



Figure 1: Etna's summit craters from Barbagallo craters - ph. G. Priolo

DATES

The 19TH International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology (ISV) will be held in Catania, Italy **from Saturday August 28 to Friday September 3, 2021.**

LOCATION

The 19th ISV will take place in the prestigious setting of the University of Catania, in the middle of the city. Catania is only 35 kilometres from the top of Mt. Etna which is an active composite-volcano that reaches 3.325 m a.s.l. Its products cover a large area of about 8100 hectares/ 20,000 acres, located in the eastern part of Sicily.

ORGANIZING TEAM

The symposium is being organized jointly by Gruppo Grotte Catania (GGC) and University of Catania. The GGC caving group is part of the Catania section of the Club Alpino Italiano (CAI). The University of Catania¹ is one of the oldest in Italy.

¹ Founded in 1434 AD

SYMPOSIUM MANAGEMENT

Organization Committee

Prof. Gianpietro Giusso del Galdo²

Prof. Rosolino Cirrincione²

Prof. Carmelo Monaco²

Dr. Roberto Conti³

Mr. Umberto Marino⁴ (Chairman CAI Catania)

Dr. Giuseppe Priolo⁵ (Chairman CAI CCST)

Dr. Andrea Belfiore⁶ (Chairman GGC)

Scientific Committee

Prof. Carmelo Ferlito

Prof. Rosario Grasso

Prof.ssa Emilia Poli Marchese

Prof. Blasco Scammacca

Dr PhD Salvatore Caffo⁷

² Università degli Studi di Catania (UNICT)

³ Commission on Volcanic Caves, International Union of Speleology

⁴ Club Alpino Italiano – Sezione dell'Etna (CAI Catania)

⁵ Club Alpino Italiano – Commissione Centrale per la Speleologia e il Torrentismo (CAI CCST)

⁶ Gruppo Grotte Catania CAI Sezione dell'Etna (GGC)

⁷ Parco dell'Etna – Dirigente Vulcanologo

Letter of invitation from the former Chairman of Gruppo Grotte Catania



Dear Caving Friends,

I am pleased to invite you to the 19th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology which will take place near one of the highest and most active volcanoes in Europe, Mount Etna.

On June 21st, 2013, UNESCO included Mount Etna in the list of world heritage sites defining it as one of the "most emblematic and active volcanoes in the world". Sicily itself has always been one of the most visited destinations by tourists as it is one of the most beautiful islands of the Mediterranean Sea, rich in varied landscapes, history and typical products. Of the over 14 million visitors a year who come to Sicily, about half of them do not miss an excursion on Mount Etna.

The volcano, more than 500 thousand years old, born from the sea and developed in height, owes its charm to its continuous eruptive activity that, from the historical eruptions and the lava flows that overlapped one on another over the years, today attracts thousands of tourists who enjoy the view of spectacular fountains and fireworks.

For you we are planning guided tours to admire the pillows and columnar basalts, evidence of the first eruptions of our volcano, the famous Bove valley, a large basin 1km deep and 5km wide, the result of an ancient depression of the volcano and, finally, both lava flow caves and fracture caves.

More than 300 volcanic caves are known on Mount Etna and our speleological group, Gruppo Grotte Catania, within the Club Alpino Italiano section of Catania, has more than 80 years of experience in the area, spent in exploring and cataloguing all the Etna caves.

In the past, our group organized the second symposium back in 1975, but with great pleasure I wanted to dedicate myself to organizing a new symposium to offer all members of the group a new chance to participate, sharing our latest research and thus giving the opportunity to all the participants to enjoy the beauties offered by the Etnean landscape.

Furthermore, coming to Sicily, you will be able to admire also the Baroque architecture of Catania and the different architectural works as proof of the populations who conquered Sicily over the centuries (Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Normans).

Hoping to see you all in Catania.

Dr Carmelo Bucolo, Chairman, Gruppo Grotte Catania

Letter of invitation from the Chairman of Gruppo Grotte Catania



Dear caving friends,

as Chairman of the Gruppo Grotte Cai Catania I am pleased to join in the organization of the 19th International Symposium on Volcano speleology which will take place in Catania from Saturday 28 August to Friday 3 September 2021.

Sicily is the largest island in Italy and in the Mediterranean; it is a surprising land, rich in history and traditions, in which art and culture are intertwined with a spectacular natural environment. There are many reasons to visit Sicily: a beautiful coast, picturesque fishermen villages, a green and flourishing countryside, high mountains and impressive volcanos.

On the eastern side of the island, not far from the strait of Messina, is Mt. Etna, the highest active volcano in Europe. Over the centuries its eruptions have modified the slopes of the mountain drawing spectacular views of lava and ice, now protected by a vast natural park, open to visitors thanks to countless nature trails.

