



19th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF SPELEOLOGY

38º Congresso Brasileiro de Espeleologia

20-27 JULY 2025 - BELO HORIZONTE - MINAS GERAIS - BRAZIL

60 Years of the UIS: History to the Future

Third Circular

APRIL 2025

COVER PHOTO:

Maroaga Cave (sandstone rock)*

Presidente Figueiredo - AM

AUTHOR: DANIEL MENIN

*Cave included in the pre- and post-congress itinerary # 23
Details on page 62 of the [19th ICS Second Circular](#)



19th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF SPELEOLOGY

38^o Congresso Brasileiro de Espeleologia

20-27 JULY 2025 - BELO HORIZONTE - MINAS GERAIS - BRAZIL

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

President: **José Ayrton Labegolini**

Chairman: **Allan Calux**

Vice-Chairman: **Jocy Brandão Cruz**

Secretary General: **Amanda Jevaux da S. de Sousa**

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UIS Representative: **Nivaldo Colzato**

Scientific Coordinator: **Rodrigo Lopes Ferreira**

Website: www.speleo2025.org

Contact: committee@speleo2025.org

Mailing address:

19th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF SPELEOLOGY

Att. Sociedade Brasileira de Espeleologia (SBE)

Caixa Postal 7031 — Parque Taquaral — Campinas/SP

CEP 13076-970 — BRASIL



Três Arcos Cave
PHOTO ATALIBA COELHO



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1 WELCOME TO CIRCULAR 3!

It is with great enthusiasm that we share this Third Circular of the **19th International Congress of Speleology (19th ICS)** and the **38^o Congresso Brasileiro de Espeleologia (38^o CBE)**! We are preparing to ensure an exceptional experience for all participants.

The 19th ICS, held in conjunction with the 38^o CBE, marks a historic moment for the global scientific community. Under the theme “**60 Years of UIS: History for the Future,**” this event, hosted in Belo Horizonte from July 20 to 27, 2025, will serve as a milestone for interdisciplinary discussions on caves, karst systems, and subterranean biodiversity.

The congress stands out for its broad thematic scope, with 461 submitted papers and over 1,000 registered participants. Topics will be covered in 10 symposia and 16 Technical-Scientific Committees, focusing on science and innovation. However, the event goes beyond academia, exploring the intersections between the environment and society. Discussions on environmental legislation, conservation management, sustainable tourism, and environmental education will also be highlighted.

Pre- and post-Congress activities are also in full swing. Fourteen field trips have been confirmed, involving

more than 200 participants. The Wednesday excursions, a highlight of the event in terms of scientific community interaction, are a great success, and all spots are almost fully booked.

We strongly recommend visiting the official event website, www.speleo2025.org, to access complete content and useful information for planning your participation. Regular updates will be posted to help you be informed about the progress of your preparations.

The 19th ICS not only celebrates the past of the UIS (International Union of Speleology) but also charts a route for the future. The integration of science, technology, and society will be a key to addressing the challenges of 21st-Century Speleology.

We look forward to seeing you soon!



Dr. Allan Silas Calux

Chairman of the 19th ICS Organizing Committee
chairman@speleo2025.org



Cave of São Mateus III, Terra Ronca, São Domingos, Goiás

PHOTO JOSÉ HUMBERTO M. DE PAULA



At the time this circular is published (May 2025), we are less than three months away from the opening of the 19th ICS. There are 461 papers submitted and more than 1,000 people registered.

For those who haven't yet registered, please note that Full Category is no longer available. However, the other categories are still open. Take advantage!

For additional details about the Congress, its organization, the host city, climate, and other information to plan the trip to Brazil, we recommend read the Second Circular ([available here](#)). On pages 4 and 5 of the Second Circular, for example, there is information about traffic, parking, rules on alcohol and smoking, tips, currency, healthcare, collaboration for a green congress, visas, as well.

What we want is for you to have the most enjoyable experience possible during your time in Brazil, whether at the conference itself or on the numerous excursions planned for you. Below is some information that we consider important to repeat:

- **Please see the 19th ICS website.** The address is www.speleo2025.org and is in the footer on each page of this circular. The website has far more information and details than could be informed here.

- **Reservations** for all trips and activities is based on the order in which you register.

- **Reservations** for pre- and post-congress trips must be received by 15 May 2025. After this date, participation will depend on whether there are places available.

- **All caves in Brazil** are protected by Federal law. It is therefore expressly prohibited to remove from the cave any type of sample, whether animal, vegetable, or mineral, without prior official authorization. In addition, visitors are expected not to cause any damage to the cave, property, or people in their group.

