



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION

ISCA Newsletter

March
April
2023

CONTENTS

ISCA Survey Results

In 2022, the [International Show Caves Association](#) (ISCA) and the [National Caves Association USA](#) (NCA) conducted a survey which aimed at showing the effect of the show cave business in the global economy, monitoring the general recovery after the pandemic, and identifying the most immediate

and future plans of show caves around the world.

After the analysis of the feedback provided by all the respondents, a summary of the survey results can be found in the following pages.

Make sure you do not miss any of the contents of our newsletter and feel free to share it with others.



JOIN ISCA NOW!

Do you own or manage a show cave? Would you like to become a member of the [International Show Caves Association](#)? Join us [here](#).

International Show Cave Business Survey Worldwide Results

2022



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION



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Message from the President

by Friedrich Oedl (contact: president@i-s-c-a.org)

Dear ISCA members and other cave enthusiasts,

It is my great pleasure to report about some news concerning our show cave association. First, I want to express my thankfulness to our Secretary, Juanjo Tíscar Moya, who is extremely active and makes my presidency to a pleasant challenge.

Some new projects have been carried out recently, and you will find some information in the following pages. These include a new database where all ISCA files, including photos and videos, will be stored so they can be shared in the future. Our past President, Brad Wuest, together with an amazing team from [Natural Bridge Caverns](#) and [Core Research](#), conducted an international survey about show cave business whose results are summarized in the next pages. Last but not least, we are starting to arrange things in order to celebrate the next ISCA Conference, which we expect to celebrate next year in Mulu National Park (Malaysia).



ISCA President Friedrich Oedl (Fritz) during the 100th anniversary of Eisriesenwelt (Austria). September 2020.

If everything goes as expected, we will be able to meet again without all the COVID restrictions from the past three years. I hope that many of you will be able to join us there!

At this point, I want to thank all ISCA members who have already paid their yearly membership fees. Those who have still not done it, I would greatly appreciate not to forget in order to be in good standing and receive the ISCA membership certificate.

ISCA, together with our colleagues from the International Union of Speleology (UIS) are working with great energy to promote awareness about the importance of caves and karst worldwide. We believe that it is essential to promote environmental protection and defend the economic importance of our business. For this reason, we understand that national institutions shall be provided with the necessary information to support the declaration of June 6th as the International Day of Caves and Karst, and it is mandatory that we unite our efforts to reach ambassadors at UNESCO.

As we look forward to this 2023 full of hope, peace and international friendship, we really wish you have an excellent show cave season which brings complete joy and happiness to visitors!

Yours,

Friedrich Oedl
President
International Show Caves Association



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION



From the editor

by Juanjo Tíscar (contact: secretary@i-s-c-a.org)



Mr. Juanjo 'Peaky' Tíscar in Camden Town (London). Christmas 2022.

Dear ISCA friends,

Thanks for taking some time to read the second newsletter of the year. As you will see, we have been quite busy in the last few months.

As you know, I became Secretary only a few months ago, so I have been devoting my time to create a database where we can store all the different materials which we have been creating and publishing during all these years.

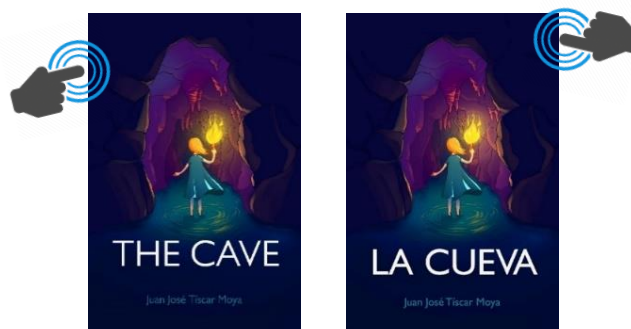
Some of the contents on our website have also been updated. I have been sending some e-mails asking for your help, especially in the case of show caves whose information was not complete, and I would really like to thank those of you who took some minutes to send me high quality pictures as well as information updates. Please, keep doing it!

By the time you are reading this, representatives of the [Bulgarian Association for Cave and Eco Tourism](#) (BAPET) will be visiting my hometown in Spain in order to learn more about ISCA. I will be accompanying them for a few days, so I will try to answer your e-mails as soon as possible!

However, as I mentioned in January's newsletter, I have also had some time to spend on myself. Two months ago I visited London and had an amazing time there. It was not as cold and rainy as expected, so the experience was great (see picture above!). At the end of March I will be travelling to Berlin with my group of students. Unfortunately, I will not be able to visit any of the show caves nearby, but I will make sure I go back in the future.

I would like to thank those who have answered my e-mails (sorry if I have ever been 'intense') asking you not to forget dues notice. As our President mentioned in the previous page, it is very important that you are in good standing in order for us to be able to organise events such as the incredible 9th ISCA Congress from last year. You liked it, right? By the way, thank you Fritz for your confidence and help in these months.

Therefore, thanks for being an important part of this adventure. I really hope you keep sending materials in order to be published in our newsletters and social media. And, of course, don't forget about my short novel 'The Cave'! Click on the images!



