologie**





INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION

ABOUT INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION

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.



Thanks to everyone who collaborated.

*Editor: Juan José Tíscar Moya – Contact: juanjotiscar@i-s-c-a.org
Issue: March & April 2021*