Information Circular 2

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vulcAnospeleology
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UIS Commission on Volcanic Caves

22nd International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology

Canary Islands, November 2026

Introduction

The 22nd International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology (ISV22) will be held in the Canary Islands in November 2026. The core symposium program (presentation sessions, welcome reception, symposium dinner and two days of excursions) will take place on the island of Tenerife. These activities will be preceded by an optional field trip on Lanzarote island.

A program outline appears on pages 6-7 of these notes.

The symposium and field trips are being organised by a small team of cavers, clubs and scientists with generous logistical, organisational and financial support from the museums organisation of the Cabildo (ie, local government organisation) of Tenerife and the Cabildo of Lanzarote.

To ease the burden on organisers, participants will need to make all their own reservations for accommodation, flights to and from and, where applicable, between the islands, as well some land transport arrangements and most meals.
The fees for Tenerife will include a coffee break and a lunch (or picnic) for the four days, the closing dinner, and transportation for the two days of excursions.

Please read these notes carefully as some details have been revised since the preliminary notes were circulated in December 2025.

Cueva del Viento Tenerife. Image courtesy of Museos de Tenerife / Cabildo de Tenerife.

Welcome Reception

A welcome reception, hosted by the Museums organisation of Tenerife (Organismo Autónomo de Museos y Centros - OAMC), will be held on Wednesday evening, 4 November, at the Museo de Historia y Antropología de Tenerife (MHA) – the Museum of History - in central La Laguna. This is a more convenient location than the Museum of Nature in Santa Cruz, which had been suggested as the venue in the preliminary information notes circulated in December 2025.

Presentation sessions

Presentations will be held in La Laguna, Tenerife at the Museo de La Ciencia y El Comos (MCC) - the Museum of Science and the Cosmos- (Avda. Los Menceyes 70/n 38205 San Cristóbal de La Laguna. MCC is 1-2 km (walking distance) from the suggested hotels (see Accommodation, below) , but this distance can be reduced by taking a tram (see La Laguna Map on Page 5).

The amount of time allowed for each presentation will be announced later.

Field excursions

Field excursions will be organised on two islands, The cost of participating on the two single day trips on Tenerife is included in the symposium registration fee. The Tenerife trips will involve some easy-to-medium-difficulty walking both on the surface and in caves. There will be several cave trip options with varying degrees of difficulty. We can also offer for 8 to 10 people an alternative excursion to a volcanic pit (30 m deep) guided by an experienced caver, who will provide ropes and personal vertical caving equipment. It is recommended to bring a helmet and light, although we can provide for those who do not bring them, but not a suit or knee pads. The excursion to the caves of Teide National Park can be done with or without a helmet.

The field excursions to Lanzarote are optional and will be at additional cost. For some of the cave trips you will need to be fit and experienced and some caves on Lanzarote will require SRT gear. But there will also be easier options that will be suitable for most participants who are capable of walking and doing some easy caving. On Lanzarote, there will also be easier trip options focusing on surface volcanic features and caves needing no more equipment than a helmet and light. Please see the draft program outline at the end of these notes. More detailed advice on trips will be provided by the time registration opens.

Preliminary registration information

Registration for the ISV is expected to open early May, if not sooner, and will close at the end of August.

There will be a separate registration fee for each island. The following details are not firm, as some elements are still being negotiated . However, the following price indications will help intending participants estimate their total costs (which would need to include travel to/ from the Canary Islands; inter-island travel; all accommodation; and all meals, except as noted below).

Estimated fees for each island are provided below. Fees will be fixed by the time registration opens and may be higher, or lower, than these estimates.

Concessions. For activities on Tenerife, a concessional registration rate will be available for children under 18 years of age, as well as for bonafide full time tertiary students. For the pre-symposium Lanzarote trip, discounts on entrance fees will be available for participants under the age of 18 years.

Cancellation. If you need to cancel after you have registered for the core program on Tenerife, it will be possible to do so and we will be aiming to refund of most, if not all, of the money you had paid. Exact details are being negotiated, and further advice will be provided when registration opens. For the pre-symposium trip to Lanzarote, fees will not be refundable.

Fees:

Lanzarote. €140 (estimated), but will be less if institutional support is obtained.

Note: The Lanzarote field trip has been substantially revised from the outline provided in the preliminary information notes (circulated to commission members in December 2025).

The registration fee will cover transport by bus and minibus. No meals or entry fees are included

Tenerife. €275 per person (estimated).

This will cover the welcome event; attendance at the presentation sessions (including tea and coffee, use of conference room facilities with associated technical support and two lunches); symposium dinner; transport, access and lunches for field excursions to Teide National Park, and to caves in the Icod de los Vinos area, including Cueva del Viento (Cave of the Wind).

Accommodation

As noted above, you will need to make all your own accommodation arrangements on each of the islands that you visit.

On Lanzarote, we recommend booking accommodation in the centre of Arrecife. The whole island is a very popular tourist destination, and hotel rooms and apartments will be quite expensive - and 1-2 November will be a public holiday weekend. Room prices for 2 people start at around €450 (for 4 nights). Two well-known hotels near the waterfront in the city centre are listed below. Some hotels appear to be already heavily booked, but there are also many apartments in the area. In looking for accommodation, we suggest as a first step, that you look at Google Maps, or a major booking site such as Booking.com to see the locations of available properties.

Hotel Miramar (3 Star), Avenida Coll, 2. 35500, Arrecife, Lanzarote
Website: Hotel Miramar OFFICIAL WEBSITE | Lanzarote 3-star Hotel

Hotel Lancelot (3 Star), Avenida Mancomunidad, 9, Arrecife
Website: Official Website of Hotel Lancelot - Arrecife - Lanzarote

On Tenerife, we suggest booking accommodation that is within easy reach of the three Symposium venues in La Laguna (the Museum of Science, the Museum of History and the Plaza del Adelantado (town square) which is where field excursions will depart from (See map on page 5).