ISCA Library



2023 Jan-Feb



2022 Nov-Dec



2022 Sep-Oct



2022 Jul-Aug



2022 May-Jun



2022 Mar-Apr



2022 Jan-Feb



2021 Nov-Dec



2021 Sep-Oct



2021 Jul-Aug



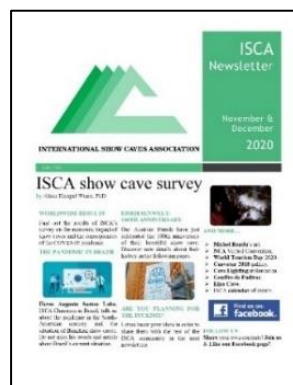
2021 May-Jun



2021 Mar-Apr



2021 Jan-Feb

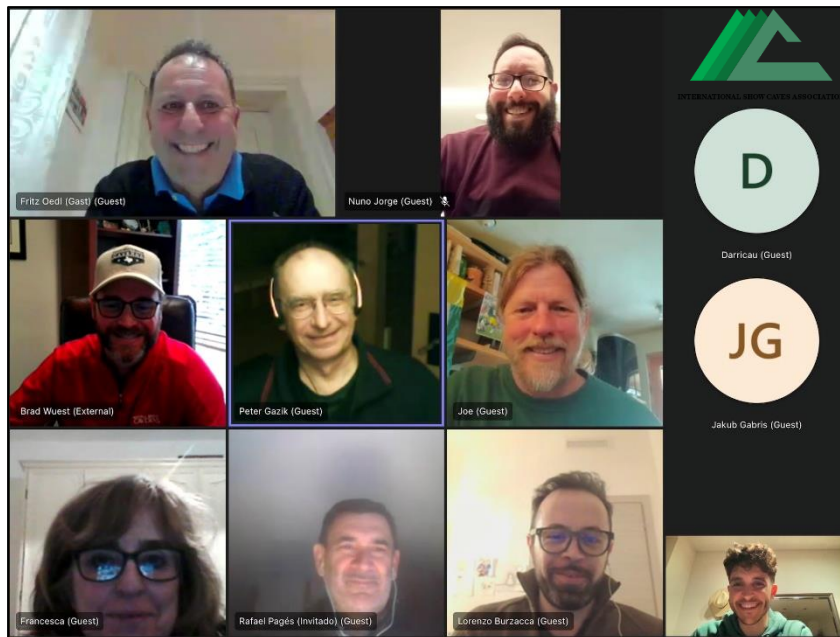


2020 Nov-Dec



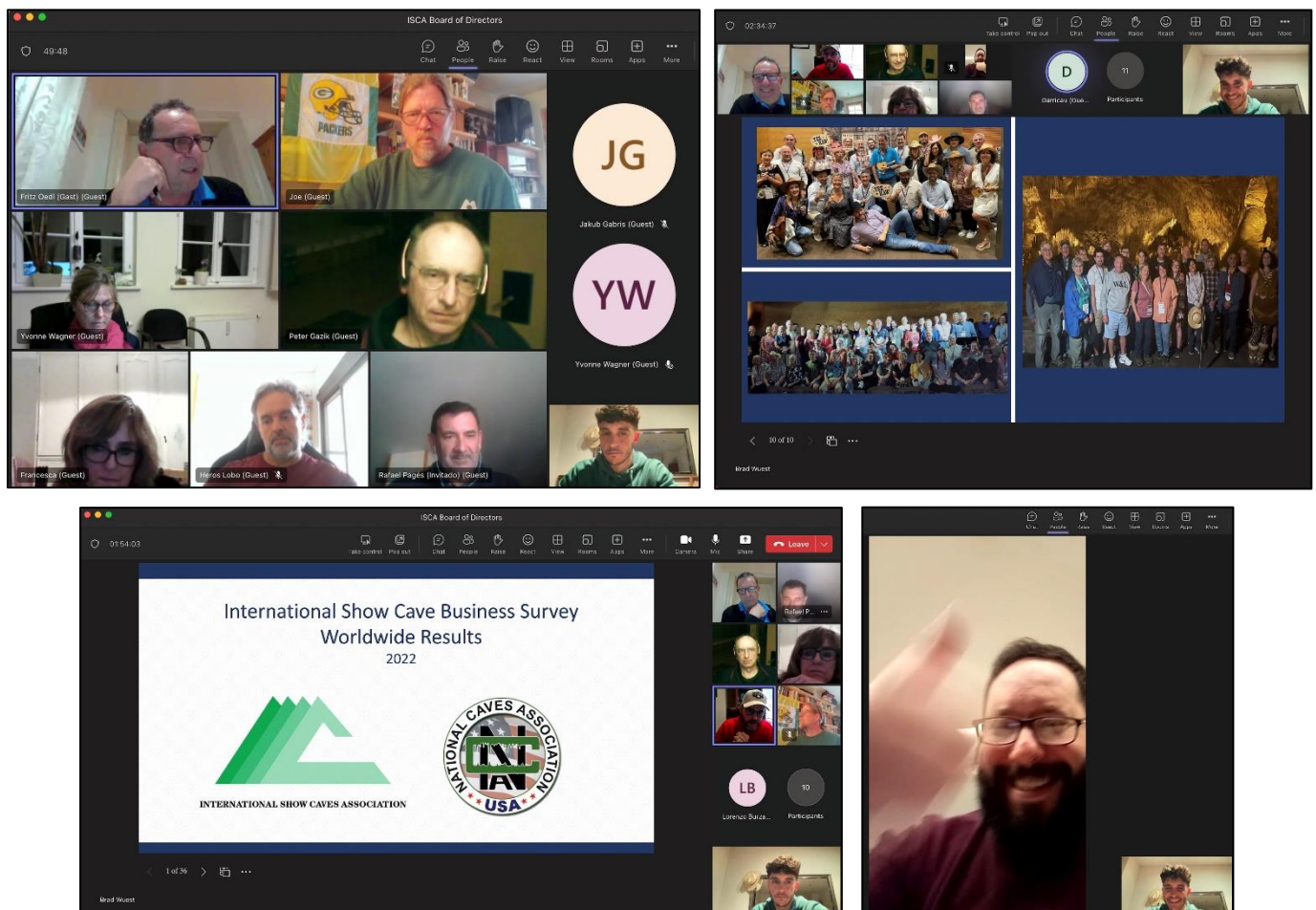
2020 Sep-Oct

ISCA Board of Directors Meeting



ISCA Board of Directors Meeting. February 24th, 2023.

On February 24th, the ISCA Board of Directors celebrated the first BoD Meeting of the year 2023. Up to 13 members joined a videocall which lasted 2 hours and 30 minutes and served to discuss varied topics of interest for the association and its members. In addition, ISCA past President, Brad Wuest, presented the results of the ISCA & NCA Show Cave Business Survey (see next page).

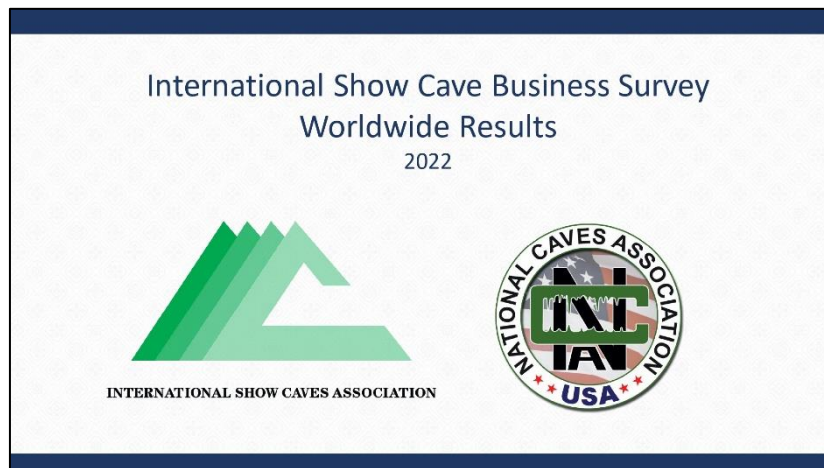


ISCA & NCA Show Cave Business Survey

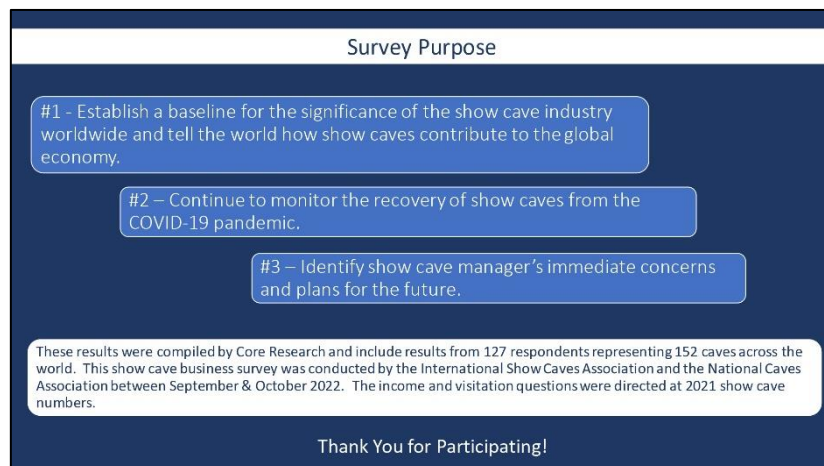
[Download the ISCA & NCA Show Cave Business Survey Results here](#)



Big thanks to Susan Korbel (CEO at [Core Research](#)) for compiling the data, and Jamie K Finney ([Natural Bridge Caverns](#)) for the presentation of the results.



In our [previous newsletter](#), a press release presented some of the main findings of the ISCA & NCA Show Cave Business Survey conducted in 2022. Now, the study of those results by [Core Research](#) brings to light how the show cave business has overcome a pandemic during which many private and public show caves had to close due to national and international regulations.



The main purpose of the survey was to establish the important role of the show cave industry all over the world, as well as to study the recovery of the business after the pandemic and study present and future actions which may be required to undergo in order to reach the objectives of managers.