Mt. Etna is rich both in fracture caves and lava tunnels which were formed during the periods of eruptive activity as a consequence of the cooling of the outermost layer of the eruptive flow. The length of the caves varies greatly, from few meters to over a kilometer. Many of the horizontal caves can be visited easily. When you visit a cave, besides the excitement of descending into the “underworld” of the volcano, you can also understand some of its dynamics and some of its interesting features.

Mt. Etna and its caves are waiting for you to surprise you with the wonders of our island.

The coronavirus (SARS -CoV-2) has changed our daily habits, like a hug or a handshake. I hope that this Symposium, in addition to being an international event, can also be the dawn of a new period of normality in which warm human relations are re-established.

Our caving group is doing its best to make this happen and we are confident that the bad times will be over soon.

Dr. Andrea Belfiore, Chairman, Gruppo Grotte Catania

NEW SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM (August/September 2021).

SATURDAY AUGUST 28TH

All day For all participants, complementary transportation from the airport to the hotels (to be booked in advance).

Afternoon Opening of the exhibition: **“The Fingal cave, between history and legend”**

SUNDAY AUGUST 29TH

PRE-SYMPOSIUM EXCURSION ⁽²⁾: GEOLOGY OF MT. ETNA an overview of the volcano guided by a geologist, with stops at the most significant points (all day).

Evening **Welcome party** (Scammacca’s Farm)

MONDAY AUGUST 30TH

Morning **Symposium opening and institutional work sessions**
(University of Catania – Geological Faculty)

Afternoon **Catania’s natural and cultural heritage** (guided short trips):
Katane: the Greek and Roman city.

Evening **Recent discoveries** video or slide presentations (GGC Arena)

TUESDAY AUGUST 31ST

Morning **Symposium lectures & work sessions**
(University of Catania – Geological Faculty)

Afternoon **Catania’s natural and cultural heritage** (guided short trips):
The City revives after the 1669 earthquake: the Catanese Baroque.

Evening **Participants’ video or slide** contributes (GGC Arena)

Partners’ Program – **Taormina and Alcantara Gorges** guided tour

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 1ST

Morning **Lectures and conclusion of work sessions – Meeting of the UIS Commission**
(University of Catania – Geological Faculty)

Afternoon **Catania’s natural and cultural heritage** (guided short trips): Historical Museum of the Landing in Sicily 1943 and Cinema Museum or Guided tour of the Botanical Garden.

Evening **Gala Banquet** in a typical Sicilian restaurant

Partners’ Program – **Syracuse and Noto** guided tour

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 2ND

GENERAL EXCURSION – Visit of the “**Valle del Bove**” (All day - for all participants).

Evening **Sicilian “granita” time** (GGC Terraces)

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 3RD

CAVES OF MT. ETNA – Visit of some Etna’s caves: Grotta Catanese I (half day), Grotta Intralio (half day), Grotta di Serracozzo (full day), Grotta di Piano Porcaria (full day) with the support of GGC speleologists. (Simple caves than do not require climbing or SRT gear - to be booked in advance).

Afternoon Closing of the exhibition: “**The Fingal cave, between history and legend**”

Evening **Closing ceremony and Farewell party** (GGC Terraces)

GETTING THERE

In general, the best way to reach Catania is by plane. Catania–Fontanarossa Airport is the closest airport to Catania and among the busiest airports in Italy. Major airlines such as Alitalia, Lufthansa, KLM and Air Berlin offer services here and connect numerous European big cities, while low-cost airlines such as EasyJet and Ryanair offer extensive flights from many destinations.

If you want to reach Catania by bus from other cities in Italy and European countries, you can check [Flixbus website](#).

If you want to reach Catania by train from other cities in Italy and European countries, you can check [Trenitalia website](#).

LODGING

Unfortunately, Catania is an expensive town for lodging, especially during summer as it is high season for tourism. Because of the great variety of possibilities offered by the town, lodging is not included in the Symposium fee and you can choose your preferred solution using for example, “booking.com”.

The organizing team will try to confirm the special prices in selected structures, reserved to all participants, resulting from 2020 agreements with the Management.

There will be three options:

- a hotel near the Centre of the Town or along the seaside,
- a room on the university campus where it will also be possible to have special prices for lunch and dinner,
- a camping site with the possibility to camp or rent a bungalow (4 beds).

More information will be provided in the **Accommodation tab** on the IVS19 website. You will need to book as soon as possible, showing your Symposium registration certificate, to get the special rates.

MEALS

With the exceptions of the Welcome Party, the Gala Banquet and the Farewell Party, meals are not included in the Symposium fee.

Catania offers a large variety of restaurants, “trattorie” and bars that are up to the most demanding cavers and scientists’ standards. During the three days of lectures, a lunch deal with a restaurant near the University will be available to participants. There will also be a deal for dinner in hotel restaurants, near the GGC headquarters, throughout the Symposium week.

Lunch is included in the partners’ excursions outside Catania.

A packed lunch is included in the general excursion to Mt. Etna.