There is a wide range of guest houses, apartments, hostels and hotels in the area.

Hotel suggestions for La Laguna (all can be booked direct, or through booking sites such as Booking.com):

Aguere Nest Hostel, Av. Leonardo Torriani, 1 - San Cristóbal de La Laguna
Website: (Hostels in Tenerife| Nests Hostels)

Room 27, C. Nuñez de la Peña, 27, 38203, La Laguna.
Offers clean, comfortable double and triple rooms with shared bathroom facilities.
Website: www.room27.es

Aguere Hotel (2 star),
Website: Home - Hotel Aguer

Laguna Nivaria Hotel (4 Star)
Website: Hotel Laguna Nivaria | San Cristóbal de La Laguna, Santa Cruz de Tenerife | Official website

La Laguna Gran Hotel (4Star)
Website: Boutique Hotel in San Cristóbal de La Laguna - Official web LLGH

Inter-island travel

For participants interested in doing the pre - symposium field excursion, a full day has been allowed for each inter-island transfer (Lanzarote-Tenerife).

We suggest travelling by air. There are two main airlines servicing the Canary Islands: CanaryFly and Binter Canarias, which is the larger and has more flight options.

For Tenerife, we suggest using Tenerife North Airport - Aeropuerto Tenerife Norte Los Rodeos (TFN), as it is much closer to La Laguna than Aeropuerto Tenerife Sur Reina Sofía (TFS). There are good bus connections between TFN and central La Laguna (a distance of about 3km). Alternatively, taxis are cheap (€10-12 for the journey) *view figure below..*

Inter-island travel by ferry is also possible. It is cheaper than flying, but it is slower and less convenient between distant islands.
For example, the Lanzarote-Tenerife ferry goes via Gran Canaria Island and takes a whole day. It's practic and cheaper to go to La Gomera (45 minutes), and to the westernmost islands if you are plenty of time.

Satellite Image of central La Laguna (Tenerife), showing ISV22 sites, several conveniently located hotels and the tram route between the city centre and the Science Museum.

An overview of the islands that will be hosting ISV activities.

The Canary Islands are located in the Atlantic Ocean about 100km (at the closest point) off the coast of Morocco. The archipelago comprises seven major islands and numerous smaller ones and is largely the result of volcanic eruptions over the past 70 million years. Initially, the eruptions were on the ocean floor, but geological evidence suggests islands started to emerge above the ocean surface about 20 million years ago.

The Canaries archipelago is an autonomous region of Spain and has a population of approximately 2.27 million inhabitants. The islands are a very popular year-round tourist destination, especially from Spain and other European countries. We have chosen the month of November for ISV22 as autumn is the best season for a period of calm and still very pleasant weather; it is after the end of the summer holiday season, but the weather will still be very enjoyable. It should be mostly dry and daytime temperatures of 23-26˚C are common.

Many visitors travel to the islands for the sun, beaches and diving. Others go to experience the fascinating blend of cultures, the local traditions, arts and festivals, or the rich flavors and traditions of the local cuisine and the very fine wines. For some, it is the attractions of nature, such as rugged volcanic landscapes and the endemic flora and fauna. For just a few, it is the caves.

Lanzarote

Lanzarote is one of the few places in the world where most different types of volcanic subterranean voids can be observed. The island hosts an exceptional variety of volcanic caves including lava conduits (pyroducts), anchialine caves (having a subterranean connection to the ocean), multilevel lava conduits, inflationary mono-trunk caves, complex labyrinthic pyroducts, lava and gas domes, magma-chamber caves, volcanic sea caves, lava lake caves, and more - all within an island measuring just 60 x 25 km.

Another major advantage is that all these features lie in an open, treeless landscape, free from dense vegetation, making them easy to locate and access.

As result of the year-round sunshine and its short distance from Europe, Lanzarote has become one of the most visited islands in the region. With a population of around 160,000 inhabitants, the pressure from more than 3.5 million visitors each year is enormous.

The island is now governed by strict regulations and an extensive permit system for many activities. In addition to being a UNESCO Global Geopark, Lanzarote includes national and international nature reserves. Rangers and substantial fines help enforce the protections. As a result, it is not easy for scientists or cavers to obtain access approvals for many sites.

The more than 250 caves on Lanzarote can be divided into several categories. The first consists of caves for which it is impossible to obtain access without a specific scientific research purpose (such as those in Timanfaya National Park). Another category lies on private land, where permission may be negotiated directly with the owners. A third category includes caves for which the Cabildo (local council) can grant permits. The fourth and final category covers caves located on malpaís - the island's barren volcanic badlands.

Tenerife

With almost 1 million inhabitants, Tenerife is the most populous island in the archipelago. It is also the largest island, covering an area of 2,034 km2. The triangular-shaped island is about 80km long and up to nearly 50 km wide. Most inhabitants live close to the coast, including in the two large cities of Santa Cruz de Tenerife (210, 000) on the northeast coast and San Cristóbal de La Laguna (160,000) which lies a short distance inland from Santa Cruz. Relatively few people live in the northeast corner of the island or in the rugged interior, dominated by Mt Teide (Pico del Teide), a strato-volcanic peak that last erupted in 1909. At 3,718m high, it is the highest point in the Canaries and of Spain. The mountain is in the 190 km2 Teide National Park, established in 1954 and in 2007, UNESCO declared the area as a World Heritage Site. ISV participants will spend a day in the park (details will be available later).