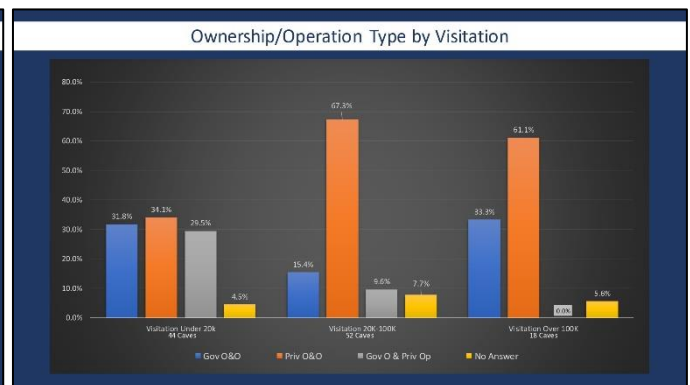
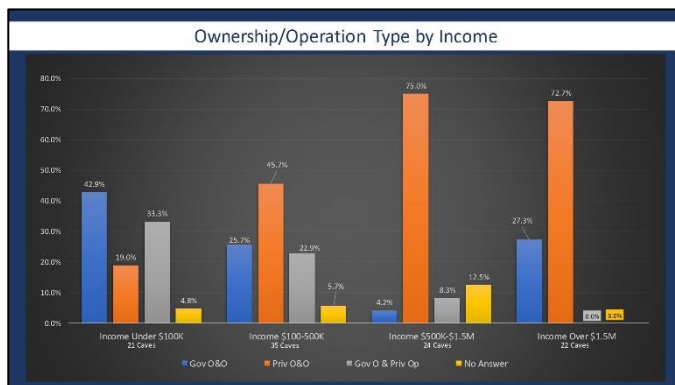
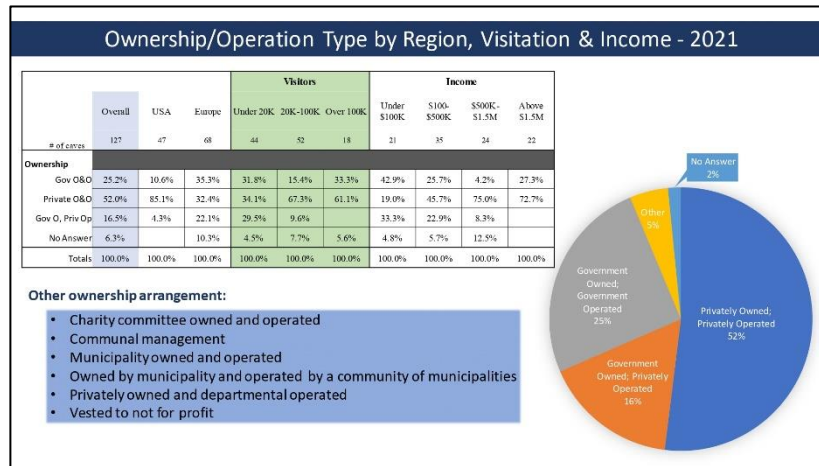
There were 127 respondents who provided essential feedback to understand the aforementioned aspects, which implies an increase from our previous survey back in 2020. Over the half of the respondents (54%) were from a European country, whereas 37% are from the United States and only 9% belong to other areas; and the data was obtained by taking into account factors such as revenue, visitation and jobs.

Show Cave Revenue			
	2019	2021	
Revenue (worldwide)			
	\$1.93 billion	\$2.14 billion	↑ 11%
USA Revenue			
	\$354 million	\$368.8 million	↑ 4%

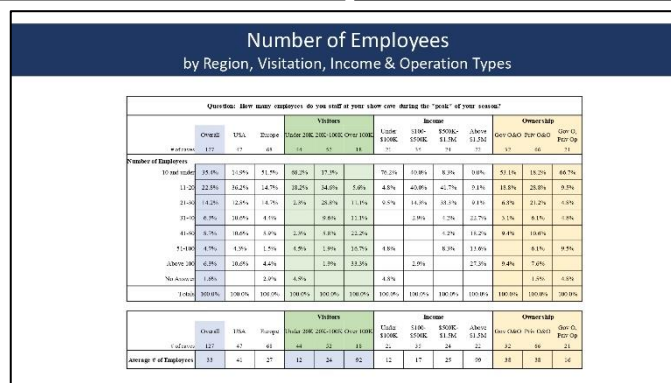
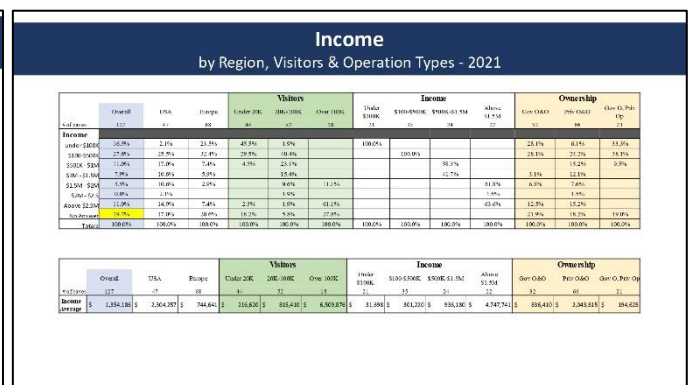
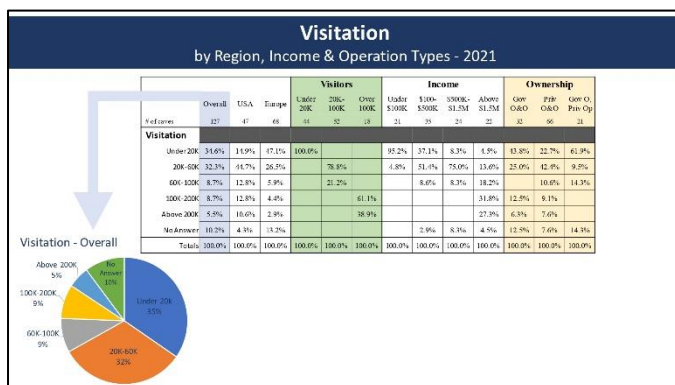
Show Cave Visitation			
	2019	2021	
Visitation (worldwide)			
	144 million visits	120.8 million visits	↓ 16%
USA Visitation			
	13.8 million visits	17.5 million visits	↑ 27%

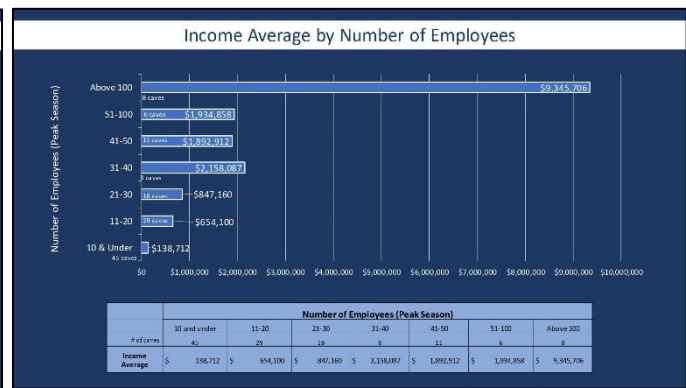
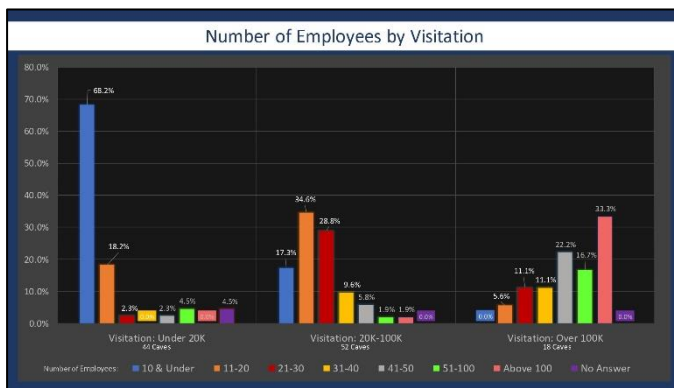
Show Cave Employees / Peak Season			
	2019	2021	
Employees (worldwide)			
	69,000	56,954	↓ 17%
USA Employees			
	9,500	7,629	↓ 20%

Results show that the show cave industry is still facing a challenge in order to overcome the effect of the pandemic. In the case of jobs, many people who lost their jobs due to COVID-19 and employment is still a determining factor; however, revenue shows hope for full recovery since the economic impact is far from being negative anymore.



The survey also provides important information as regards the type of ownership/operation model by taking into account factors such as region, visitation and income. Results show that 52% of show caves (according to the data provided by the respondents of the study) are privately owned and operated, while 25% are government owned and operated; 16% are government owned and privately operated; and 7% follow a different model or did not answer the survey.





