



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

SUMMARY

The 19th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology (ISV) will be held in Catania, on the island of Sicily in Italy from Saturday August 29 to Saturday September 5, 2020.

LOCATION

The 19th ISV will take place in the prestigious setting of the University of Catania, in the centre of the city. The town is only 35 kilometres from the top of Mt. Etna. The big draw for cavers will be the lava tubes, numbering over 300, on Mt. Etna. This mountain is a composite strato-volcano that reaches 3,325 m a.s.l. Its pyroclastics cover a large area (8,100 hectares/ 20,000 acres).

ORGANIZING TEAM

The symposium will be organized jointly by Gruppo Grotte Catania (GGC) and University of Catania. The GGC caving group is affiliated with 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

INVITATION

Dear Friends,

The big day is coming. We all, including Mount Etna, are pleased to welcome you to this land of extraordinary beauty. I remind you that the 19th symposium will be held in Catania, from August 29th to September 5th 2020.

Three mornings of lectures are scheduled, at the Department of Geology of the University of Catania, to introduce you to volcanic environment in Catania and to other similar areas in the World. In the afternoon, after the lectures, and in the following days, you will be guided on special trips to our most representative lava caves, on Mount Etna and to nearby sites. (I recommend you see also the various cultural activities connected with the Symposium, already described in the first circular – see the link next page).

The Gruppo Grotte Catania has an 86-year history and experience in the speleological field, especially dedicated to the volcanic environment. The study and research in the lava field are still continuing today. Many new caves have been discovered recently with important results in every field such as the recent discovery a new species of beetle inside an Etna cave.

We look forward to sharing our results with you and to listening to your papers.

We hope we'll see you soon

Carmelo Bucolo (Mel)

Chairman of Gruppo Grotte Catania



SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

Here is a link to the first circular of the Symposium that includes the program of the Symposium and all the information about lectures, connected events and excursions:

[PRIMA CIRCOLARE](#)

During the Symposium week, the registration desk will be located at the headquarters of Gruppo Grotte Catania, in via Messina 593/A. It will be open from Saturday 29 August 2020 to Friday 4 September 2020 with the following schedule: 8:00 am – 10:00 pm

The desk will also be available for booking the cultural activities and daily excursions indicated in the program.

An additional info point will be installed at the University, during lectures.

SIGNING UP

To allow the participation of the greatest number of interested persons, four possibilities of enrollment are being offered:

- Full participant € 230.00 (€ 280.00 from April 2020)
- Accompanying member (in association with a participant) € 170.00 (€220.00 from April 2020)
- Student (with university identification card – all lectures) € 30.00
- Daily pass (lecture session only – 1 day) € 30.00

For the details of what is included in the individual fees see the first circular, but please note that cave rescue insurance is no longer included in the (now reduced) registration fee (see below on page 5 for new information on insurance).

The Gala Banquet of Wednesday 2nd is not included in the fee but the organizing team recommends that you don't miss this special social event. The team selected for that event, the Restaurant "IL POZZO", near the University, where a special typical Sicilian menu will be served for € 40.00 per person, drinks included.

Due to logistical constraints, the maximum number of participants to the Symposium, including full members and accompanying members, is 80 people. If the maximum number of attendants is reached, priority will be given to those who have pre-registered. Students and visitors will be admitted to the theoretical sessions until the room capacity is reached.

The final registration procedure will take place exclusively online and will be available from **December 1st, 2019**. Full registration is needed before submitting any abstract or presentation to the Symposium.

The payment of the fee will take place upon registration.

The following payment methods are accepted:

- PayPal
- Credit card.

In case of registration not accepted, for any reason, the fee paid will be fully refunded.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Papers on any topic related to volcano-speleology are allowed. They will be grouped in theoretical sessions and discussed during the three days of lectures at the University. All the works submitted will be included in the Proceedings of the Symposium that will be published on the Symposium website and on the Vulcanospeleology Website and printed on a special book about the event.

Please, refer to the first circular to find the directions to follow for submitting abstracts and papers.

The dates to remember are the following:

End of December 2019 – deadline for sending the abstracts (must be in English)

End of March 2020 – deadline for sending the papers (preferably in English).

VISITS AND EXCURSIONS DURING THE SYMPOSIUM

The general excursion on Mount Etna on Thursday 3rd and the following excursion on Friday 4th following the 1669 flow path are confirmed with the features indicated in the first circular. Those excursions are free of charge for all participants and accompanying members, except for the daily insurance fee where it is necessary (see Insurance Policy paragraph).

Cultural Heritage: During the days of the Symposium, a variety of cultural activities in the Catania town and suburbs is planned. These visits will be managed directly by the Gruppo Grotte Catania. At the Registration Desk you will find all information about them and the possibility to make your reservation. Reservation will be required for all the activities even if most of them will be free of charge.

Caving excursions: As indicated in the first circular, during the Symposium, the Gruppo Grotte Catania will lead several caving excursions to lava caves, located near the city. The list and the characteristics of the selected caves are available on the first circular. The organizers reserve the right to add on other cavities or eliminate some caves depending on the conditions of seismic or meteorological danger. To attend those excursions, it is absolutely necessary to make a reservation, at the Registration Desk, by the day preceding the date on which the excursion is scheduled.

The daily excursions, for accompanying members, to the main touristic attractions along the Sicilian coast will be carried out by specialized carriers for this service. Therefore, these excursions must be booked online at the time of the registration and paid in advance upon receiving the confirmation of participation.