A special taste of Sicilian granita will be provided on Thursday evening.

REGISTRATION TO THE SYMPOSIUM

The **new registration procedure** will be published shortly on the Symposium website. A notice on the site entrance banner will announce that the new procedure has been activated. It is still possible to pre-register free to get priority to attend the Symposium in case registration requests exceed the maximum limit.

The participation fees **will remain unchanged** for all those who have already registered and have waived the reimbursement of the paid fee. All those pre-registered or registered without paying the fee, will receive a personal email with the request to confirm their participation in the Symposium when the new registration procedure will be activated. At that time, they will have to pay the updated registration fee.

The Registration fee includes:

- 19th ISV booklet
- Transportation from and to the airport (upon request)
- Welcome Party
- Morning lectures at the University of Catania
- Catania's natural and cultural heritage visits
- Evening programs
- Gala Banquet (previously not included)
- Farewell Party
- Cave rescue Insurance
- General excursion to Mt. Etna
- Proceedings of the Symposium (on paper book or USB key)

The fee for accompanying members will be lower than the full fee because it will not include the proceedings of the Symposium.

To encourage students' participation to the lectures, the Organizing Team decided to create a special pass, valid only from Monday to Wednesday. This special student pass includes:

- 19th ISV booklet
- Morning lectures at the University of Catania
- Evening programs at GGC Arena
- Proceedings of the Symposium (on USB key only)

Despite the difficulties imposed by compliance with anti-covid rules, the organizers confirm the limit at **80 attendees** (including accompanying members).

FOURTH CIRCULAR - 19TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON VULCANOSPELEOLOGY

As people from some parts of the world may not be able to attend the Symposium because of Covid restrictions, the organizers studied a form of online participation for most of the Symposium events. It is thought to broadcast live all sessions that will take place at the University of Catania and some videos about Symposium evening events and visits to the Etna caves.

However, the organizers require that those who wish to connect to the meetings and activities transmitted online sign up for the Symposium and pay a fee corresponding to that offered to students, in order to keep track of both present in person and people connected online at each event. To all on-line participants will be offered the opportunity to receive the Symposium proceedings book at home at a special price including shipping costs.

REGISTRATION FEES (from June 1st, 2021)

In compliance to the well-known Sicilian hospitality and the speleological traditions, the Organizing Committee worked to **minimize the increases for participants who have not registered yet** even though the new anti-covid provisions certainly will determine an increase in operating costs.

The organizing committee has defined the amount of the new registration fees, valid for all those who will register starting from 1 June 2021. Below are the amounts for each type of registration:

FULL MEMBERSHIP (including the possibility to present one or more papers) € 240,00

ACCOMPAINING MEMBER (in association with a full member) € 180,00

ON-LINE MEMBER (with shipment of the proceedings book) € 60,00

ON-LINE MEMBER (without shipment of the proceedings book) € 20,00

STUDENT PASS (to all university sessions and evening events at GGC Arena) € 20,00

Finally, as regards the cancelled excursion to the Aeolian Islands, the organizing committee announces that the registration office will send an e-mail as soon as possible to all those who have paid the corresponding fee in advance to define the best reimbursement methods (bank transfer or PayPal).

COVID-19 PREVENTION MEASURES

The Organizing Committee, which met in early December 2020, decided that **there would not be a new postponement of the 19th Symposium on Volcano Speleology.**

Until the end of April 2021 the organizers considered making an online-only symposium, allowing you to follow it on your PC screen. But now, in Italy, the pandemic is under control and the infection rate is decreasing rapidly because of the vaccine campaign. Adopting the necessary precautions (negative test or green pass) it will soon be possible to return to travel from country to country, not only in Europe but also in the rest of the world.

The improving situation has made it possible to meet in person in Catania this Summer in compliance with safety conditions for both organizers and participants. All the necessary prevention measures will be put in place so that **theoretical sessions and practical excursions can be carried out in complete safety.**

In order to conduct the symposium in complete safety, the full cooperation of all participants will be essential.

At the moment, to attend in person an indoors or outdoors event, it is necessary to wear a face mask, keep the social distance of at least one meter and clean hands frequently with soap and water or sanitizing gel. The Italian Alpine Club and the Italian Speleological Society have recently developed the guidelines to be respected in order to carry out safe speleological and hiking activities. Compared to the pre-pandemic period, this will require fewer participants and not too demanding activities on each excursion.

To comply with all the new provisions, the organizing committee has decided to eliminate all those activities in which compliance with the minimum safety measures is not possible. For this reason, the excursion to the Aeolian Islands and the speleological camp on Mt. Etna have been cancelled. Furthermore, only a few caves which are easy to walk in and which do not require the use of climbing tools have been selected. The visit to these caves (to be booked in advance) is concentrated in a single day, Friday 3 September, so as not to interfere with the other appointments of the Symposium.