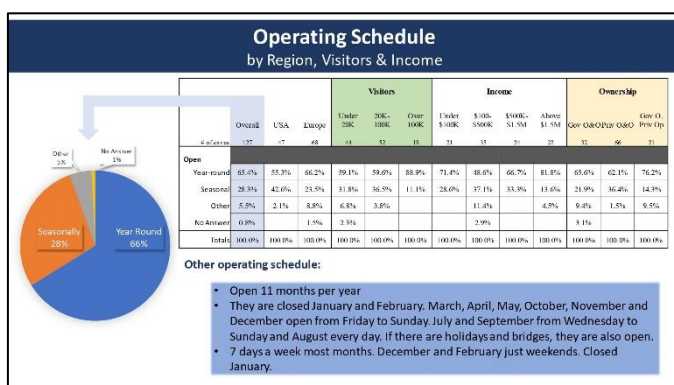
School Children Visitation by Region, Visitors, Income & Operation Types

# of caves	Overall	USA	Europe	Visitors			Income				Ownership		
				Under 20K	20K-100K	Over 100K	Under \$100K	\$100K-\$500K	\$500K-\$1.5M	Above \$1.5M	Gov O&O	Priv O&O	Gov O, Priv Op
School Children	177	47	68	44	57	18	21	15	24	22	57	66	21
under 500	41.0%	37.1%	48.6%	62.2%	28.6%	20.0%	68.8%	50.0%	23.5%	20.0%	56.5%	33.3%	52.9%
500-1,000	13.0%	11.4%	10.7%	16.2%	11.9%	13.3%	6.3%	12.5%	23.5%	10.0%	18.5%	11.8%	11.8%
1,000-2,000	11.0%	8.6%	14.3%	13.5%	14.3%		18.8%	12.5%	11.8%	5.0%	11.1%	11.8%	
2,000-3,000	5.0%	5.7%	1.8%		9.5%			3.1%	11.8%	5.0%	8.7%	3.7%	5.9%
3,000-4,000	6.0%	8.6%	5.4%		7.1%	13.3%		3.1%	17.6%	10.0%	4.3%	9.3%	
4,000-5,000	6.0%	7.9%	7.1%	5.4%	4.8%	6.7%	6.3%	3.1%			4.3%	9.3%	
5,000-6,000	4.0%	11.4%			7.1%	6.7%					4.3%	3.7%	5.9%
Above 6,000	14.0%	14.3%	16.1%	2.7%	16.7%	40.0%		12.5%	11.8%	40.0%	21.7%	11.1%	11.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

# of caves	Overall	USA	Europe	Visitors			Income				Ownership		
				Under 20K	20K-100K	Over 100K	Under \$100K	\$100K-\$500K	\$500K-\$1.5M	Above \$1.5M	Gov O&O	Priv O&O	Gov O, Priv Op
School Children Average	127	47	68	44	57	18	21	15	24	22	57	66	21
	3,148	3,362	3,287	883	3,087	9,353	662	2,006	2,701	8,067	4,807	2,987	1,783

2021 School Group visitation was significantly below normal coming out of the pandemic.

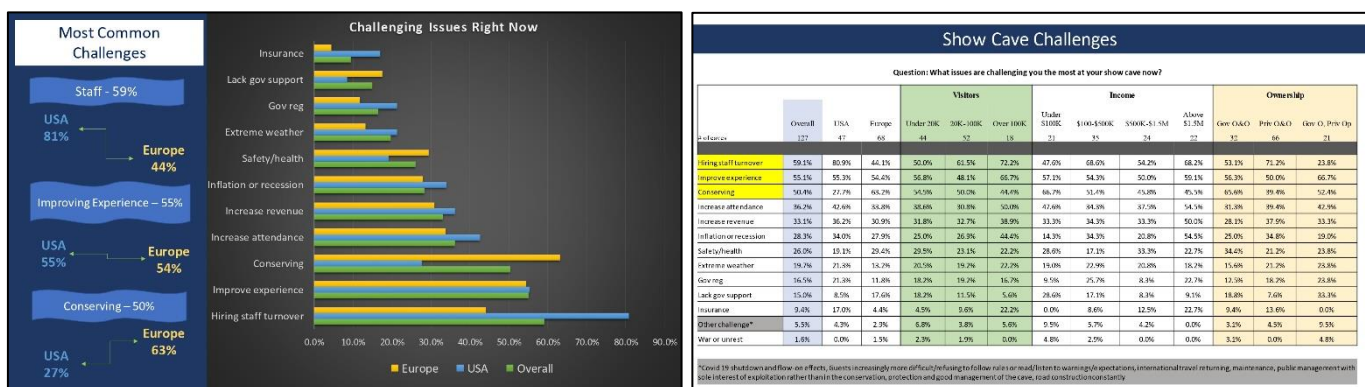
Variables such as region, visitation, income and operation type were taken into account to analyse data. The results above show the differences in numbers concerning number of employees or school children visitation, among others.



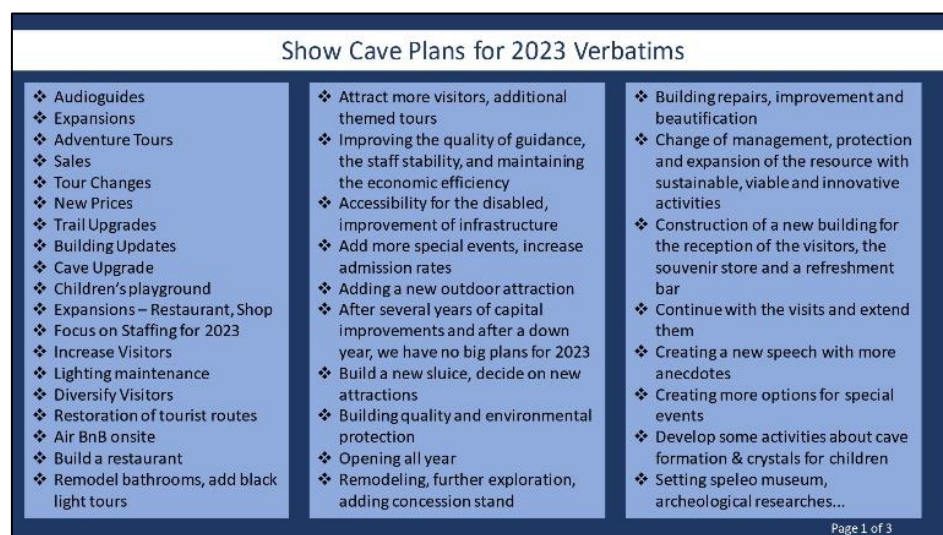
Operating hours and the type of activities and amenities offered were also analysed. Guided tours (92,1%) and gift shops (78%) are on the top of the list.



Respondents also provided verbatim comments as regards the type of ride and activities offered.



In addition, the survey also focused on the main challenges faced by the industry. Among others, the most common issues involve staff, improving visitors' experience and cave conservation, though in some cases there is clear evidence between USA and European show caves.



Finally, respondents also expressed their ideas for future plans in order to improve the experience offered at their show caves.


[Download the ISCA & NCA Show Cave Business Survey Results here](#)



ISCA Congress Survey



ISCA Congress Survey. Source: Natural Bridge Caverns.

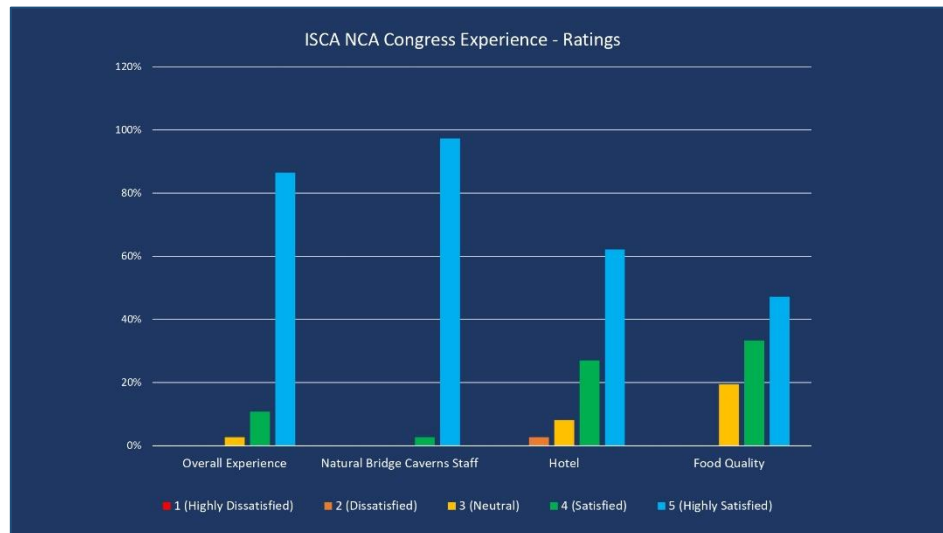
[You can find access to the presentation on our ISCA website](#) 

After the 9th ISCA Congress celebrated in San Antonio, Texas (USA) together with the National Caves Association USA, the organisation decided to conduct a survey to gather information and feedback from participants. We would like to thank the staff at Natural Bridge Caverns, host of the event, for the data collection and presentation of the results. These data could be really helpful in order for future hosts to take into account.



ISCA Congress Survey: Responses. Source: Natural Bridge Caverns.