- **Portuguese and English** are the official languages of this ICS and its field trips. Translation services will not be provided.

- **Visa.** If you are from a country that requires a visa for Brazilians, you will also need this permission to enter Brazil. It is therefore recommended that you make arrangements in advance, as in some countries this procedure may take longer than expected.

- **Airport transportation.** The congress will not provide transportation airport/event/airport. Therefore, each participant must arrange this transportation on their own. The main options for that are described on [page 7](#) of this Third Circular.

- **Accommodation.** When making your reservation at one of the 19th ICS partners hotels (see [page 10](#) of this circular), remember to state that you are attending the

congress. As the congress venue is in the center of the city, no campground will be available.

- **Travel Agent.** For those who need to purchase airline tickets for pre- and post-Congress excursions, please contact **Ms. Débora**, from **Premium Turismo**

- Email: debora.itajuba@premiumtour.com.br

- WhatsApp: +55 (35) 99831-2524

For tours in the Belo Horizonte region during the congress, please contact **Mr. Felipe Chiste Dias**, from **MAAC Travel Corporate**

- Email: Felipe.dias@micetravel.com.br

- Phone: +55 31 2102 0709

- WhatsApp (Felipe): +55 31 98814-5920

The MAAC Travel will have an office inside the congress venue and are ready to help you in any trip or extra activity you are interested on during your stay in Belo Horizonte.

- **ID Badges.** ID badges must be worn visibly at all times during the ICS. You can be asked by ICS staff to present your badge.

- **ICS InfoPoint.** The ICS info Point will be located at the first floor, just near of of Registration Desk. Please come to there with your questions.

- **Internet Connection.** Free wireless network for mobile internet access will be available in all building of BeFly Minascentro, the Congress venue.

- **Lost and Found.** We encourage anyone, who finds an abandoned possession to please bring it to ICS InfoPoint. All unclaimed items will be kept until the end of Congress **until 16:00 on Sunday July 27, 2025**. After this period, such itens will be given to charities.

- **Medical Services.** A special room at the third floor of the Congress Venue will be used for FirstAid. Opening times will be announced on the ICS Program.

- **Pets.** No pets will be allowed in the internal areas of the BeFly Minascentro, the Congress Venue.

- **Parking.** BeFly Minascentro has outsourced parking with 80 places in the internal area. Payment is made directly on site. Severeal other options for parking are available in the vicinity. Large recreational vehicles will not be accepted in the internal parking of the venue.

- **Smoking and Trash.** Smoking is not allowed in any venue internal area. During the week of the Congress, a special smoking area will be available for smokers outside of the venue.

- **Food at Congress Facilities.** Two food outlets will be installed on the BeFly Minascentro premises. In addition to the snack bar at the main entrance, other options will be distributed in BandStand Square (second floor), as a complement to EspeleoBar. Opening hours and rules will be announced in due course.

3 REGISTRATION SCHEDULE AND FEES

All registration is required to be via the Congress website registration page. [Click here](#) to access the page.

TIMELINE	APPLICABLE DATES	REGISTRATION CATEGORIES	FEES (REAIS R\$)*	CLOSING BANQUET	WEDNESDAY TRIP	PRINTED PROCEEDINGS	TOTAL
Registration opened	July 15 th 2024	On-line registration	-	-	-	-	-
Early registration 1/4 of the price (75% discount)	July 15 th 2024 to January 31 st 2025	Full Participant	600	Free	Free	Free	600
		Partial Participant	360	100	100	200	760
		Child Participant	180	100	100	200	580
		Day Participant**	-	-	-	-	-
Intermediate registration 1/3 of the price (66,6% discount)	February 1 st 2025 to May 15 th 2025	Full Participant	Closed	-	-	-	-
		Partial Participant	480	-	100	-	580
		Child Participant	Closed	-	-	-	-
		Day Participant**	160	-	-	-	160
Regular registration 1/2 price (50% discount)	May 16 th 2025 to June 30 th 2025	Full Participant	Closed	-	-	-	-
		Partial Participant	720	-	150	-	870
		Child Participant	Closed	-	-	-	-
		Day Participant**	240	-	-	-	240
Late registration Full price (no discount)	July 1 st 2025 to the event	Full Participant	Closed	-	-	-	-
		Partial Participant	1.440	-	-	-	1.440
		Child Participant	Closed	-	-	-	-
		Day Participant**	480	-	-	-	480

* Prices in Brazilian currency (Real) - All prices include Brazilian taxes.

** Day registration rate, per day. This category can be applied for only one day, that is, to the 21st, 22nd, 24th, or 25th of July 2025.