Finally, for the safety of all people at the Symposium, the participants arriving in Catania are requested to have a European Green Pass or a vaccination certificate indicating the type of vaccine used and the date/dates of the shots.

The organization will make available free of charge a third generation quick test (which provides the result in 30 minutes) to those who do not have the indicated certificates. In the event of a positive outcome of the covid-19 test, the person will not be able to access any of the activities of the Symposium and will be accompanied to the nearest health facility for the appropriate treatment.

WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME

There is no evidence of WNS in the Mt. Etna area so far, therefore do not bring cave gear to this area that has been used in a place where WNS has been identified.

Decontaminate your gear and garments before leaving your country if they have been used in areas where WNS has been identified.

For those who come from abroad, the organizing team will have a small number of basic caving equipment sets for rent (helmet, light). Please, ask for this opportunity upon registration.

Please go to whitenosesyndrome.org for the latest up to date recommendations for gear decontamination.

EXHIBITIONS

THE FINGAL CAVE, BETWEEN HISTORY AND LEGEND

L'île de staffa et sa grotte basaltique: this is the title of the rare book by Panckoucke, printed in Paris in the year 1831, the same year in which the great English painter William Turner completed the famous painting that made the Fingal's cave famous all over the world. This book, recently purchased by the Library of the Franco Anelli Italian Speleological Documentation Centre at the University of Bologna, will be showed in Catania, in an important exhibition that will include many other rare "pieces" of the same Library. Symposium participants can freely visit this exhibition during the Symposium.

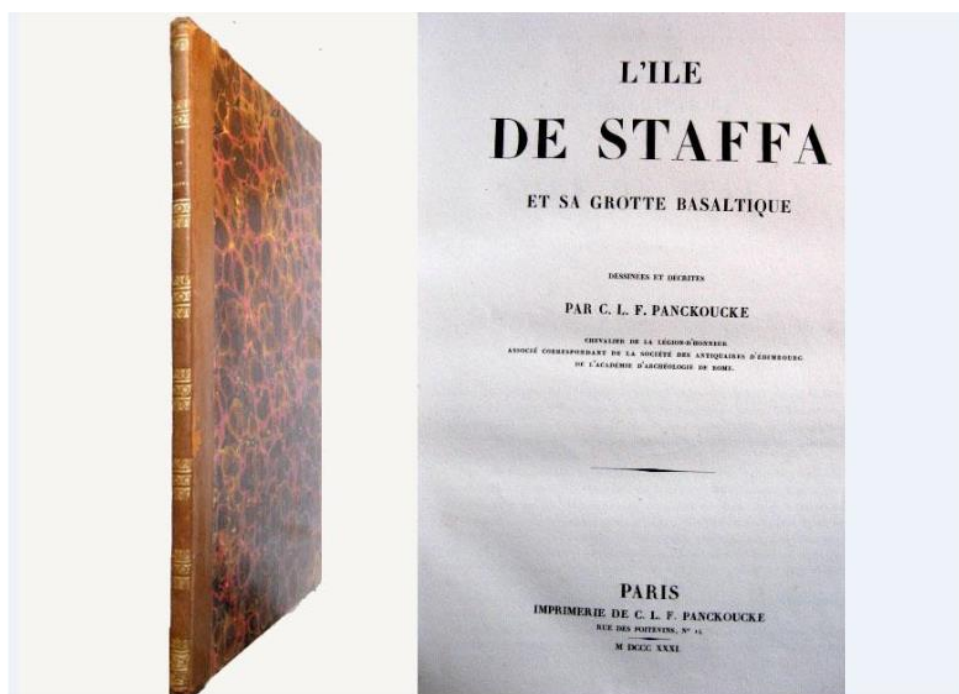


Figure 2: L'île de staffa et sa grotte basaltique

EXCURSIONS

As explained before in the Covid-19 paragraph many of the excursions announced in the previous circulars have been cancelled. Those who have paid in advance the specific fees will be contacted via e-mail as soon as possible to define the refund procedures (banking transfer or PayPal).

About the other trips, reported in this circular, the organizers reserve the right to postpone or cancel any excursion, even at the last minute, if environmental or medical conditions do not allow that excursion to be carried out in complete safety for all participants. For this reason, no excursion fees will be requested at the moment of the registration. The selected excursions of each participant will be paid at the registration desk upon arrival in Catania.

PRE-SYMPOSIUM

A) GEOLOGICAL TOUR OF MT. ETNA

The purpose of this excursion is to provide participants with a first-hand geographical and geological overview of the Etna volcano. The excursion will be led by the senior geologist Dr. Giuseppe Priolo and will last a whole day.

A circular bus tour is planned on the mountain slopes (see following map), stopping at the most significant points in the history of volcano eruptions.

Lunch is included in a typical mountain lodge; return on time to attend the welcome party.

