

Links to the Wider World

This section aims to provide links to articles and items related to caves and karst that may lie outside the normal ACKMA sphere of influence but may still be of interest. They are intended to spark your interest and maybe prompt you into doing more research - they are not necessarily meant to be definitive sources of information. All links are functional at the time of publishing but may not open if viewing at a later date.

Moeraki Boulders, New Zealand Taken from the Geology Science website.

<https://geologyscience.com/gallery/geological-wonders/moeraki-boulders-new-zealand>

A very interesting article on the Moeraki Boulders, covering their formation, composition, age, appearance and size, cultural significance and legends and FAQs.

The Moeraki Boulders have recently been listed as New Zealand's first UNESCO Global Geopark!

Congratulations NZ!



Scientists Identify the Origins of Sulfuric Acid Responsible for Creating Stunning and Distinctive Cave Systems Taken from the SciTech Daily website.

By Geological Society of America, February 13, 2023



<https://scitechdaily.com/scientists-identify-the-origins-of-sulfuric-acid-responsible-for-creating-stunning-and-distinctive-cave-systems/>

Dimitri Laurent explores a typical gallery in the Nébélé Cave, that was formed by sulfuric acid speleogenesis. You can see a deep notch that indicates the former presence of a river, and sodium sulfate on the left that is produced from weathering by sulfuric acid. Credit: Christophe Durllet

Reference: "Unravelling biotic versus abiotic processes in the development of large sulfuric-acid karsts " by D. Laurent, G. Barré, C. Durllet, P. Cartigny, C. Carpentier, G. Paris, P. Collon, J. Pironon and E.C. Gaucher, 20 January 2023, *Geology*.

[DOI: 10.1130/G50658.1](https://doi.org/10.1130/G50658.1)



THE INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION (ISCA) CELEBRATES THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CAVES AND THE SUBTERRANEAN WORLD 2023

INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION

Dear ISCA family,

On June 6, the International Show Caves Association will celebrate the International Day of Caves and the Subterranean World. Follow the link below to download the full press release both in English and Spanish:

- [ISCA Press Release on June 6, 2023](#)

One more year, we would love you to join us and share your events with the rest of the caving community by using the hashtag **#CaveDay** on social networks. Please, send us your materials so that we can share and publish them too.

Sincerely,



Juanjo Tíscar Moya

Secretary
International Show Caves Association



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Spain

An excerpt from the press release is reproduced below:

On June 6, the [International Show Caves Association](#) (ISCA) will be celebrating the International Day of Caves and the Subterranean World, a date marked in the calendar of show caves, mines, organisations and show cave managers from all over the world.

During the next few days, especially at the weekend -June 10 and 11-, a series of varied and different events will take place at the different show caves participating. These include special offers for families and groups of friends, concerts, photography contests and other activities addressed to the general public.

In a joined effort to reach the official declaration of June 6 by UNESCO, the International Show Caves Association will be focusing on the power of social media and the technological world in order to show the global impact, both regarding tourism and job opportunities, which show caves provide.

For this reason, ISCA encourages all entities to collaborate in such a special day by sharing their actions with the hashtag **#CaveDay** on any of the most famous social networks at their disposal, as well as other media-related possibilities. The ISCA official Facebook page will be sharing different publications in order to reach a wider audience, and all the information will be collected in order to be published in future releases, including the ISCA Newsletter which is published every other month and whose next issue is expected to be available on July 1 on the association's main page.

The President of the International Show Caves Association, Friedrich Oedl, reflected upon “the importance of show caves not only nationally and internationally speaking, but also in terms of regional economies,” and insisted on “the necessity of taking this celebration to the rest of the world so that they learn about the entertaining and learning possibilities of caves and the subterranean world.”

Life Without Light: Creatures in the Dark with Sarah McNulty

An Atlas Obscura online 4-part course

This may be of interest if you are looking for something extra to do with your time, or maybe help educate your children / family?

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/experiences/nocturnal-animals-course>

Some of the most magnificent creatures on the planet have survived and thrived in the dark for millions of years, and in this course, Dr. Sarah McNulty will introduce us to some of these characters rarely seen in the light of day. We'll cover nocturnal species, looking at the senses they rely on and extraordinary ways they've adapted to moving and communicating through darkness.

This course includes four total sessions, each lasting for 1.5 hours on four Tuesdays beginning June 20, skipping July 4. (8:00pm – 9:30pm ET US which is 10:00am – 11:30am EST in eastern Australia)



6 Ways to See Texas Below the Surface

Taken from Atlas Obscura itineraries

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/itineraries/6-ways-to-see-texas-below-the-surface>



This is a great article giving some interesting ideas for underground exploration in Texas – how to explore the state's caves and caverns, and fascinating geology.

Image: Caverns of Sonora. These crystal-like speleothems are formed by thousands of years of limestone drips. Woody Hibbard on Flickr

How Five Bulgarian Spelunkers Made the Cave 'Discovery of The Year' Taken from the RFERL website, May 16 2023



<https://www.rferl.org/a/bulgaria-spelunking-zidanka-cave-discovery>

Cave explorers Simeon Nenkov, Georgi Nenchev, Stanislav Asenov, Konstantin Stoichkov, and Slaveya Kostadinova discovered a beautiful hall within the cave complex of the Iskar Gorge of Stara Planina near Lakatnik, Bulgaria.