Cueva del Viento is the most widely known cave on the island. It is a complex pyroduct (lava tube) about 18 km long with multi-level areas and several collapse entrances. A short (200m) section on the edge of Icod de los Vinos is open to the public on guided tours. The cave is managed by the Organismo Autónomo de Museos y Centros (OAMC), the autonomous museums and centres organisation on Tenerife, which is supporting the ISV. For the field excursion, participants will be split into a number of groups and visit different sections of the cave. At least two or three of the groups will be taken to sections of Cueva del Viento that are somewhat difficult to pass through, with short narrow passages and crawling, suitable for participants who are comfortable with passages of medium difficulty. These parts can be considered as wild caves. Time and resources permitting, a group may be able to visit the Cueva de San Marcos on the coast of Icod. For participants seeking an 'easy' trip, the standard tourist trip will be available. This includes the show cave section and a guided walk through the surrounding forest to explore aspects of the local flora, fauna and ethnology.

Cueva del Viento. Image courtesy of Museos de Tenerife / Cabildo de Tenerife

Draft program

The dates in the following program are firm. However, amendments may be made to field trip details, in response to access approvals, party size limits and logistical considerations.

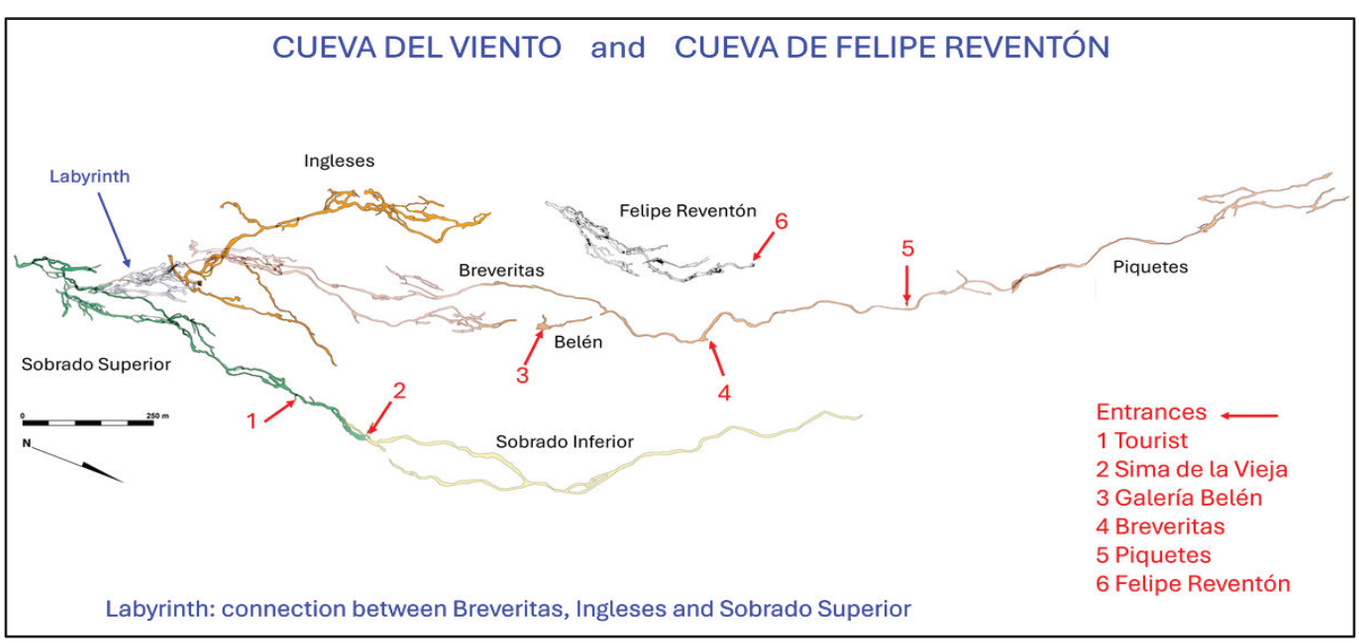
Optional pre-symposium field excursions on Lanzarote

Date	*Activity*	*Accommodation in*
Sat, 31 Oct	Arrive Lanzarote Evening: Optional get-together at a restaurant / bar in the El Charco (lagoon) area of Arrecife (price not included in field trip fee).	Arrecife
Sun, 1 Nov	Lanzarote field trip, Day 1 – *All trips will depart from the GranHotel Arrecife.* **Trip 1.** Full day excursion for all participants to various surface and underground sites including Jameos del Agua (show cave) & exhibition on local caves and Mars/ lunar investigations and Cueva de los Verdes (show cave). *Maximum of 36 persons*. Entry fees (approx. €40) are not included, and participants must also provide their own lunches (Drinks and tapas can be purchased at Jameo del Agua).	Arrecife
Mon, 2 Nov	Field trip Day 2 (2 options) **Trip 2.** Cave trips for fit and experienced participants*****. Full caving gear required and some caves will require use of SRT gear. *Maximum of 18 persons* and everyone must provide their own lunch. Estimated fees for the day €20. **Trip 3.** Visits to several surface and underground sites (Helmet and light required). Some sites have an entry fee that will need to be paid by participants (Estimated total for the day €20). Stop along the way for lunch (self-purchased). *Maximum of 18 persons on the bus, but more can participate if they have their own transport.*	Arrecife
Tue, 3 Nov	Field trip Day 3 (2 options) All participants will need to pay a €30 entrance fee to Timanfaya National Park. Discounts available for Spanish residents (ID required). **Trip 4.** Cave trips for fit and experienced participants*****. Full caving gear required and some caves will require use of ropes. **Trip 5.** Visits to several volcanic sites, including in the Timanfaya National Park) Activities include an opportunity to walk to the rim of a volcano. Bring your own lunch or purchase it at a winery/ cellar door / bodega. *Maximum of 18 persons on the bus, but more can participate if they have their own transport.*	Arrecife
Wed, 4/11	Field trip participants transfer to Tenerife (self-booked).	La Laguna

*** For Lanzarote Trips 2 and 4,** trip leaders will assess each participant and will have the final say on whether or not they can enter each cave. This is for the safety of the participant as well as for the party as a whole.