The 37 respondents (30 from the US, 2 from Italy and France, 1 from Spain, Austria and Croatia) heard about ISCA & NCA Congress from a series of different sources, including NCA's Cave Talk and the ISCA Newsletter (41%), the meetings of each association (26%), and update mailing (13%), among others (20%).



ISCA Congress Survey: Experiences. Source: Natural Bridge Caverns.

Results show that attendees were highly satisfied with the overall experience, and it is obvious that the Natural Bridge Caverns Staff did an amazing job and effort in order that all things went as expected.

Overall Length	89% felt the length of Congress was "Just Right"
Blended Congress	95% enjoyed having ISCA and NCA joined together
Congress Website	65% visited the website more than 3 times
Congress Updates by Email	83% of respondents read the updates and 100% of those who read them, found them helpful.
Mobile App	95% found it helpful 81% found it easy to use 86% would like to see it used at future conventions
FREE time	76% of respondents felt like they had just enough free time
Evening on Your Own vs Planned Event	59% enjoyed the evening on your own versus paying additional for another planned event
Cracker Barrel (NCA)	63% would like to see the Cracker Barrel session added back to the convention
Catalog Vendor Show	72% of respondents who attended the catalog show liked this option
Western Wear Vendor	85% enjoyed the western wear vendor
Registration Fee	84% felt the registration fee was appropriate for the value received at Congress

ISCA Congress Survey: Overall aspects. Source: Natural Bridge Caverns.

The above image shows the best valued aspects of the Congress taking into account the attendee's opinion. Over 9 out of 10 attendees loved the idea of gathering together the ISCA & NCA members, and they also found the mobile app useful in order to follow the Congress agenda and each one of the events. The images below show the most and least favourite moments of the event. We suggest visiting [our website](#) in order not to miss any detail.

<p>Favorite Moments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> My favorite moment is the general assembly. Day at NBC Meeting all these neat owners. Seeing Natural Bridge Caverns operation. Cowboy dinner discovering new caves I enjoyed the Western night at the Museum. NBC visit - great afternoon - very difficult to rate best part. Cave without name singing girls show Best part is always visiting other caves and property. Around the world The "Around the World" videos. It was great to see everybody's cave. Cavern tours The round the world, got to see what everyone else was doing. Also helped me put names to faces. While pretty much everything was great, the free evening allowed me to connect with folks in a more relaxed setting over dinner and drinks. I got a lot accomplished in that time. Visiting all of the different caves! It was neat to see how everyone operated their caves and gift shops. It was all so great. We did the pre and post trips too. The strategic planning was the best presentation (both of them) meetings work sessions/visit the caves joint meetings The wonderful little bobtail cat at NBC Field trips to River Walk, Alamo, Natural Bridge Cavern. There were several positive moments! Sessions with industry experts. Joye Wuest's prayer to start the meeting! All good Learning from the presenters and connecting with others Ending event at Art Museum, Good Food & Socializing Cave without a Name Cowboy dinner Evening at Sonora and Natural Bridge Visiting Natural Bridge 	<p>What did you like least about Congress?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "The tiny tiny small type on the app. My eyeballs do not see as good as they did 60 years ago." Friday waiting around and having to check out early with bags and nowhere to stay. A few of the presentations were a little lengthy (the ones over an hour) and didn't provide much help for a small cave operation. The breakout sessions seemed a little too long. It was tiring sitting for that length of time. It might have been better if Presley led the Sonora tour. The hotel construction meant that there wasn't a big evening social gathering space, but I was mostly too tired at the end of the day anyhow. Needed opportunity to talk to each other like cracker barrel or in sessions. We usually ask questions to all of us not just to the speaker. I had something I would have liked to share during the event session but it was set up as lecture format with questions just to speaker. We learn a lot from each other not just speakers Evening on your own. It made the group scatter, instead of keeping us together. It would have been nice to split the videos in half and view the remainder videos later in the week... (43) in a row was too many Some of the topics weren't particularly useful for small operations. There was no prize drawings at the end of the congress I missed the Cracker Barrel face to face discussions The night with no planned activities (free time) cost 1.5 hour session after lunch is too long. No Cracker Barrel It was TOO cold... burr... I saw penguins Missed the cracker barrels, and Parking was \$\$\$ Going home a day early Alamo Tour Meetings too long The app I could not figure out how to use The homeless around San Antonio
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ISCA Congress Survey: Favourite moments and aspects to be improved. Source: Natural Bridge Caverns.

Presentations

99% of the respondents found the sessions were valuable and applicable. Some preferring topics over others.

Presentation Topic Suggestions

- Cave Lighting
- Cave Technology – surveying, radiolocation, digital mapping
- Dealing with Problem Guests
- HIR related
- How to win insurance claims
- Government problems
- Employee Retention
- Transitioning your legacy and business
- Preservation
- Caving cleaning, formation restoration, wire hiding
- Insurance for show caves
- New trends and pricing philosophy
- Entertaining while educating across all cultures
- Creating history exhibits
- Changing demographics, travel trends

Suggestions to make the next Congress / Convention better

- More free time
- Breakout sessions for caves with smaller budgets
- Schedule a combined Congress every five years.
- Cracker Barrel. Not combine NCA with another group.
- Continue the great breakout sessions. Add back in the cracker barrel.
- Enjoyed the dancing at the Ruby Falls convention.
- More help with private cave owners on promoting each other
- More free time
- Larger type on the app
- Mimosas with breakfast
- Bigger type on name badges
- Missed the Cracker Barrel
- Lower cost
- A little less pricey.
- Keep hotel and registration cost down so smaller show caves can afford to attend
- Return to only NCA participants. Stay in less expensive hotels and keep the registration costs down. Have PRINTED ITINERARIES. Phone app didn't work half the time.
- "Keep the length of each presentation to an hour or less, it will help people stay engaged. I noticed a lot of tuning out on the longer ones. I LOVED the app! The way questions could be asked through a moderator was awesome, and the notes section was great for organization. Please keep this going! The breakout session format was great, too! People being able to choose which topics most applied to or interested them was a great decision."
- Find out why national and international show caves not in attendance didn't attend and address those issues to include more show caves next time
- Come back to Texas! kidding. I can't think of anything.
- Always offer bus trips to the various activities! Self driving for old folks to new locations is challenging and dangerous.
- Schedule less tight. At Natural Bridge by the time you did the 2 tours you didn't have time for other things. Was not able to check out the echo location trailer.

Suggestions to make the next Congress / Convention better continued....

- I would subtract a day, but that's the normal length of our NCA conventions anyway. Enjoyed the app. Did not miss the Cracker Barrel - there can always be one added, or people can request one the day of.
- Maybe a little more down time between talks vs fun time (for caves to regroup and review what they just learned with their team)
- Having a hotel that also has a bar area to spontaneously gather is fun. Activities & topics that promote more discussion among the cave owners in the sessions. I like a Q & A that also lets you know who asked the question in case you want to discuss that topic with them. Blind questions are fine but I don't exclusively like it. There are always attendees that do not know everyone else. I would also like having a fitness room that is operational in the hotel.

Again, thank you for your responses and great suggestions! We enjoyed hosting you all and now we will pass on the opportunity to take Shasta Caverns for NCA and MUJU for ISCA. Hope you find this information useful for planning the next event.

ISCA Congress Survey: Suggestions. Source: Natural Bridge Caverns.

At the end of the presentation you will also find some suggestions concerning the topics of the Congress sessions, as well as ideas which could be implemented in future events.

We certainly organised an incredible event and it seems our attendees and NCA folks enjoyed the experience.

Now it is time to work on the next conferences and congresses so that future surveys bring the exact (or even better) results as the one conducted in Texas. Thanks!

[You can find access to the presentation on our ISCA website](#)



ISCA Congress Survey: Event photos. Source: Natural Bridge Caverns.



Did you miss the 9th ISCA Congress? Follow this [LINK](#) and enjoy a full gallery of photos from the event! Big thanks to Natural Bridge Caverns and the National Caves Association for sending the pictures.