4 IMPORTANT DATES!

May 15 th 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intermediate registrations (66,6 % discount) close • Registrations for pre- and post-congress trips close
May 30 th 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photographic competition entries close
May 30 th 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartographic competition entries close
May 30 th 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SpeleMedia competition entries close
June 30 th 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular registrations (50% discount) close • Registrations for Mid-week (Wednesday) excursions close
July 1 st 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online registration close



5

Belo Horizonte is served mainly by the International Airport of Tancredo Neves, best known as the Confins Airport. It is situated some 40 km away and is linked to the center of the city by express highways.

When disembarking at Confins International Airport, passengers will have several options for getting to the city. In addition to taxis and app transportation, the bus company ***Conexão Aeroporto*** (Airport Connection) offers direct lines to the *Terminal Conexão Aeroporto* (Airport Connection Terminal), located 700 meters from the congress venue.

Another company, Unir, offers buses from the airport to the BH Central Bus Station, located 1.5 km from the venue.

Once in BH, public transport offers an extensive network of circulating buses and train (**MetrôBH**). The services of taxis and transport by app (UBER, 99, RepMov,

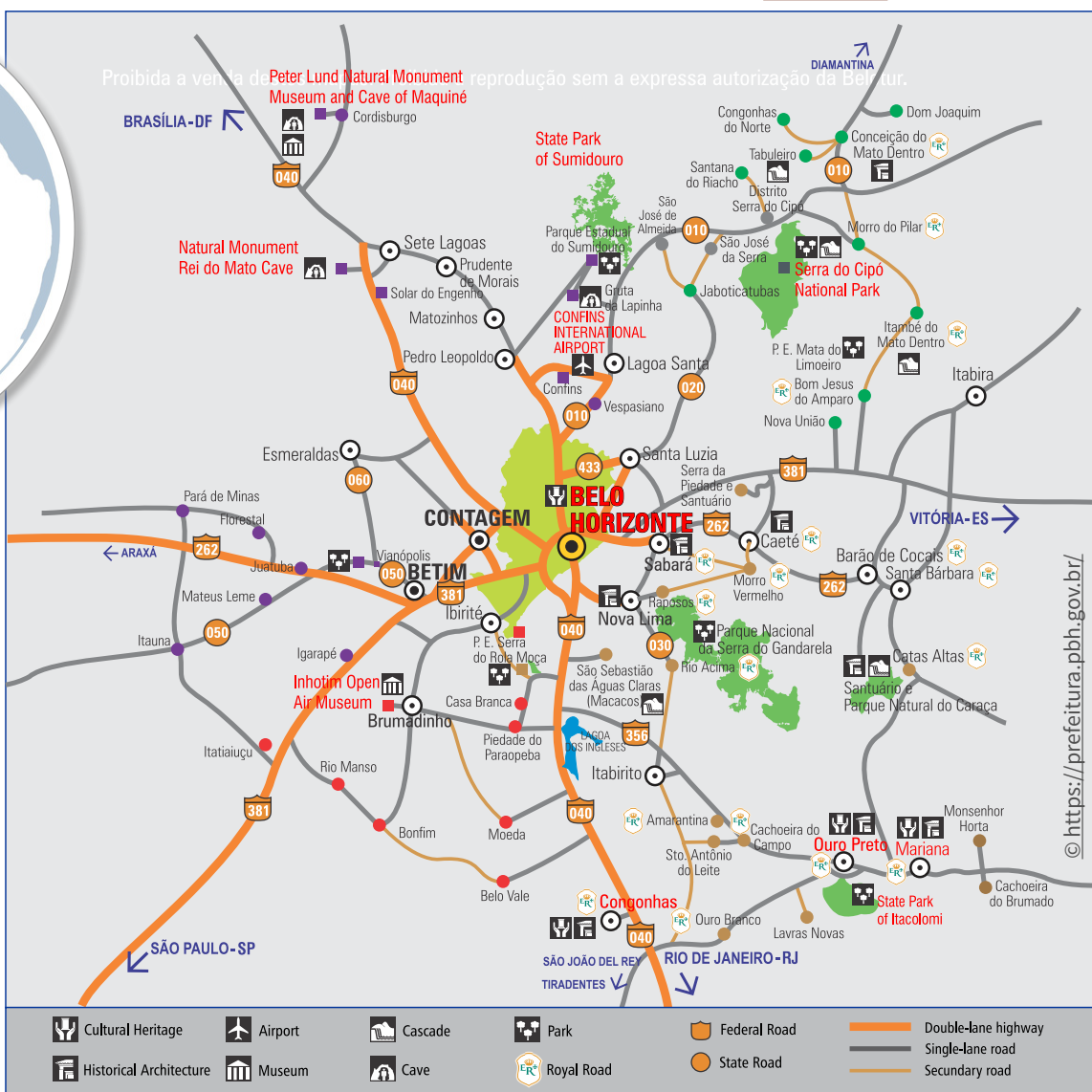
and Urban BH) are also available at any time of the day or night. Take into account, please, that no Dollar, Euro, or other foreign currency in cash is acceptable. To do so, have in hands your credit card or Brazilian money cash, the Real.