Core ISV22 Activities on Tenerife

Date	*Activity*	*Accommodation in*
Wed, 4/11 (continued)	Arrive in Tenerife	La Laguna
	(Day free)	
	Late afternoon: inscription of attendees and documentation. Welcome reception at Museo de Historia y Antropología de Tenerife (MHA) – the Museum of History.	
Thu, 5/11	Presentation session (Day 1) at Museo de La Ciencia y El Cosmos (MCC), La Laguna.	La Laguna
	[A meeting of the UIS Commission of Volcanic Caves will form part of the presentation sessions on either this day or 7 Nov.]	
Fri, 6/11	Field excursion to Teide National Park , travelling by bus, and departing from Plaza del Adelantado, across the road from the Laguna Nivaria Hotel. Optional excursion to a volcanic pit in Igueste de San Andrés, Anaga	La Laguna
Sat, 7/11	Presentation session (Day 2) at Museo de La Ciencia y El Cosmos (MCC), La Laguna.	La Laguna
Sun, 8/11	Field excursion to caves near the town of Icod de los Vinos, including Cueva del Viento. Participants will be split into small groups and there will be several trip options. Same transport arrangements as for the Friday excursion.	La Laguna
	Late afternoon: Symposium Dinner at a restaurant near the cave.	
	Evening: Return to La Laguna by bus.	

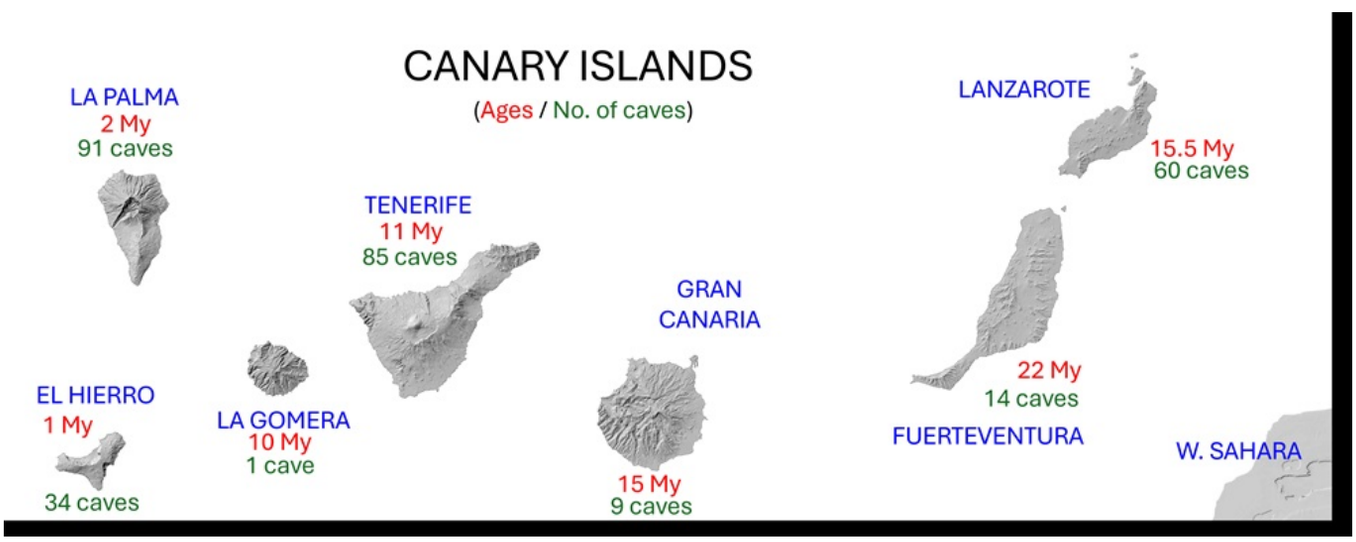


General information

The Canary Islands are located in the northeastern Atlantic, off the southern coast of Morocco, between 27º and 30º North latitude, and 13º to 18º West longitude. The closest island to the mainland is about 100 km away and the farthest about 500 km. The archipelago is made up of seven major inhabited islands and one islet, along with several smaller uninhabited islets. The major islands, from east to west, are Lanzarote, Fuerteventura, Gran Canaria, Tenerife, La Gomera, La Palma, and El Hierro. All are volcanic islands formed from a hotspot over which the African plate's oceanic crust has moved, so the eastern islands are older (Fuerteventura 21 Ma) and the western ones are younger (El Hierro 1 Ma). Volcanism is much more active in the western islands due to their proximity to the hotspot, so they are in an active growth phase and are much taller (1500 to 3700 m a.s.l.) and steeper, whereas the eastern islands are in an advanced erosive phase and are much lower (600 to 800 m). However, unlike other oceanic archipelagos such as Hawaii, the subsidence of the Canary Islands under the sea is very slow, they can remain emerged for longer, and volcanic activity has continued in recent or sub-recent periods in all but one (La Gomera), including those far from the hotspot. Thus, the easternmost, lowest and most eroded Lanzarote (15.5 Ma) underwent a short residual eruptive period that covered with lava a significant part of the island. There are abundant volcanic caves in the archipelago, especially pyroducts and some pits.

Since pyroducts tend to erode or get silted within a few hundred thousand years, they are abundant both on modern islands and on older ones with recent terrain. Thus, most of the caves are found in Lanzarote, Tenerife, La Palma, and El Hierro, very few in Fuerteventura and Gran Canaria, and none in La Gomera, that has not had volcanic activity over the last 2.5 Ma.