INSURANCE POLICY

Participants and accompanying persons who want to attend to the excursions on Mt. Etna lava fields and in the caves are required to have insurance coverage for all the period of the conference and connected excursions. All members are required to indicate at the time of the registration, if they are in possession of an international insurance that involves repayment of rescue costs in case of accident during their stay in Italy or if they are already members of the Italian Mountaineering Association (CAI) or the Italian Speleological Association (SSI).

For those who don't have any kind of similar coverage, the organizing team suggests participants subscribe to a daily policy through the organization of the Symposium; the daily cost for that policy is € 8.00, if booked at the time of the registration. The same policy can be bought at the Symposium Desk, but the cost will be € 15.00 for day.

ACCOMMODATION

The city of Catania offers a great range of accommodation, but it is important to keep in mind that August is a month of high season and therefore the accommodation must be booked well in advance.

The organizing committee of the 19th International Vulcanospeleology Symposium has selected a range of accommodation facilities (hotels, motels, university campus or camping places) that have offered special fees for participants of the conference.

If you choose a partner property (see table below) it will be possible to book your stay at the time of registration. However, the payment must be sent directly to the chosen property following the instructions that will be communicated at the confirmation.

The organizing committee has selected the following possibilities:

Property	Reserved rooms	Type of accommodation	Price €	Note: City tax € 2.50 p/day p/day = person / day
NH HOTEL CENTRO **** (Near the University)	35	<u>Single room</u> <u>Double room</u>	<u>120 day</u> <u>140 day</u>	Breakfast incl.
8ROOM HOTEL **** (Near the University)	8	<u>Single room</u> <u>Double room</u>	<u>75 day</u> <u>85 day</u>	Breakfast incl.
UMBERTO HOUSE HOTEL *** (Near the University)	12	<u>Double room</u> <u>Three-bed room</u> <u>Four-bed room</u>	<u>80 day</u> <u>90 day</u> <u>100 day</u>	Breakfast incl. Half board € 25 p/day
MEDITUR HOTEL OGNINA *** (Near the sea and the GGC Headquarters)	52	<u>Single room</u> <u>Double room</u> <u>Three-bed room</u>	<u>59 day</u> <u>65 day</u> <u>80 day</u>	Breakfast incl. Half board € 21 p/day
CAMPLUS COLLEGE CATANIA (Near the University)	17	<u>Single room</u> <u>Double room</u> <u>Three-bed room</u>	<u>50 p/day</u> <u>28 p/day</u> <u>26 p/day</u>	Breakfast incl. Self-service dinner € 12 p/day
CAMPING IONIO CATANIA (Near the sea and the GGC Headquarters)		Bungalow (max 4 people) or Caravan (max 6 people) Bungalow (max 4 people) or Caravan (max 6 people) Tent	27 p/day 22 p/day 9 p/day	Breakfast incl. Breakfast not incl. Breakfast not incl.

In addition to the possibilities mentioned above, participants can search for their accommodation directly through internet providers. Sometimes those providers use the commercial approach of making special offers or have reward schemes for members. In this case the organizers recommend participants pay attention to the location of the selected B&B or Hotel; if the location of the selected property is not near to the University or the town centre they may have problems reaching Symposium events each day because public transport is not very efficient.

The area surrounding the University, where the Symposium will take place, has many restaurants and bars where it is possible to have a variety of lunches at reasonable prices.

For dinner, the organizing team suggests to go to the Camplus College, where all participants, even if not staying in the College, may have a complete dinner, at the Self-service Restaurant, for the price of € 12.00 for person.

EXCURSIONS BEFORE AND AFTER THE SYMPOSIUM

PRE- SYMPOSIUM TOUR OF ETNA - August 30th

A geological tour of Mount Etna, led by Dr. Giuseppe Priolo, is scheduled before the Symposium opening, on Sunday August 30th. This excursion will follow the route indicated on the first circular and will have six stops of explanations on the field where the guide will show you the singular morphology of this volcano.

The cost for this excursion is € 40.00 per person, transport and lunch included.

This excursion must be booked online at the time of registration. Payment will be required upon receiving the confirmation of participation. The maximum number of participants for this excursion is 16 people.

POST SYMPOSIUM - AEOLIAN ISLANDS - September 5th to September 10th

After the Symposium, an excursion to the Aeolian Islands is scheduled to show the participants the volcanic features of the islands themselves. The excursion will be guided by a team of experts from Gruppo Grotte Catania and the local section of Club Alpino Italiano. It will be the only post-symposium trip offered by the organisers.

The excursion, that will start and end in Catania, will take 6 days from Saturday 5th to Thursday 10th.

Transport will be by bus and boat specially reserved for this excursion. Accommodation will be in small hotels and half board is included.

The detailed program of this excursion can be found in the attached document.

The program may change depending on the weather / sea conditions and volcanic activity. For example, at the moment, the walking excursions on the island of Stromboli are forbidden and the ascent to the Big Crater on Vulcano Island is possible only with the help of a professional guide. Therefore, the organizers reserve the right to cancel some visits or indicate alternative destinations without changing the total duration of the excursion.

This excursion must be booked online at the time of registration. Payment will be required upon receiving the confirmation of participation.

The minimum number of participants required for this excursion is 10 people and the maximum number allowed is 30 persons. The participation cost is € 700.00 per person.

CONTACTS

WEBSITE <http://www.19isvetna.com>

MAIL TO: contact@19isvetna.com

Second Circular v3.2



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