

# Upcoming Conference

## 21<sup>st</sup> International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology Galapagos Islands, 2024 Preliminary Announcement

The next ISV will be held at Puerto Ayora, the largest town in the Galapagos Islands. Firm dates will be announced in April.

Start to plan for your attendance now. The ISV will include some spectacular (and easy) cave visits on at least two islands as well as presenting a fantastic opportunity to make your own arrangements to spend some extra time there. Why not arrange a boat trip (from 1 to 7 days or more) so that you can explore the geology and biology made famous by Charles Darwin.

2024 marks ten years since the last ISV event held in Galapagos. The archipelago made famous by Darwin continues to reveal its subterranean secrets as dedicated survey and science expeditions systematically explore the islands. In 2020 teams announced that the longest known lava tube in South America had been discovered and continues to be pushed by exploration teams. We propose visits to this cave system and other new discoveries as the backdrop for the UIS Commission on Volcanic Caves to meet, share presentations on local and global vulcanospeleological topics and explore the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and Biosphere Reserve for the 21st ISV in early 2024.

**Organizers:** Aaron Addison, Theo Toulkeridis PhD.

**When:** March – May 2024 (exact dates to be confirmed with UIS Commission on Volcanic Caves)

**Location:** Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz Island Galapagos, Ecuador  
Proposed venue: Auditorium located less than 200 meters from main hotel area in town with capacity for ~100 comfortable seating.



### Pre-conference trips:

During the week prior to the main ISV event there will be opportunities for trips in original exploration and survey, geologic inventory, biology, and photography. Visits to the islands of Isabela, Floreana, and San Cristobal for visiting caves may be possible depending on sea conditions.

Expenses for pre-conference participation will be on your own (hotels at negotiated rates).

*Recent volcanic landscapes on Bartolomé Island (foreground) and Santiago Island (rear), photo John Brush.*

### Notes:

- All arrivals to Galapagos must transit through Ecuador mainland unless arriving by boat.
- Hotel rates will be on your own at an ISV negotiated rate. Though room rates are unknown at this earliest stage, proposed dates have been chosen to be in off peak tourist season to minimize costs for lodging.
- Though meals will be provided for several ISV activities, other meals will be on your own. Costs for meals can be reasonable for less than \$20/meal.
- All COVID regulations for island visitation must be respected and followed. Currently there are no known restrictions, organizers will monitor regulation changes and communicate any updates to ISV community.



*Lava Straws, photo John Brush.*



*Freeloaders at the fish markets, photo John Brush.*



## Main ISV 21 Proposed Schedule:

| Day       | Activities  | Location  |
|-----------|---|---|
| Saturday  | Early Arrivals\ Registration\ Pre-conference photo survey - exploration trips ending                  | Airport (Baltra), field                               |
| Sunday    | Local field trips \ main Arrivals Day \ registration open   | Around Puerto Ayora, airport (Baltra)                 |
| Monday    | Symposium opening and keynote presentation \ Afternoon presentations \ evening welcome reception      | Puerto Ayora  |
| Tuesday   | Symposium presentations \ closing of presentations and  | Puerto Ayora  |
| Wednesday | Wild caving field trips (options for all skill levels)  | In the field  |
| Thursday  | Depart for Isabela  | Early departure to Isabela, evening dinner on Isabela |
| Friday    | Visit sulfur fumaroles in caldera of Sierra Negra and caving opportunities, evening closing reception | In the field, Puerto Villamil                         |
| Saturday  | Additional caving field trips and early departures  | In the field, airport                                 |
| Sunday    | Field trips on your own\departures  | Field \ airport                                       |



*Descending the Triple Volcan volcanic shaft, photo John Brush.*

*Galapagos caving, photo Aaron Addison.*