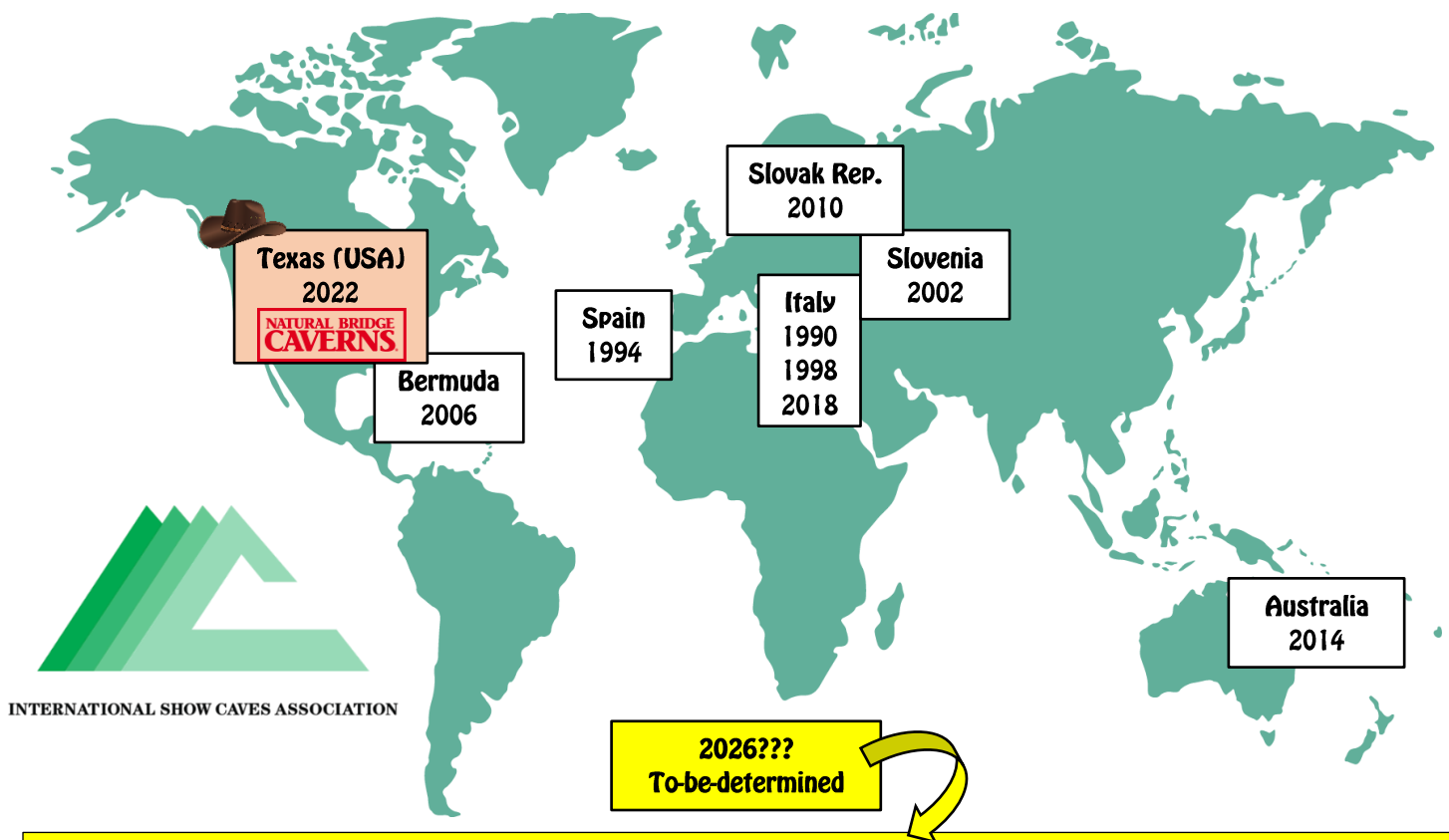
Ready to host future ISCA Congresses, Conferences and Meetings?

After our Congress in 2022, soon we will have to decide where our future Congresses, Conferences and Meetings will take place. If you have a proposal which you think could be interesting, please, let us know. We are open to suggestions!

- **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.
- **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. **Our ISCA Conference 2026 is expected to take place in Mulu (Malaysia).**
- **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.

Please, download and read the [ISCA Constitution](#) and learn more about these events.

ISCA CONGRESSES



Would you like to host an ISCA Congress, Conference or Meeting? [Contact us](#) and let us know!

Raquel Daza Brunet, the new member of Cave Lighting's Dream Team



Raquel Daza Brunet..

CAVERN INFO

Full name: Raquel Daza Brunet

Place of birth: Reus (Spain)

Date of birth: January 7th, 1985

Profession: Geologist and speleologist. Technician of cave projects.

Hobbies: trekking, hiking, speleology, snorkelling, painting, dancing, listening to music, pets and animals.

Contact: rdaza.brunet@gmail.com / raquel@cavelighting.de



Raquel Daza Brunet (Reus, Spain, 1985) is one of the latest incorporations to Cave Lighting's team. Her studies, attitude and her personal and professional experiences are an example of how excellent professionals and experts in the field often gather together. Let's learn more about her.

Question 1: When did you decide to enter the world of caves?

Raquel: In 2007, I was studying geology at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, when one of my best friends "Gemma" told me that it is an amazing world. She knows that I loved and enjoyed nature, hiking, climbing, but I wasn't enjoying the subterranean environment. Then, I thought that if I loved the geology on the earth's surface, I would enjoy the geology inside the earth. Finally, destiny brought me a PhD about biomineralogy of the non-crystalline speleothems in volcanic caves of the Azores Islands.

Question 2: How many caves have you visited?

Raquel: I don't know the number exactly, but I did a lot of caving, but less than I would like to do. I have been in many different types of caves in many places around the world. If I can, every weekend and period of holidays I'm inside a cave, near or far away from home.

For my job as a geologist specialist in caves, I was studying lava tubes in the Azores, Galápagos and Hawaii Islands, New Mexico (USA) and in Mexico. But I have been lucky to have the opportunity to enjoy this hobby from small and cute caves to big horizontal and vertical systems in different countries (Europe: Spain, France, Slovenia, Italy, Polonia, etc) and in the Caribbean sea.

Question 3: What cave surprised you the most?

Raquel: It is a difficult question, because every cave has something special. I remember a lot of times the first time that I saw the "falso techo" in Soplao cave, I was completely amazed.

It is a place completely full of big and complex white eccentric stalactites 50 cm of your face. And my first time in a lava tube, It leaves me speechless how dark they are, the black color of the walls, and how the lava can change to orange and yellow when you least expect it.

History, spectacular speleothems, strange forms or small details that make it unique. I love the colors and forms of the conglomeratic or saline caves, and enjoy a lot of the vertical techniques in large pits in limestone



Raquel and her daily routine.

caves, I love crawling in small cracks wherever they are, and I'm fascinated for the non-crystalline minerals that I have investigated in lava tubes.

As you can see, I'm talking almost always about geological details. I'm passionate about this special subterranean world. I could live in a cave, I love the smell, the tranquility and the sensations they transmit to me. It will always be a part of me.

Question 4: Where are you currently working?

Raquel: Now, I'm working as a freelancer in the Cave Lighting company from Germany, specializing in their own illumination system for subterranean environments.

I'm a project specialist that installs the illuminations system, and I'm responsible for marketing in Spain and support in the office. I'm so happy to work, because it is a company with a clear objective: respect for the cave, their particular environment and the life that can be inside it, and make tourists enjoy the cave with the best illumination that you can find around the world.

I love that our illumination system is 100% prepared for subterranean conditions (humidity, dry, cold, hot, salty environments) and their materials are respectful of the cave. Our lamps have a color that surprises us. They are completely waterproof and our methodology and equipment can very well help to avoid growing plants in show caves. The whole system is designed by our specialists, almost all of them are speleologists. Notably, the system is very flexible, from the simplest analog system to the most complex digital one. I like being part of a company that has the same values as me regarding the conservation of the underground world.



Raquel's love for caves is obvious. Photo: Raquel Daza.

Question 5: Can you describe a typical day at work?

Raquel: It is different one day in telecommuting work or one day in a project.

In home office work, normally I do 4h non-stop in front of the laptop, doing the Installation manuals, answering emails of the company, documents, preparing presentations for congress, or marketing. I'm trying to be as available as possible in case there is work to discuss or if it leaves at the last minute.

On the project day, we start at 8 am and finish at 5 pm. Everyday is an adventure, because you don't know how many surprises you will have. It is a good thing because the work is dynamic and you need to use your brain to find feasible and quick solutions as soon as possible.

