



Exmo. Ayuntamiento de
Aracena
Concejalía de Turismo



ACTE
ASOCIACIÓN DE CUEVAS TURÍSTICAS ESPAÑOLAS

CUEVATUR X CONGRESO ESPAÑOL SOBRE CUEVAS Y MINAS TURÍSTICAS

**“Caves and the Subterranean World:
Science, Tourism, and Future”**

November 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th, 2026

ARACENA

(Huelva, Spain)

SECOND CIRCULAR

PARTNERS



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DE ESPELEOLOGÍA



PRESENTATION

In November 2026, Aracena (Huelva) will become the epicenter of the underground world with the celebration of a new edition of CUEVATUR, the Spanish Congress on Show Caves and Mining Tourism. After more than 20 years of history, this event has established itself as one of the main national benchmarks in underground tourism.

CUEVATUR is a forum for the exchange of knowledge, where the latest works, studies, and research carried out in Spain's show caves and tourist mines are presented. In its tenth edition, the congress takes a step further by opening its doors to the international arena, with the aim of sharing experiences, best practices, and technical advances from different countries.

Since its first edition in 2005, CUEVATUR has brought together hundreds of scientists and researchers from disciplines such as geology, paleontology, engineering, and tourism. Over the years, more than 500 works have been presented, compiled in the Congress Proceedings, which now constitute an essential reference collection for scholars of the underground world.

In addition to its scientific dimension, CUEVATUR is a meeting space for professionals in the sector: managers, guides, technicians, and others who work in show caves and tourist mines. It has also become a key forum for those promoting the opening of new cavities for tourism, as it brings together the leading experts in this field.

In this edition, we aim to take a significant step toward the official UNESCO declaration of the **World Day of Caves and the Subterranean World**, a celebration that has united caves worldwide every June 6 since 2016.

CUEVATUR 2026 will therefore be an essential event for all those who are passionate about underground heritage and who work for its conservation, study, and dissemination.

VENUE AND DATES

The Congress will take place in Aracena (Huelva) on **November 11, 12, 13, and 14, 2026**, and the sessions will be held at the “Teatro Sierra de Aracena,” located at Avda. Huelva s/n, 21200 Aracena.

Telephone: +34 663 937 879

E-mail: teatro@ayto-aracena.es

Website: www.aracena.es



Aracena, designated as a “Tourist Municipality” of Andalusia in 2006, is the capital of its region and gives its name to both the Sierra and the Natural Park that surrounds it. This park is one of the most significant protected areas in the Autonomous Community of Andalusia, encompassing the entire northern part of the province of Huelva.



The municipality of Aracena, with a maximum altitude of 867 meters and a population of over 8,000 inhabitants, serves as the administrative center of the judicial district that includes 31 municipalities. Its role as an administrative, commercial, and tourist capital makes it the main service hub of the entire region.

Today, Aracena is a dynamic city that exemplarily combines its tourist attractions with its function as a regional center. It is a privileged location, where a valuable and diverse historical and artistic heritage is complemented by an exceptional natural environment that allows for a wide range of outdoor activities, such as hiking and cycling tourism.

Its tourist offering is further enhanced by a vibrant traditional festival calendar, a modern cultural agenda, a rich and varied gastronomy based on high-quality products, and a comprehensive infrastructure of restaurants and accommodation.

However, **Aracena's greatest tourist emblem is the Gruta de las Maravillas (Cave of Wonders)**, one of the most beautiful and remarkable karst formations in Spain. Its uniqueness and spectacular nature have made it the most visited tourist site in the province of Huelva. Opened to the public in 1914, it was one of the first show caves in Spain, marking a milestone in local history by driving significant economic and social development.



ACCOMMODATION

Pre-booking of rooms will be available at the following hotels in Aracena:

HOTEL CONVENTO ARACENA****

C/ Jesús y María 19 (spa service)

114 beds.

www.hotelconventoaracena.es

eservas@hotelconventoaracena.es

Tel: 959.12.68.99 / 635.072.131

HOTEL BARCELÓ ARACENA****

Ctra.Nac.Sevilla-Lisboa, km.88

218 beds,

www.barcelo.com , aracena@barcelo.com

Tel: 959.099.223

31 beds

HOTEL LA ERA DE ARACENA***

CN-433 Sevilla-Lisboa, km 85.40

www.hotelaracena.com ; hoteleradearacena@hotmail.com

Tel: 647.664.324

HOTEL POSADA DE VALDEZUFRE***

Avd. Santa Marina, 1 VALDEZUFRE-ARACENA

38 beds.

administracion@valdezufre.com

Tel: 959.557.174

HOTEL APTO. RURAL FINCA VALBONO***

Ctra. Carbonera, Km. 1,2

57 beds.

www.fincavalbono.com; reservas@fincavalbono.com

Tel: 959.127.711

HOTEL ESSENTIA

C/ José Nogales, 17

34 beds.

www.hotelessentia.com; info@hotelessentia.com

Tel: 959.127.822

HOTEL LOS CASTAÑOS

Avda. Huelva, 5

60 beds.

www.loscastanoshotel.com; info@loscastanoshotel.com

Tel: 959.126.300

HOSTAL RURAL MOLINO DEL BOMBO*

21 beds.