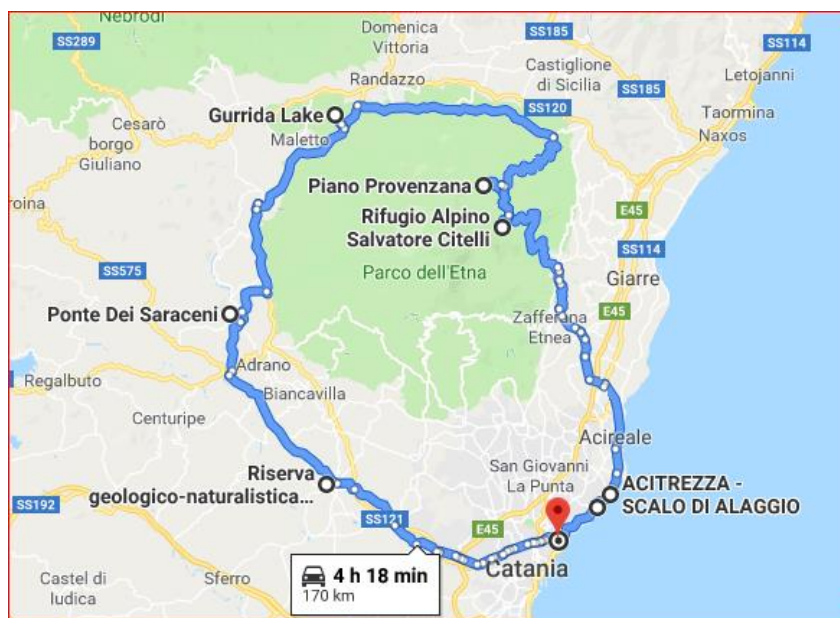


Figure 3: Geological Tour of Mt. Etna, route

DURING THE SYMPOSIUM

B) GENERAL EXCURSION – VISIT OF “VALLE DEL BOVE”

Mt. Etna is an active volcano. From the summit craters there is often the emission of gases and steam. During periods of high activity, the hike to the craters is strictly forbidden. Since the recent eruptive activity of the volcano do not allow us to make the ascent to the central crater, all participants will be taken to the visit of Valle del Bove instead. The Valle del Bove is a big depression on the eastern slope of the volcano where most of the lava flows stop.



Figure 4: General excursion, route

The participants will reach the parking place near “Piano dei Pompieri” (Firefighters’ Plain) at 1.850 m a.s.l. by bus.

From that place a long and winding track named “Sentiero della Schiena dell’Asino” will lead us to a panoramic point at 2.050 m a.s.l. where there is the possibility to see the inside of the depression called “Valle del Bove”.

From the panoramic point it is possible to see the most spectacular features of the valley: hornitos, lava bridges, a small graben and the little cave called Grotta di Pitagora (Fig. 5).

Requirements: good health and good shoes.

Packed lunch and drinks included.



Figure 5: Grotta di Pitagora, outside and inside vision -ph G.Priolo

C) FOLLOWING THE 1669 FLOW

This excursion has been cancelled and replaced with the visit of some caves of Mount Etna. A short movie about the 1669 flow will be presented in the evening activities, during the Symposium.

CAVING TRIPS

More than 300 volcanic caves are known on Mount Etna, scattered on the slopes of the mountain, from the upper part of the volcanic cones to the dark beaches on the seaside.

The caves of the upper part of the volcano are either very far from the roads or dangerous because of the volcano activity. Moreover, the highest part of the volcano is included in the Park of Etna and the access is subjected to restrictions due to the danger of the volcano itself. For this very reason it is not possible to plan the visit of the highest caves of the Etna this Summer.

For the “caving day” of the Symposium, the organizing team has selected some caves, very representative of Mt Etna caves features, close to the town and easy-to-walk, to permit participants to discover the typical features of the Etna caves.

You can find a description of each cave later in this paragraph. Due to logistical reasons the visit of a cave must be booked in advance and confirmed at the registration desk upon arriving in Catania.

Finally, near the town of Catania there is an area in which some simple caves have been equipped for educational purposes (Grotte di San Gregorio). The access to this area is possible to all participants during the Symposium days.