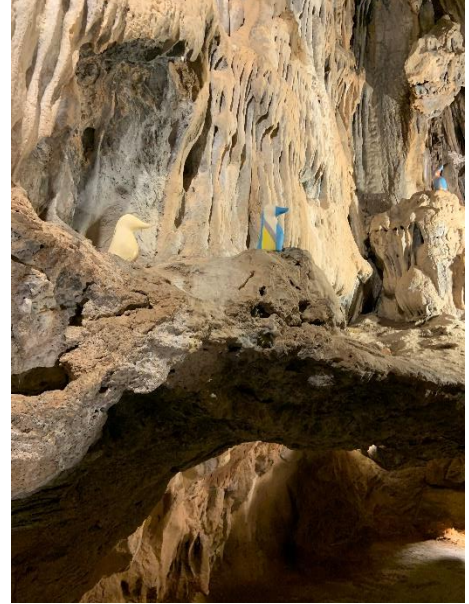
We have 2 "obligatory" breaks (one in the morning and another in the afternoon) to go outside and relax your body and your mind for 10 minutes. We have 30-40 minutes to lunch together als 12:30 pm more or less. The installation process is by steps and detailed proceedings. When you want to realize, the day is over.

Question 6: What projects are you working on?

Raquel: Now, I'm working in a medieval tunnel in Ulmener Maar (Ulmen, Germany). It is a small project but not less interesting.

After this, I will be in the HermannsHöhle project (Harz, Germany) for 3 months, ending the last step of this big project, to eliminate the kilometric subterranean system. And I hope to have many more projects in which I can contribute my grain of sand.

Contemporary cave art in *Cova dels Òrgues* (Spain)



Some of the works by the artist and part of the show cave exhibition. Source: Jacobo Eid

[Find more information about the artist here](#)



The work of Jacobo Eid, industrial engineer and artist, will soon be open to visitors in Cova dels Òrgues (Spain). This contemporary show cave art exhibition, which paraphrases the Little Prince's "what is essential is invisible to the eye", aims at creating a feeling of emotion by paying attention to small things.

The recovered cavity of Cova dels Òrgues had been abandoned for decades until a private initiative decided to turn it into an underground exhibition of contemporary art. The opening took place in the summer of 2020. You can learn more about them in our [ISCA Newsletter from May/June 2021](#).



Work details by the artist. Source: Jacobo Eid

Aracena's council and *Gruta de las Maravillas* (Spain) organize a session for cave guides and managers



Excmo. Ayuntamiento de
Aracena



The [council of Aracena](#) (Spain) and [Gruta de las Maravillas](#) (Spain) have recently hosted a two-day session for cave guides and managers which included workshops, conferences and round tables, among other activities which covered February 23rd and February 24th.

The event, which was promoted by the [Spanish Show Caves Association](#) (ACTE), welcomed visitors from every corner in Spain, such as the Major of Aracena, Manuel Guerra; ACTE President, Manuel Durán; and some international representatives such as ISCA Director Nuno André Querido Jorge ([Grutas de Mira de Aire](#), Portugal).

The event aimed at sharing experiences and knowledge on how to improve show cave management as well as the task of tourist guides, who are considered to be a major active resource for tourist destinations. The forum also served to establish general guidelines which could be useful in order to face the changes of this sector and future challenges.



Session for cave guides and managers. Source: Spanish Show Caves Association Facebook Page

UIS Bulletin Volume 64-2



UIS BULLETIN

Union Internationale de Spéléologie

Volume 64-2 - December 2022



UN-Water Summit on Groundwater

**The UIS back at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris
to talk to the world about karst aquifers**

SEE ALSO:

- The first years of the UIS by the Past President Arrigo Cigna
- The UIS and its global recognition
- The newly elected Bureau 2022-2025
- Reports of commissions
- Minutes of the UIS Bureau meetings and General Assembly
- The UIS Archive in Postojna, Slovenia
- The Cave Time Capsule that will only be opened in 2091
- The UIS Prizes 2021/22 and France Habe Prize 2022
- Updated news about the 19th ICS and its excursions

and much more in the 108 pages of this issue ...

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EuroSpeleo Newsletter

February 2023



Descent into
Skalarjevo brezno
(Skalar Abyss),
EuroSpeleo
Project
ESP 2022-09
(Slovenia).

Photo:
ESP 2022-09



**This Newsletter is issued
by the Bureau of the
European Speleological
Federation (FSE)**

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Editorial

FSE is looking forward to the 15th EuroSpeleo Forum, which will be held in conjunction with the 2023 meeting of the German Speleological Federation in Breitscheid (Hessen) between 17-21 May. Several changes in the FSE

Bureau will be necessary at our General Assembly 2023 (see the announcement on page 3 of this Newsletter).

Please forward this Newsletter as widely as possible to caving clubs and individual cavers.

The FSE Bureau

International Year of Caves and Karst (IYCK) 2021+22: Conclusions and Future

The IYCK is organized by the International Union of Speleology (UIS) to teach the world about the importance of caves and karst, as well as the exploration and protection by the theme "Explore, Understand, Protect". The IYCK was extended through 2022 due to the pandemic.

Almost 900 events around the world were presented on the IYCK website (www.iyck2021.org). That incredible achievement built interest and support for caves and karst in many countries



reaching millions of people. Now we must continue to remind those partners and engage them with caves and karst. UIS is planning to compile all the IYCK projects into a comprehensive report in order to make the efforts of all stakeholders of the International Year

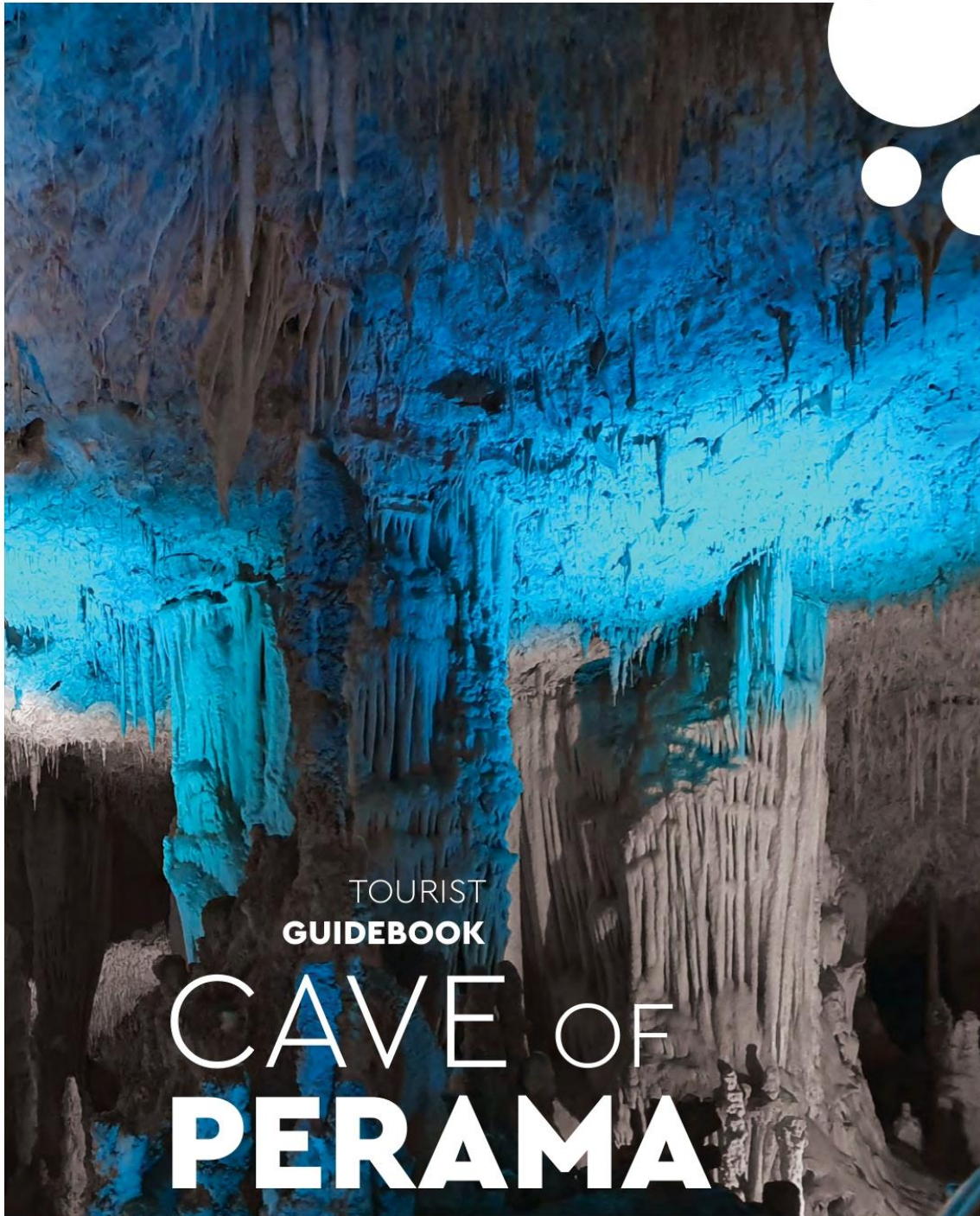
even more visible and reach even more interested circles. All partners who have not yet done so are strongly encouraged to send a report on their event made for the IYCK to the UIS webmaster (webmaster@uis-speleo.org). So keep watching the IYCK website.