The climate is subtropical, with generally milder temperatures than in Mediterranean Europe, both in winter and summer. The NW trade winds dominate much of the seasons, and, aided by an upwelling of deep cold water between the eastern islands and Africa, they keep the temperatures relatively cool for their latitude. In any case, the high mountains of the central and western islands provide a strong climatic gradient, even with winter snowfall, especially on Tenerife (3,714 m) and La Palma (2,426 m). Additionally, they intercept the trade wind clouds so that the northern slopes are considerably wetter than the southern slopes. The high altitudes in relatively small areas result in different climatic zones, with dry scrub to open woodland with palm and dragon trees in the lowlands; humid subtropical laurel forest with broadleaf trees between 500 and 1400 m in coincidence with the trade wind belt; semi-dry endemic pine forest upon the cloud layer up to around 2000 m; and montane, dry shrublands on the top of Tenerife and La Palma islands. The flora and fauna are very diverse, with an endemism rate higher, together with Madeira islands, than that of any European region (25% of vascular plant species and 40 % of animal species).



History

The Canary Islands belong to Spain, but they were initially inhabited by an aboriginal people of Berber origin, the Guanches. It is estimated that they must have arrived shortly before our era, in a manner still unclear since they did not know how to navigate. There is archaeological evidence indicating the sporadic presence of Phoenicians and Romans on the eastern islands, but they never settled. The Crown of Castile began the colonization of the islands in 1402, starting with Lanzarote, and it was not completed until the definitive conquest of Tenerife in 1494. The Guanches were baptized with Spanish names and culturally assimilated, so that their language and customs disappeared. However, the majority of toponyms are of Guanche origin, and modern genetic studies show that the current Canary Islands population has a high percentage of haplotypes of Berber origin.

The archipelago is made up of two provinces: Las Palmas, which includes Gran Canaria, Fuerteventura, and Lanzarote, and the western province of Santa Cruz de Tenerife, including Tenerife, La Gomera, La Palma, and El Hierro. The islands are densely populated—particularly Gran Canaria and Tenerife—with more than 2.2 million permanent residents. In addition, the Canary Islands receive an exceptionally large floating population of around 18 million tourists per year (2025), corresponding on average to roughly 10 tourists per resident annually. On tourism-intensive but less populated islands such as Lanzarote and Fuerteventura, this ratio rises to up to 20 tourists per inhabitant, whereas the absolute numbers remain lower on the smaller western islands. This persistent influx exerts considerable demographic and environmental pressure, contributing to the progressive degradation of ecosystems that were still largely well preserved only a few decades ago.

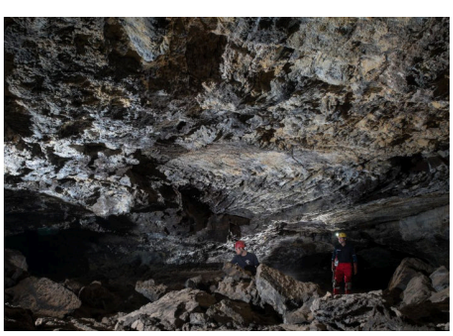
Caving

As many as 285 volcanic caves (pyroducts longer than 50 m and pits deeper than 10 m) have been registered, most of them pyroducts but also some important deep pits (emptied chimneys or shrinkage cracks) and a few drained dykes. At least three of them have more than 7,000 metres of development: Cueva del Viento from Tenerife, Cueva de la Corona from Lanzarote and Cueva de Don Justo from El Hierro. Their age varies greatly, from those formed at the Tajogaite Volcano (La Palma) in 2021 to the Cueva del Llano (Fuerteventura), dated to about 900,000 bp. The caves are relatively warm, although variable (10ºC to 23ºC) depending on their altitude. The highest one is Cueva del Hielo (Tenerife) at 3340 m a.s.l., while Túnel de la Atlántida (Lanzarote) is almost completely submerged in the sea, reaching -60m deep. The adapted fauna is particularly diverse (around 300 troglobitic and stygobitic species) and highly interesting because of its endemism, being the richest among all volcanic areas in the world. The richest in cave-dwelling species (Cueva de Felipe Reventón, Cuevas del Corona) rival the continental karst caves in terms of diversity.

Cueva Felipe Reventón, Icod, Tenerife (© J.S. Socorro)

Cueva Sobrado, Icod, Tenerife (© I. Sasowski)

Cueva del Rincón, La Palma (© N. Duverlie))



Cueva de Máguez, Lanzarote (© L. de Graauw)

Sima de las Palomas, El Hierro (© N. Duverlie)

Cueva del Llano, Fuerteventura (© A. Lainez)

Cueva de los Verdes, Lanzarote (© J.S. Socorro)

Cueva del Viento (Breveritas), Icod, Tenerife (© J.S. Socorro)

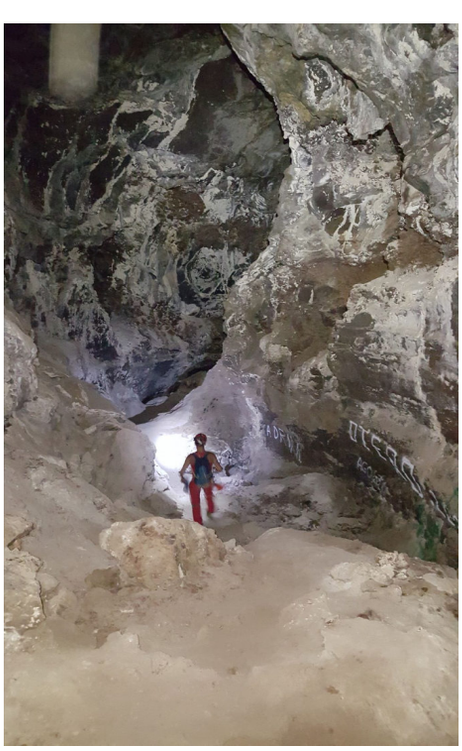
Tunel de la Atlantida, Lanzarote, ©J.Lario
Below a link to a film of this cave:
https://canal.uned.es/video/6666b36baef0252fe14e2f55