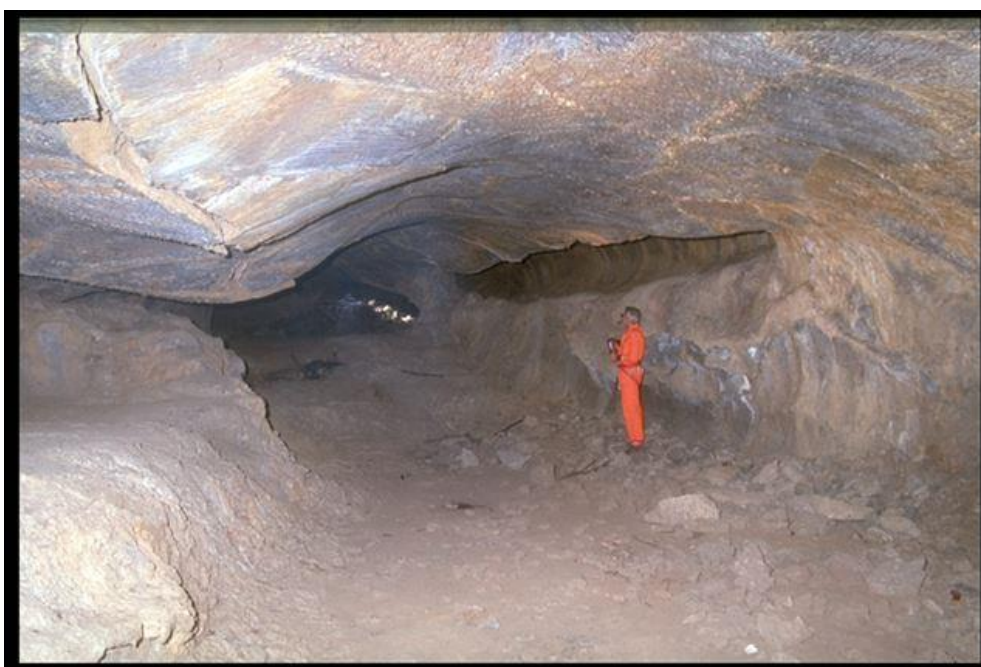


Figure 6: Grotta Micio Conti – Riserva Naturale – ph G. Priolo

SELECTED CAVES

The visits of these wild caves are planned on Friday 3rd September with the support of the speleologists of Gruppo Grotte Catania.

In accordance with the guidelines for speleological activities during the pandemic period, in each cave can enter only one group of up to 8 people that have to proceed respecting the rules of interpersonal distancing. Vertical gear is not required.

Transportation from Catania to the cave and back to Catania is included. A light meal and some drinks will be given to participants after the visit of the cave.

Here is a short description of the selected caves:

GROTTE CATANESE

These two caves are in the township of Ragalna. The first one is a lava tube characterized by a room that is among the largest known on Mt. Etna. Passing the

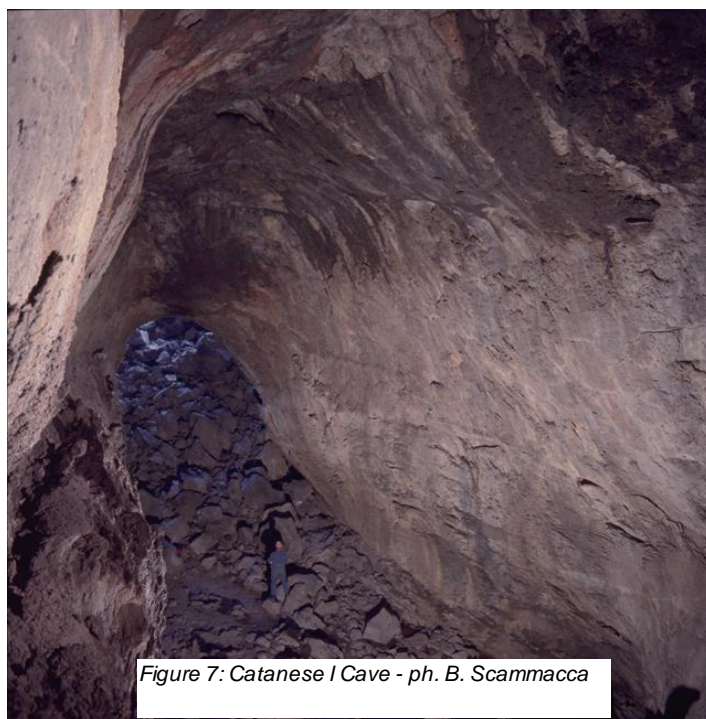


Figure 7: Catanese I Cave - ph. B. Scammacca

entrance, you descend on large collapsed blocks and you immediately find yourself in a vast bell-shaped room. The floor, at the lowest point of the room, is of earth mixed with stones and plant debris. On the south side it rises abruptly until it forms the back wall of the room; the lava appears here with a surface made up of formations of ropes and edges. It is easy to climb up this lava slope until you reach a characteristic hollow almost at the height of the ceiling, from which you dominate the environment. On all walls you can observe a great number of

small protruding sheets; on the west side near the entrance there are any shallow grooves, parallel to each other, which abruptly change direction bending downwards at an angle of 140 °. At the foot of the wall, on the south side, the lava formed large blocks that might seem collapsed, but which actually are huge irregularly crumpled sheets. From this first large room the cave continues, through a narrow passage at the base of the east wall, with a tunnel about 70 m long. Some prehistoric human bones and many small ceramic fragments were found in this gallery. Numerous bats of the genera *Myotis* and *Rhinolophus* still inhabit the cavity.