For those who reach Belo Horizonte by car or bus, the main access roads are the BR-040, for those arriving from Rio de Janeiro (RJ) or Brasília (DF), the BR-381, for those arriving from São Paulo (SP), and the BR-262, for visitors traveling from Vitória (ES).

Those who intend to rent a car will have no difficulty. However, other events that will be held in Belo Horizonte during the same period as the congress can contribute to increased demand for cars. We therefore recommend that you make your rental as early as possible.

The map below shows the main access routes to Belo Horizonte, as well as some cities and attractions (in red) included in the list of Wednesday trips.

MAP OF BELO HORIZONTE AND REGION - [Click here](#) to download it.



6 BELO HORIZONTE, THE HOST CITY

The capital of the state of Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, affectionately called BH (*Beagá*), is located in the southeastern region of Brazil, at an altitude of 852 m. With more than 2.5 million inhabitants, it is the 6th most populous city in the country and the first Brazilian city to be a member of the World Tourism Cities Federation (WTCF).

Belo Horizonte is strategically located in the heart of the Brazilian karst, close to one of the most prominent regions in the carbonate karst landscape and in the history of natural sciences in Brazil: the Lagoa Santa Karst. In addition, the city is one of the main venues for discussions on the legal framework related to the subject and is home to a large concentration of speleologists.

For recreation, BH has an ample network of parks and gardens, providing numerous attractions for visitation by congress participants and/or their accompanying family members through tourist agencies or privately. Some of them are in the list for Wednesday trip.

CLIMATE

Belo Horizonte is surrounded by mountains and has a hot, yet temperate, climate, with annual temperatures varying from 13°C to 29°C (55°F to 84°F), and rarely dropping below 10°C (50°F) or rising above 32°C (90°F).

During the period proposed for the congress (end of July), the following conditions are expected:

- Average temperature: 18°C (64°F)
- Minimum temperature: 13°C (55°F)
- Maximum temperature: 25°C (77°F)
- Rainfall: 9 mm (the driest period of the year in BH)
- UV index: 2
- Hours of sun per day: 9

FOOD AND DRINK

Known as "Bar Capital of Brazil," BH is famous for its street food, traditional dishes, and high-end dining experiences. This makes it an excellent destination for food lovers.

To accompany its delicious cuisine, Belo Horizonte also offers a wide variety of craft beers, making it famous in this regard as well. The world-famous "*Caipirinha*," the Brazilian drink made with lime, cachaça, sugar, and plenty of ice is also found everywhere.

While alcoholic beverages is only allowed for adults, the typical Brazilian food is recommended for all ages. We hope everyone will appreciate it.



Minas Cheesebread (Pão de Queijo Mineiro), one of the culinary traditions of the state.