The hall was white and huge, measuring 72 meters long, 17 meters wide, and 15 meters high. Kostadinova described it as "surreal." Unlike the other caves in the area, the Zidanka hall abounds with all kinds of secondary cave formations, such as stalactites, stalagmites, draperies, and crystals.

After its discovery, the problem now is keeping the site from becoming damaged. By entering the hall, one must walk through the deep, sticky mud, followed by fragile snow-white formations that can easily become damaged or dirty.

Image: A huge stalagmite formed by the waterfall in Zidanka, RFERL



Nullarbor rocks reveal Australia's transformation from lush to dust By Curtin University

Taken from the Phys.Org website.

<https://phys.org/news/2023-04-nullarbor-reveal-australia-lush.html>

Curtin researchers have discovered how long ago the Australian Nullarbor plain dried out, with a new approach shedding light on how ancient climate change altered some of the driest regions of our planet.

Image: Drone image of the Bunda Cliffs, where the Nullarbor Plain meets the Great Australian Bight. Layering in the cliffs represent different limestone units. Credit: Dr Matej Lipar.



More information: Maximilian Dröllner et al, Directly Dating Plio-Pleistocene Climate Change in the Terrestrial Record, *Geophysical Research Letters* (2023). DOI: [10.1029/2023GL102928](https://doi.org/10.1029/2023GL102928)

Cave diving detectives search for fossils in hidden depths to shed light on giant life forms

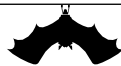
Taken from the ABC website, 10 April 2023

Daniel Keane and Stacey Pestrin

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-04-10/cave-diving-detectives-search-for-fossils-in-hidden-depths>

Specialist divers are helping researchers from a Queensland university explore underwater caves in Mount Gambier. Despite the sunken setting, these creatures weren't forms of marine life — they were giant marsupials, and they became extinct tens of thousands of years ago.

Image: Julien Louys is a palaeontologist and an experienced scuba diver. (Supplied: Steve Trewavas)



10 Places to Experience Nevada's Extraordinary Geological Gems Taken from the Atlas Obscura website

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/lists/10-places-to-experience-nevada-s-extraordinary-geological-gems>

Hundreds of millions of years ago the land that's now Nevada was almost entirely underwater. While the seas have long since receded, what they created and left in their wake is a place where geologic wonders and natural marvels abound.



Diana's Punch Bowl is a spectacular hot pool in a large travertine basin in the middle of Monitor Valley, northern Nye County, Nevada.

image: Diana's Punch Bowl, photo by slgwv (Atlas Obscura user)



Fly Geyser, Gerlach, Nevada - A collision of human error and natural geothermal pressure created this rainbow-colored geologic wonder.

As well as Lehman Caves!

Image: Fly Geyser, photo by Ken Lund / cc BY-SA 2.0

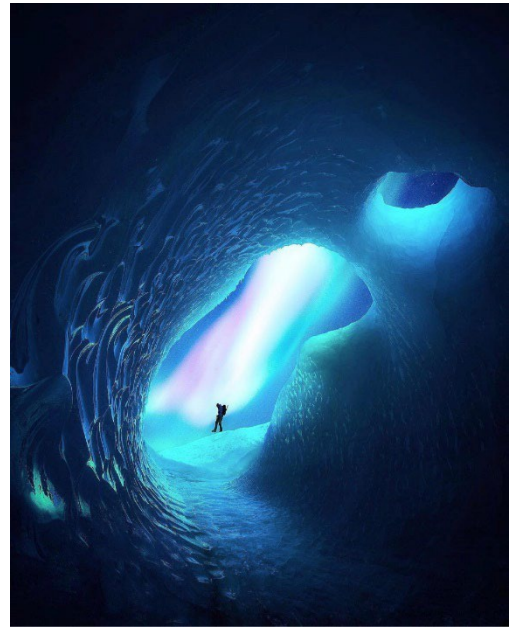
The Otherworldly Ice Caves of Iceland

Photos by Ryan Newburn, Ice Pic Journeys

<https://icepicjourneys.is/>

For those interested in a slightly more adventurous travel option with the bonus of fabulous photography...

.. and because it is just a stunningly beautiful photo!



The majestic beauty of Va Cave, Vietnam's Hidden Gem

By Bich Phuong, 12 April 2023, Photos by Ngo Tran Hai An

Taken from the VNExpress website travel guide.

<https://ampe.vnexpress.net/photo/places/the-majestic-beauty-of-va-cave-vietnams-hidden-gem>

The Va Cave system features intricate and one-of-a-kind stalagmites in the stunning Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park in Quang Binh Province. Located near the exit of Son Doong Cave, and connected to Nuoc Nut Cave, Va Cave stretches 1.7 kilometres along the Ho Chi Minh Highway.

Image: Entrance to Va Cave at the end of March (below left).



Image: Va Cave features a remarkable system of stalagmites with about 1,000 blocks of uniform size (above right)