C/ Ancha, 4

www.molinodelbombo.com info@molinodelbombo.com

Tel: 689.471.675

VILLAROSILLO. Casas Rurales de categoría superior

Avd. De los Ángeles, 3

20 beds.

Tel: 959.127.509/ 635.277.015

In addition to its hotel offerings, Aracena has a wide variety of rural houses and holiday rentals, which complement the available accommodation options.

HOW TO GET TO ARACENA

BY AIR

DISTANCE TO THE NEAREST AIRPORTS

Seville: 98 km

Jerez (Cádiz): 181 km

Faro (Portugal): 205 km

Málaga: 303 km

Lisbon (Portugal) 303 km

TRAIN

Aracena does not have its own train station, so the best option for public transport is a combination of train and bus.

AVE TO SEVILLE FROM:

- Madrid (Puerta de Atocha – Almudena Grandes) (The journey takes approximately 2.5 hours).
- Málaga.
- Córdoba.
- Granada.
- Barcelona.
- Zaragoza (usually part of the Madrid – Barcelona – Seville route).
- Valencia (no direct AVE, but connection via Madrid is possible).
- Alicante and other cities in eastern Spain via transfers or connections through Madrid

BUSES

Bus connection from Seville:

- Departure point: Plaza de Armas Bus Station, Seville.
- Company: The company operating this route is Damas
- Duration: The journey usually takes between 1 hour 30 minutes and 1 hour 45 minutes.

Bus connection from Huelva:

- Departure point: Huelva Bus Station.
- Company: The company operating this route is Damas.
- Duration: The journey usually takes approximately 2 hours 45 minutes.

BY ROAD:

From Seville (approx. 90 km – 1h 15 min)

- Take the **A-66** (Autowía de la Plata) towards Mérida.
- At **Venta del Alto**, take the exit for **N-433** towards Aracena.

From Madrid (approx. 540 km – 5h 30 min)

- Take the **A-5** to Mérida.
- From Mérida, take the **A-66** towards Seville.
- At **Venta del Alto**, exit onto the **N-433** towards Aracena.

From Barcelona (approx. 1.050 km – 10h)

- Take the **AP-2 / A-2** to Madrid.
- From Madrid, follow the previous route (A-5 → A-66 → N-433).

From Valencia / Eastern Spain (approx. 750–800 km – 8h approx.)

- Take the **A-3** motorway to Madrid o Albacete.
- Continue towards Seville via the **A-4** o **A-5** depending on the chosen route.
- Then follow **A-66 → N-433** to Aracena.

From Extremadura (Cáceres, Mérida, Badajoz)

- Continue on the **A-66** southbound (towards Seville).
- At **Venta del Alto**, take the **N-433** towards Aracena.

From Huelva (approx. 100 km – 1h 30 min)

- Take the **N-435** towards Badajoz.
- In Zalamea la Real, follow signs to **Minas de Riotinto** and then to Aracena.

From Portugal:

From Lisboa (approx. 340 km – 3h 30 min)

- Take the **A-2** motorway east → continue on the **A-6** to Badajoz.
- Take the **A-66** towards Sevilla and exit at **Venta del Alto** onto the **N-433**.

From Faro / Algarve (approx. 150 km – 2h)

- Take the **A-22** motorway to Ayamonte (border).
- Continue on the **A-49** to Seville.
- In **Gines**, take the **A-66** towards Mérida and exit at **Venta del Alto** onto the **N-433** towards Aracena.

HONORARY COMMITTEE (Pending confirmation)

- H.M. King Felipe VI.
- President of the Regional Government of Andalusia.
- Mayor of Aracena.
- Minister of Industry and Tourism.
- Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation.
- Minister for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge.
- Secretary of State for Tourism.
- Secretary of State for International Cooperation.
- Regional Minister of Tourism and External Relations of the Junta de Andalucía.
- Regional Minister of Sustainability and Environment of the Junta de Andalucía.
- President of the Provincial Council of Huelva.
- Rector of the University of Huelva.
- President of the International Show Caves Association.
- President of the Spanish Federation of Speleology.
- President of the Spanish Association of Show Caves.
- President of the Spanish Society for the Protection of Geological and Mining Heritage.
- Director of the Geological and Mining Institute of Spain (IGME-CSIC).