To strengthen the success achieved by the IYCK the UIS proposes to all participating speleological organisations to connect especially with the non-caving partners of their projects, so that future cooperation will create sustainability and persistent awareness for caves and karst, their exploration and protection.

FSE Partners



Cave of Perama Tourist Guidebook



ORGANIZATION OF
**PERAMA
CAVE**



Latest publications



Thanks to the **NCA** and its Executive Director, **Bob Holt**, for bringing us the latest updates:

Cave Talk: February 2022

Cave Talk: March 2022

Learn more about the **NCA** on CAVERN.COM



Don't miss the latest issue of **Spelunca** (FR) by the **Fédération Française de Spéléologie**.

Find all FFS publications and order them!

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



Fédération Française
de Spéléologie

Latest **EuroSpeleo Newsletter!** (February 2023)



Union Internationale
de Spéléologie

The latest bulletin by the **Union Internationale de Spéléologie**. Don't forget to **follow them on Facebook!**



Please, forward the above documents as widely as possible.

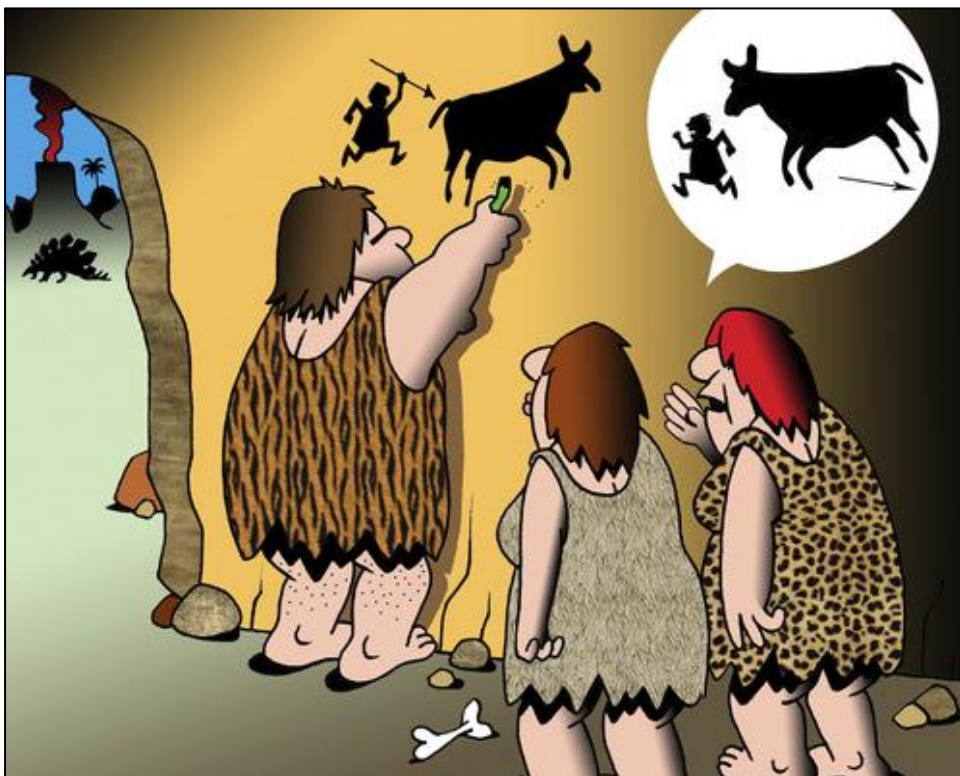
Share yours, too! Is there any other publication you would like to include?

Send it to secretary@i-s-c-a.org and we will publish your materials as soon as possible

The funny side of life



Source: toonpool.com

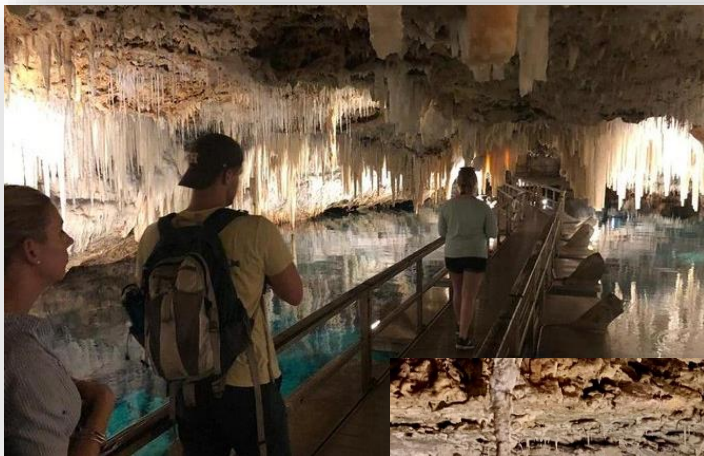


Source: toonpool.com

What cave is it?



Photos: Getty Images/Robert Harding World Imagery



Photos: Viator

CAVE #29

Hint 1:

There are two caves in this location.

Hint 2:

The two caves were discovered in 1907 by two teenagers who crawled down into subterranean darkness in search of a lost cricket ball.



Photos: Caves.bm

SEND YOUR ANSWERS

Can you guess the name and location of the cave above?

Last month's cave #28 was Saalfelder Feengrotten (Germany).

Send your answers to secretary@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! secretary@i-s-c-a.org



2023

April 17th, 2023 – International Bat Appreciation Day
May 20th – 25th, 2023 – [Clay Minerals Society Conference: Karst Trip and Session \(Austin, Texas, USA\)](#)
May 21st – 26th, 2023 – [ACKMA Conference 2023 \(Nelson, New Zealand\)](#)
May 22nd – 26th, 2023 – [14th International Symposium on Pseudokarst \(Sudetes, Poland\)](#)
June 6th, 2023 – International Day of Tourist Caves and Subterranean World
June 26th – 30th, 2023 – NSS Convention 2023 (Elkins, West Virginia)
October 2nd – 5th -2023 – NCA Convention 2023 (Lake Shasta Caverns, Redding, California)
July 26th – 29th, 2023 – [37th Brazilian Congress of Speleology \(Curitiba, Brazil\)](#)
November 14th – 17th, 2023 – IAAPA (Orlando, Florida)

2024...and more!

April 17th, 2024 – International Bat Appreciation Day
November 18th – 21st, 2024 – IAAPA (Orlando, Florida)
2024 – ISCA Conference 2024
2024 – NCA Convention 2024 (Niagara Cave, Harmony, Minnesota)
April 17th, 2025 – International Bat Appreciation Day
2025 – NCA Convention 2025 (Luray Caverns, Harrisonburg, Virginia)
2025 – 19th International Congress of Speleology (Belo Horizonte, Brazil)

Deadline!

If you would like to contribute in upcoming publications,
please send an e-mail **before April 20th, 2023!**



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

Links of interest



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION



Would you like to be part of us? Join ISCA!



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION

ISCA Membership Application

Not a member of the International Show Caves Association yet? We would be delighted to receive a [Membership Application](#) from you!

Visit [our website](#) and find out more about ISCA.

Become and ISCA member now!

Juan José Tíscar

ISCA Secretary

secretary@i-s-c-a.org

Join us and become an ISCA Member

Visit www.i-s-c-a.org for details.

There are many membership benefits!





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.

Special thanks to everyone who collaborated and to those sending your valuable feedback and materials.

Editor: Juan José Tíscar Moya – Contact: secretary@i-s-c-a.org

Issue: March & April 2023