The second cave consists of a single tunnel just over 20 m long. You enter by descending on a chaotic mass of collapsed blocks. The floor, after the first section, appears flat with beaten earth and stones; towards the bottom it is possible to observe lava with a joint surface. On the walls there are numerous sheets of lava of different thickness and folded in various ways. The section of the cave has a characteristic pointed arch shape, but not symmetrical as is normally observed in other cavities. The southwest wall is overhanging while the northeast is an inclined plane on which it is easy to climb.



Figure 8: Catanese II, a lava roll - ph. G. I. Sanfilippo

GROTTA INTRALEO

The cave consists of a set of lava flow galleries of various sizes located at different levels and variously oriented. Near the entrance of the northeast gallery there is a small altar. This gallery is about 40 m long. On the opposite side there are three overlapping galleries. The upper gallery is 13 m long. The lower one is about 30 m long; it begins with a slope of large boulders that ends in a large room, several meters high, where you can observe two large lava rolls, among the largest known to us, and numerous large sheets protruding from the walls. The intermediate cavity is the longest of the three branches and begins with a tunnel about 30 m long, over 2 m high, with a flat floor on which two rolls can be seen, smaller than the previous ones but longer. Further on, this gallery is divided into three branches located at different heights. The eastern branch, at a lower altitude, is very short and has an accentuated slope, the central branch is 50 m long and its ceiling is low, so that it is necessary to crawl here and there; in some places it presents domes where it is possible to stand; the floor of this gallery is flat and consists of slag partly welded and partly movable. The third branch has the same configuration of the previous one; in this branch a wedge-shaped boulder, detached from the ceiling, almost completely obstructs the passage, about halfway. The three branches end up with the ceiling and the floor joining together.



Figure 9: Grotta dell'Intratio, the biggest lava tube - ph. G. Priolo

GROTTA DI PIANO PORCARIA

This is an interesting cavity in ancient lavas. The small entrance open on one side of the cavity leads to a first room characterized by massive collapses. Three sections of the tunnel branch off from this first room. The first is oriented towards the west, about fifteen meters long, the floor of which is covered with debris and sand; there are impressive collapses. The vault does not always allow an upright posture and in the terminal part imposes a progression on all fours or even belly to the ground. The second section of the tunnel faces southeast and is about forty meters long. The vault allows the upright posture for a good half of the development while it becomes low, about one meter, in the terminal section. The floor is constantly covered with debris and sand, there are numerous collapses both from the vault and from the walls. In the final section of the tunnel a copious presence of pulmonate molluscs, arthropods and other small species were found. There are numerous root curtains. The third section of the tunnel, oriented to the north, has a development of over eighty meters and a morphologically different aspect from the two previous sections. The first section is broad and morphologically similar to the previous ones. At the bottom there is a small gallery whose access is just over sixty centimeters high. From this point on, almost constantly, the height of the vault does not allow an upright posture and one is often forced to proceed on all fours. The heavily bristling scoriae lava floor is only rarely covered with sand or debris. At the end of the gallery there is another narrow transept gallery which extends for over fifty meters both to the west and to the east. The east section becomes so narrow that it is impossible to proceed after about thirty meters.



Figure 10: Grotta di Piano Porcaria – ph. G. Priolo

GROTTA DI SERRACOZZO

This cave, in the upstream section, is contained into an eruptive fissure and has a lock-shaped section with a height of several meters and is no more than 3 m wide. Openings can be seen on the vault. The downstream section is a steeply sloping flow tunnel, 350 m long, 2 to 3 meters wide with the floor made up of coriaceous lava. In the first section the walls are opaque but further on they still retain a glassy aspect.



Figure 11: Grotta di Serracozzo I – ph. B. Scammacca

ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS

D) CATANIA'S NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Catania was founded in the 8th century BC by Chalcidians, a Greek population coming from Thrace. In 1434, the first university in Sicily was founded in the city. In the 14th century and into the Renaissance period, Catania was one of Italy's most important cultural, artistic and political centres.

The city is well known for its history, culture, architecture and gastronomy. Its old town, on account of its spectacular baroque architecture, is a World Heritage Site, protected by UNESCO.

During the 3 days of the Symposium, in the afternoon, after the morning lectures, short trips will be planned to visit relevant artistic or scenic places. Organizers selected some places that are connected with the volcanic features of its territory.

At the moment the following visits are planned:

- Katane – the Greek and Roman city
Exploring the rests of the first settlements
- The city reconstruction after 1669 earthquake – the Catanese Baroque
A wonderful walk in the centre of the town.
- Historical Museum of the 1943 landing in Sicily & Cinema Museum
A full immersion experience in the time of World War II
Enjoy the set of movie setting in the Cinema Museum
- Etna's endemic species
Guided tour of Catania botanical gardens.
- The caves of San Gregorio
The natural reserve is characterized by the presence of numerous lava flow caves in a relatively small area. The reserve was established in order to "preserve and protect the important complex of lava flow caves colonized by cave fauna and bat colonies".