Terrestrial caves have no permanent water currents or ponds, and very rarely have wet mud. Coveralls can be useful but they are not strictly necessary. There are laundromats for your clothes, in La Laguna (Tenerife) there is one very close to the Museum of Science - where the symposium will take place - and some more in the downtown. Long pants, knee pads, gloves and sturdy boots are highly recommended. It's advisable to bring some drinking water, especially for those that require effort due to their difficulty of progress. Due to the abundance of cracks in the surrounding rock, they are well ventilated and there is no danger of bad air; however, artificial mines drilled to obtain water can be dangerous due to gas emissions or low oxygen levels.

General Information

The official currency is the euro; credit cards can be used everywhere and there are ATM machines in every town. There are international airports on five of the islands, and domestic ones on the other two, and air connections are plentiful. There is good bus service throughout the territory, and in Tenerife there is an excellent tram connecting the urban area of Santa Cruz - La Laguna. There are many hotels and apartments, and plenty of restaurants. Hotel and restaurant prices are relatively cheap by Western countries standards. Car rental is particularly inexpensive, and fuel (1.1-1.2 €/litre) is much cheaper than in Europe.

Tap water is generally drinkable (at least in Tenerife and western islands), although it sometimes doesn't taste ideal. There usually aren't any digestive problems with meals. Typical canarian food is relatively simple and attractive, and it is based on the good quality of the ingredients. International food in very touristic places is not very interesting, better try to avoid it.



Corona system, Lanzarote, pict L. Smets

Corona system, Lanzarote, 3 levels, pict L. Smets

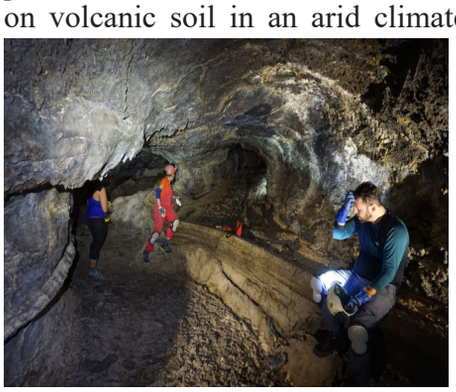
Islands with greater abundance of caves

Lanzarote

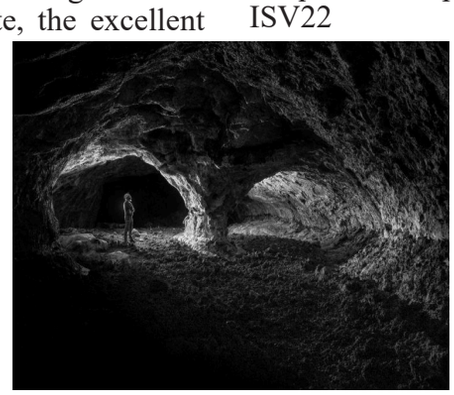
It has an area of 846 km² and is relatively low, with a maximum altitude of 670 m in the Famara Massif, at the northern end. It is the island with the most volcanic appearance, mainly due to the strong and continuous eruptions that occurred from 1730 to 1736, which covered 23% of the surface. More than 100 volcanos can be seen along the island. The most spectacular caves (total length 10 km) are those originated by Volcán de la Corona, including a) the huge pyroduct of Cueva de los Verdes; b) the Jameo de los Lagos, a XX long pyroduct with anchialine ponds at the lower end; c) the Jameos del Agua with an anchialine pond which has hundreds of blind, white crabs; and d) the Atlántida Tunnel which, starting from the latter, extends 1500 m under the sea. The first two have a section adapted as show caves, and they will be visited during ISV22, as well as other "wild" caves and many dramatic landscapes. Lanzarote has many other noteworthy peculiarities, such as traditional farming methods on volcanic soil in an arid climate, the excellent wine that is produced, the good fish, and so on.

Due to its concentration of caves and the variation in landscape over short distances, Lanzarote can be considered as a volcanic geological laboratory. Almost all volcanological and speleovolcanological phenomena can be found on Lanzarote. For some cave types (fumarole shafts, breakdown cavities in the still hot volcanic edifice, etc.) it can almost be considered even as a type location. Several of these types of caves will be visited during ISV22, like a monotrunk inflationary lava conduit, crusted-over multilateral lava conduits, some lava conduit-feeders, explosion chambers, volcanic sea caves and gas domes.

Museums such as the Fundación César Manrique in Tahiche, the museum at Jameos del Agua, and the visitor centre at Timanfaya National Park offer profound insights into the island's volcanic (underground) phenomena. Together, they provide a deeper understanding of the geological forces and lava formations that have shaped Lanzarote's unique landscape. All these will be visited during ISV22