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

COORDINATOR:

- Manuel Durán Hidalgo, President of the Spanish Association of Show Caves (ACTE)

VOCALES:

- Manuel Guerra González. Mayor of Aracena Town Hall.
- Rafael Pagés Rodríguez. Vice President of ACTE.
- Ana Torres Asensio. Aracena Town Hall
- Ovidio Altable Argüelles. Secretary of ACTE
- Leandro Hacha Bernal. Aracena Town Hall

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

COORDINATOR:

- Juan José Durán Valsero. Instituto Geological and Mining Institute of Spain (IGME-CSIC)

MEMBERS:

- Daniel Ballesteros Posada. Universidad de Cantabria
- José María Calaforra Chordi. Universidad de Almería.
- María Luisa Calvache. Universidad de Granada.
- José Antonio Caro Gómez. Universidad de Córdoba.
- Sergio Raúl Durán Laforet. Amphos-21.
- Montserrat Jiménez Sánchez. Universidad de Cantabria.
- Rafael Jordá Bordehore. Geólogos del Mundo.
- Valme Jurado Lobo. Instituto de Recursos Naturales y Agrobiología de Sevilla.
- Cristina Liñán Baena. Universidad de Málaga.
- Jerónimo López Martínez. Universidad Autónoma de Madrid.
- Wenceslao Martín-Rosales. Universidad de Granada.

- Raquel Morales García. Instituto Geológico y Minero de España (IGME-CSIC).
- Lucía Ojeda Rodríguez. Universidad de Málaga.
- Pedro Agustín Robledo Ardila. Instituto Geológico y Minero de España. (IGME-CSIC).
- Joaquín Rodríguez Vidal. Real Academia Sevillana de Ciencias.
- Iñaki Vadillo Pérez. Universidad de Málaga.

CONGRESS FEATURES

The congress will consist of sessions spread over the four days, including presentations of scientific and technical papers, invited lectures, and other official events. Two short excursions will also be organized during the congress, with visits to the Gruta de las Maravillas and other nearby caves.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

The official languages of the congress are Spanish and English.

REGISTRATION FEES

Standard fee (payment before 1 JULY 2026)	250 €
Fee after 1 JULY 2026	300 €
Reduced fee (members of ACTE, actiba, ISCA, and collaborating organizations)	200 €
Authors of accepted communications (one per paper): €200	200 €
Young participants up to 30 years old	150 €
Student fee:	50 €

In addition to participation in CUEVATUR 2026, the registration fee includes daily working lunches, social events, closing lunch, organized excursions and visits, a participation certificate, and publications.

Payment of the congress registration fee must be made via bank transfer to: Vivienda y Desarrollo de Aracena, Empresa Municipal, referencing CUEVATUR 2026.

To complete registration, the following steps must be taken:

1. Fill out the registration form.
2. Transfer the corresponding fee to the following account:

IBAN: ES73 0182 6028 0102 0150 2040

Vivienda y Desarrollo de Aracena, Empresa Municipal

Reference: **CUEVATUR2026**

3. Send the registration form and proof of transfer to:

cuevatur2026@ayto-aracena.es

SUBMISSION OF COMMUNICATIONS:

Deadlines

- The deadline for receiving abstracts (maximum length: one page) is **1 April 2026**.
- The deadline for submitting full papers whose abstracts have been accepted is **15 June 2026**.
- Final papers, once the review process is complete, must be submitted **by 15 September 2026**.

Publication of Congress Papers

The following requirements apply for submitting abstracts for publication in the Congress Proceedings:

1. Abstract Submission Requirements:

- Length: The body of the abstract must not exceed 400 words.
- Keywords: A maximum of 5 keywords must be included.

- Author Information: Institutional affiliation, full postal address, and e-mail address of all authors must be included.

2. Review and Publication Process:

All submitted papers will be reviewed and validated by the Scientific Committee of the Congress.

- **Publication:** Papers accepted by the Scientific Committee after review will be published in a book, which will be distributed to attendees during CUEVATUR 2026.
- **Mandatory Conditions:** For a paper to be accepted and published, **at least one of its authors must have completed registration for the Congress.**

TECHNICAL SUPPORT:

Tourism Department (Tourism Office), Aracena Town Hall

- **Sandra Piñera García**

e-mail: cuevatur2026@ayto-aracena.es

Tel.: + 34 607690016

- **Sonia Vilán Ortega**

e-mail: cuevatur2026@ayto-aracena.es

Tel.: + 34 607690016

- **Eduardo Romero Bomba**

e-mail: cuevatur2026@ayto-aracena.es

Tel.: +34 606558601

- **Leandro Hacha Bernal**

e-mail: cuevatur2026@ayto-aracena.es

Tel.: +34 607690417

PRESS CONTACT

- María Gallego Fernández

e-mail: prensacuevatur@gmail.com

Tel.: +34 637157492