Participation on some visits could be limited due to logistical reasons; entrance to museums or monuments is to be paid on site and an extra fee might be required to cover transport outside the town.

E) TAORMINA AND ALCANTARA GORGES

All day excursion specially organized for accompanying members. Lunch is included.

Taormina is a hill town on the east coast of Sicily. The city is known for the Ancient Theatre of Taormina, an ancient Greek-Roman Theatre still in operation today. Near the theatre, the cliffs that descend to the sea form inlets with sandy beaches. A narrow strip of sand connects to the tiny Isola Bella, which is a natural reserve.

Unique in the Italian and European natural landscape, the Alcantara Gorges are one of the must-seen attractions of Sicily. Located about 20 km from Taormina, the gorges are real canyons made of black lava walls up to 50 metres high, in the typical shape of a prism that the rocks have taken during the cooling process. Within the grooves, the toning and crystal-clear waters of the river Alcantara run surrounded by an unspoiled landscape, with rare flora and fauna. The hidden position of the gorges has protected it; until the fifties in fact this site was completely unknown. The Alcantara Gorges have by now become a famous attraction even beyond national borders, and it is considered one of the most beautiful natural sites in Italy.



F) SIRACUSE AND NOTO

All day excursion specially organized for accompanying members. Lunch is included.

Siracusa is a city on the Ionian coast of Sicily. It is known for the ruins of antiquity. The central Archaeological Park of Neapolis encloses the Roman amphitheatre, the Greek Theatre and the Ear of Dionysius, a cave carved into the limestone in the shape of a human ear. The Paolo Orsi Regional Archaeological Museum exhibits terracotta finds, portraits from the Roman period and scenes from the Old Testament carved in white marble.

Noto: This small town in the south-east was founded again in the 1700's. It is the heart and at the same time the starting point for a visit to the valley of the Sicilian Baroque. Its cathedral, also perfectly rebuilt after 10 years of hard work, was included in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Piazza Armerina: The Villa del Casale recognized by UNESCO and included in the "World Heritage", with its 3500 square metres of mosaic floors famous throughout the world, hunting lodge of Massimiliano Erculeo, is evidence of life in Roman times ...



CALL FOR PAPERS

The Organizing Committee is going to print a book with the proceedings of the Symposium to be delivered to the participants who will be in Catania. For this reason we ask all Speakers to send their work as soon as possible to the e-mail address indicated below, even if they have not yet completed their registration.

The Scientific Committee of the Symposium that has already been set up will evaluate the works received and will decide, on the basis of the topic dealt with, the order of presentation in the three days available for discussions.

The deadline for the delivery of the articles is **June 30th 2021**. By that time, all those wishing to present their work at the Symposium must complete the registration procedure.

Papers and abstracts will be published only if the author (or at least one of the authors for joint work) has paid the full participant registration fee.

English is the official language of the International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology.

Translation services will not be provided.

All papers must be sent, in electronic form, to the Organizing Committee of the ISV19 at the following address:

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Authors are kindly invited to keep to the structure indicated in the Papers Structure paragraph.

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TITLE

Author/s Name Surname, e-mail, Institution.

Summary in English max: 2500 characters including spaces and punctuation.

Keywords: 3 (English).

Article max 45 000. characters (including captions, tables, spaces, etc.)

the text must be provided in Word format (doc, docx, rtf), without the use of headers, footers, etc.
Any notes must be written at the end of the article clearly indicating in the text where to insert the relative reference putting the number in brackets

eg:

text text text (NOTE 1) text text text

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Font, body and line spacing: indifferent, they will be replaced in the layout phase

Images: in colour or in black / white (including cave reliefs and possible maps).

clearly indicate the references within the text and also provide them separately in tif (or jpg) format with at least 300 dpi resolution

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Bibliography

SURNAME N. (year) Title, City, Publisher.

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TUSA S. (1983) Sicily in Prehistory, Palermo, Sellerio

Works by, Articles in Magazines, Acts,

SURNAME N. (edited by) (year), Title, City, Publisher

SURNAME N. (year), Title, in Surname N. (edited by), Opera, city, publisher, pp. 10-14.

SURNAME N. (year) Article title, in "Journal name", No. pp. 1-10

examples:

GRIFONI CREMONESI R. (1995) The caves and their function. Methodological introduction, in Cocchi Genik D. (edited by) The ancient Bronze Age in Italy, Proceedings of the Viareggio Congress, 9-12 January 1995

SAURO F. (2009) Lost Worlds, on the quartzite highlands of Venezuela in «Speleology» 61, 38-47

BERTOLANI M., CIGNA A.A. (1994) Activity of the Scientific Commission of "Great Wind Cave" (Genga, Ancona, Central Italy) in "International Journal of Speleology" 23 (1-2), 51-60

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