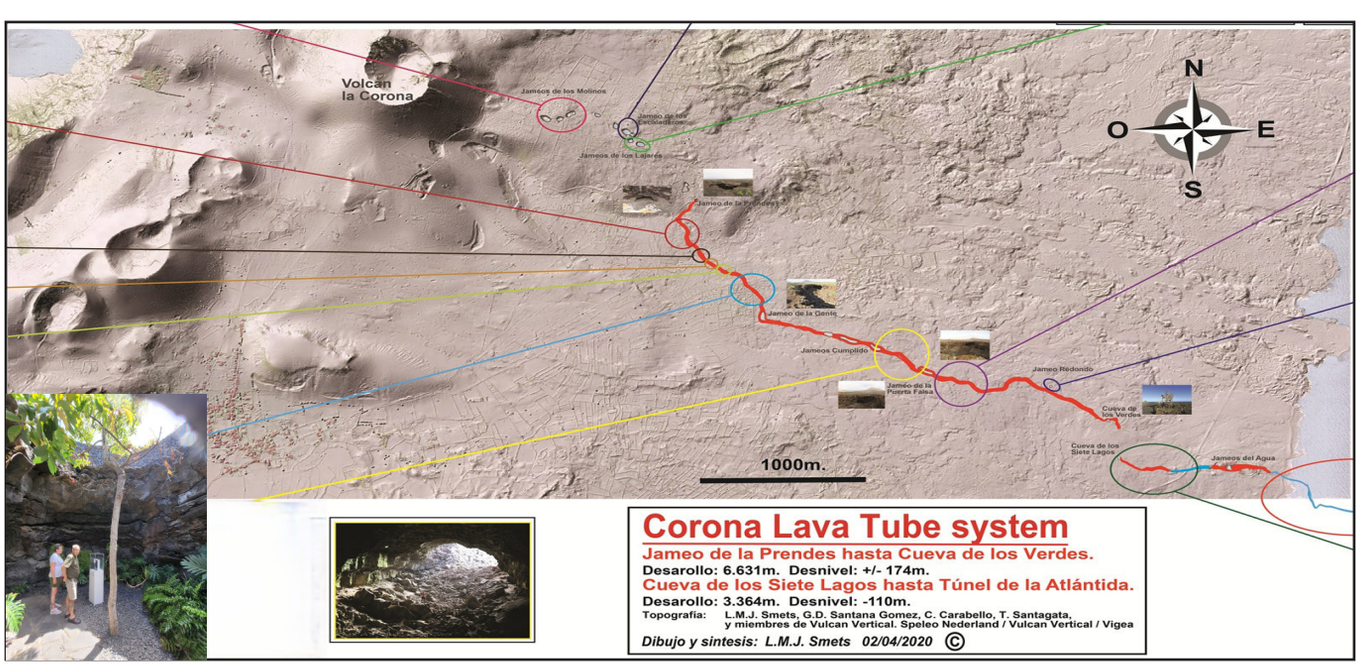


Cueva de Máguez, at the right a small lavafall, pict by L. smets



Cueva Naturalistas pict L. de Graauw

Entrance of Jameo del la Gente (Corona system), pict L. Smets



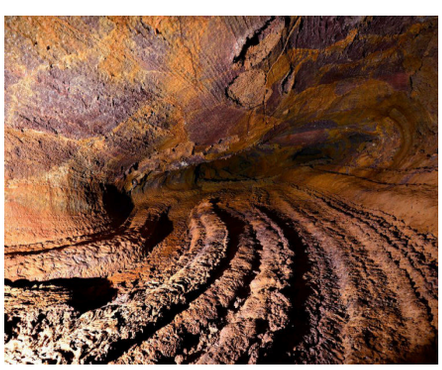
Tenerife

Tenerife is situated in the centre of the archipelago and is the largest (2033 km2), tallest (3718 m) and more diverse island in terms of landscapes and natural environments. At its NW (Teno) and NE (Anaga) corners there are two older areas with no volcanic activity in the past 4 million years. They have very rugged terrain with deep ravines and sharp ridges, the latter topped by subtropical humid forest; in Teno there are no caves and in Anaga only a volcanic pit. The centre of the island is more modern and elevated, with three mountain ranges that converge in an Y shape and correspond to the volcanic axes that built the island. Three mega landslides took place between 830Ma and 175Ma: two created the false valleys of Güímar and La Orotava; the third and largest landslide (170 ka) created the Icod valley, where volcanism reactivated strongly, building Pico Teide (3718 m) and closing the large caldera of Las Cañadas (approximately at 2000-2500 m), which makes up the National Park. The lava flows that descended from Teide towards Icod formed the most important pyroducts of the island, the largest of them being Cueva del Viento (17,500 m long). Tenerife has the greatest diversity of troglobites in the Canary Islands, with some highly adapted species. During ISV22, caves from both the National Park and the Icod area will be visited.

Cascada de Caliza, Cueva del Viento, Tenerife, ©J.S. Socorro

Teide N.P. view from the edge of the caldera, Tenerife,(© R. Oromí)

Roots in Cueva del Sobrado, Icod, Tenerife, (© D. Fröhlich)



Cueva del Sobrado, Icod, Tenerife (© J.S. Socorro)

Millenary dragon tree, Icod, Tenerife (© P. Oromí)

Entrance to Cuevas Negras I, Teide N.P., Tenerife, (© P. Oromí)

Cueva del Calderón, Teide N.P., Tenerife, (© S. de la Cruz)

The island's capital is Santa Cruz de Tenerife (211,000 inhabitants), but from the Spanish conquest in 1494 until 1833 it was La Laguna, where the core of ISV22 will be held. The opening of the ISV will take place at the Museum of History, and the scientific symposium at the Museum of Science and Cosmos. La Laguna has a historic centre declared a World Heritage Site, with its main streets pedestrianized and very attractive, and a lively atmosphere with bars and restaurants. The City Council will offer an expert-guided tour on the history and artistic heritage of the city, and those interested will have free entry to Tenerife's museums, with particular interest in the Museum of Nature and Archaeology in Santa Cruz, where mummies of the Guanche people are kept.

Museum of Science and Cosmos, La Laguna, Tenerife (© P. Oromí)

Museum of History, La Laguna, Tenerife (© P. Oromí)

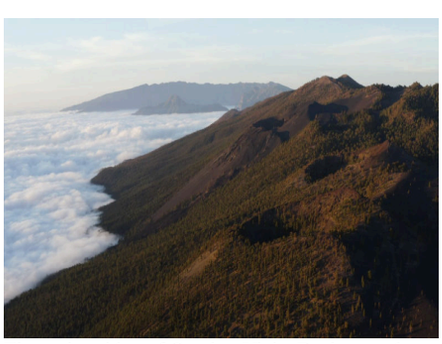
Town Hall buildings, La Laguna, Tenerife, (© P. Oromí)

La Palma

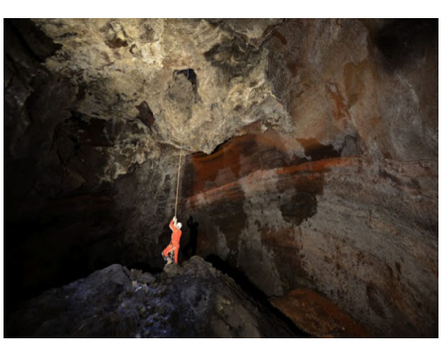
A medium size island (706 km2) with an area similar to that of Lanzarote, but much higher and wetter, with two different parts: the Palaeopalma at the north with a maximum age of 2 Ma and without recent or subrecent volcanism, dominated by a deep caldera with edges exceeding 2400 m, formed by a mega-landslide and subsequent volcanic construction that never closed the outlet to the sea to the west; and the Neopalma at the south, geologically much younger and structured along a north-south oriented ridge (Cumbre Vieja), with marked volcanic activity. It was here when the 2021 eruption of the Tajogaite volcano took place, in whose lava various pyroducts were formed. The highest rainfall in the archipelago occurs in La Palma. Its steep slopes and the depths of the caldera create spectacular landscapes. This is the island where a higher number of volcanic caves have been recorded.

The total population is 84,000 inhabitants, and the capital, Santa Cruz de La Palma, is located on the east coast. The island has the largest banana production in the Canary Islands, especially on its western side, which is sunnier and has abundant water from the Caldera.

Unfortunately, the visit to La Palma previously scheduled as a post-symposium activity has had to be cancelled.

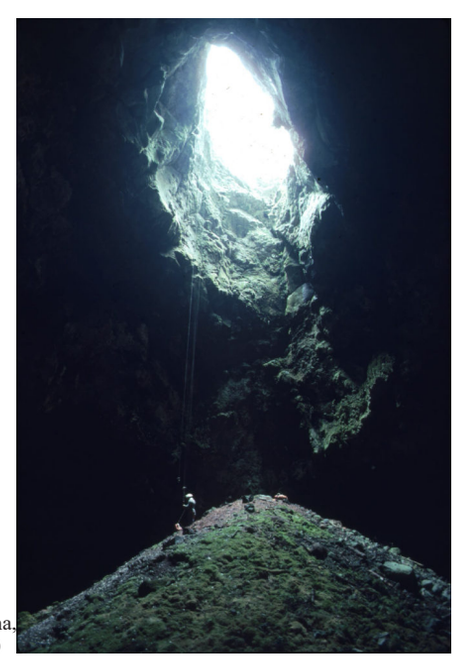


The active ridge of Cumbre Vieja. Background: Palaeopalma and the Caldera (© P. Felipe)



Llano de los Cestos volcanic pit, La Palma (© N. Duverlie)

Eruption of Tajogaite volcano in 2021, La Palma (© P. Felipe)



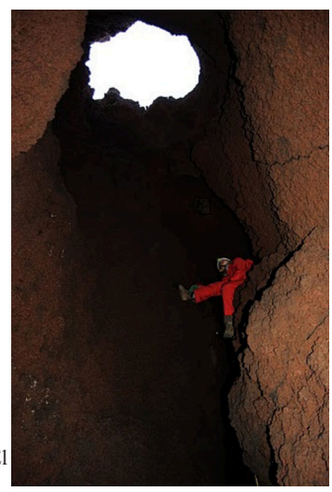
70 m deep Hoyo de la Sima, La Palma (© J.S. Socorro)

El Hierro

It is the smallest (268 km²), youngest (1 million years old), and least populated (11,000 inhabitants) of the larger islands. Three massive landslides shape the island's subtriangular outline, the largest of which is known as El Golfo, offering one of the most dramatic panoramas in the Canary Islands. The climate is humid with high rainfall, but valleys have not yet formed, and due to the porous nature of the soil, there is no surface water. The last volcanic eruption took place in 2011-2012 and formed the Tagoro volcano under the sea, about 5 km south of the island and 900 m below the surface, without ever emerging. It is a very peaceful and welcoming island. More than 30 caves are known, the largest of which, Don Justo Cave at the southern end, is over 7200 m long. Two caves are adapted to public visits, but with free entry: Sima de Guinea, in the visitor centre and breeding farm of the El Hierro Giant lizard at Frontera, and Cueva del Acantilado at Orchilla lighthouse, the southwesternmost point of the island. Sima de las Palomas is an intersting volcanic pit connected with an inclined tube in its deep part.

Panoramic view of El Golfo, El Hierro (© P. Oromí)

Cueva Roja, El Hierro (© N. Duverlie)



Cueva de las Pardelas, El Hierro (© N. Duverlie)

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the Canary Islands in November this year.

Contacts

If you have any questions, please email us: info.isv22@gmail.com

Mt Teide, Tenerife. Image courtesy of: Museos de Tenerife / Cabildo de Tenerife.

Organisers

La Laguna University

Autonomous Organisation of Museums and Centres

Institute of Natural Products and Agrobiology (IPNA-CSIC)

Co-organisers

Lanzarote and Chinijo Archipelago Geopark

Formación Acceso por cuerdas

Collaborators

Tenerife Tourism

Ayuntamiento de San Cristóbal de La Laguna

National Park of Teide

Cueva del Viento