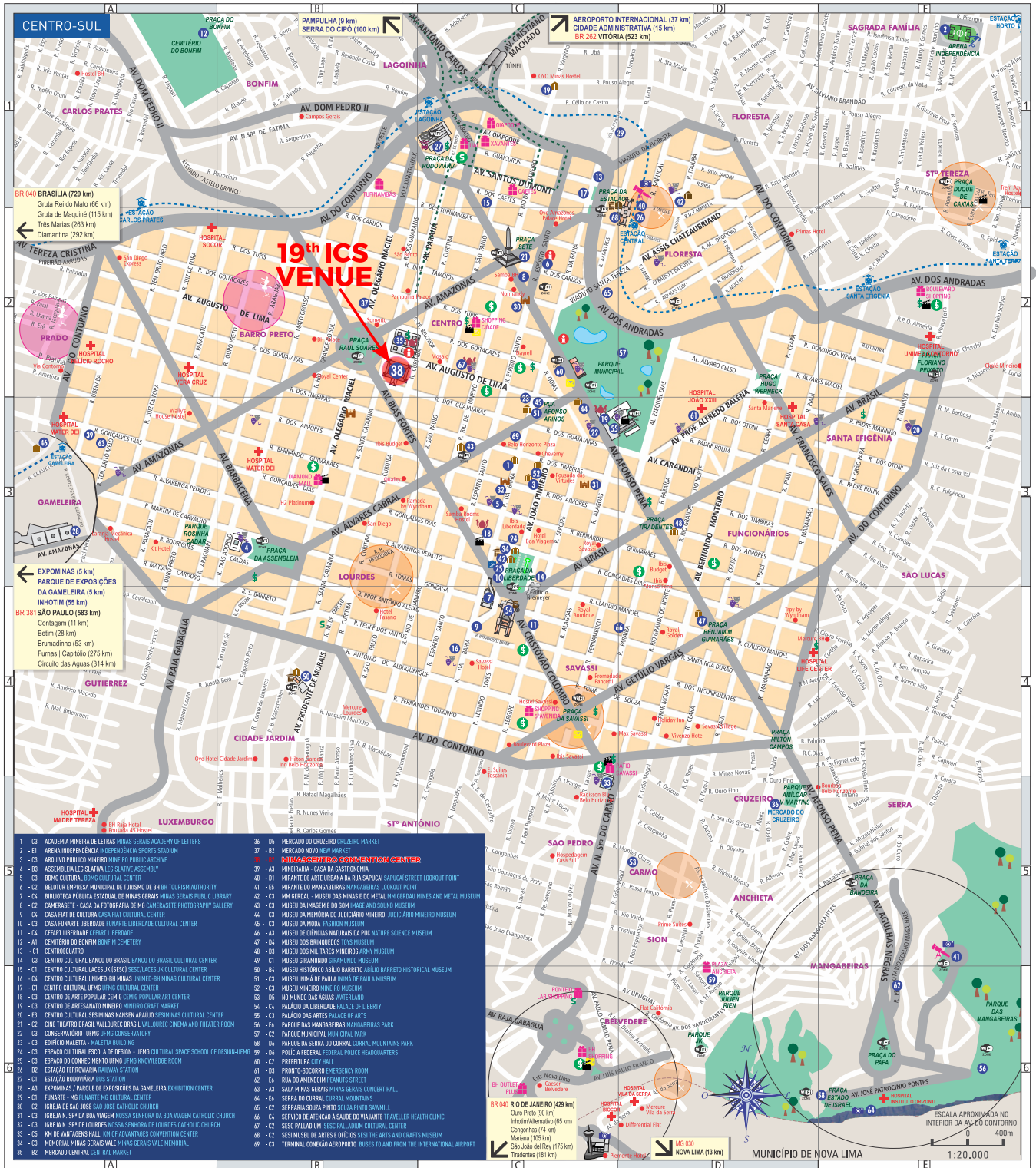
Caipirinha, the famous Brazilian drink.



Feijão Tropeiro (Trapeiro Beans), another delicacy from Minas Gerais that will be served at the Congress venue.

TOURIST MAP OF THE CENTER OF BELO HORIZONTE

To download it, [Click here](#). For virtual tours of some of the attractions, [click here](#).



TOURIST SERVICE CENTER

CENTROS DE ATENDIMENTO AO TURISTA | CAT

TOURIST INFORMATION | BELOTUR - MUNICIPAL TOURISM COMPANY OF BELO HORIZONTE
Tel.: (31) 3277-9765 | Rua Espírito Santo, 527 - Centro

ALÔ TURISMO
Belo Horizonte: 156 (call charged by the operator)
Outros locais: (31) 3429-8750

MORE INFORMATION: portalbelohorizonte.com.br

TOURIST INFORMATION | TOURIST REFERENCE CENTER ÁLVARO HARDY - VEVECO
Tel.: (31) 3277-9987 | Av. Otacílio Negrão de Lima, 855 - Pampulha

TOURIST INFORMATION | FLOWER MARKET
Tel.: (31) 3277-7666 | Av. Afonso Pena, 1.055 - Centro

TOURIST INFORMATION | CENTRAL MARKET
Tel.: (31) 3277-4691 | Av. Augusto de Lima, 744 - Centro

USE THE QR CODE TO
DOWNLOAD THE MAP



Belotur

**PREFEITURA
DE
BELO HORIZONTE**

GOVERNANDO PARA QUEM PRECISA

Agência de câmbio Currency exchange	Cinema / Movie theater	Parque de diversões Amusement park
Área de livre acesso à internet / Free Wi-Fi	Circuito Liberdade Circuit of Freedom	Polo de Moda Fashion District
Área gastronômica Gastronomic district	Correios / Post office	Pronto-Socorro Emergency room
Arquitetura histórica Buildings of historical interest	Compras / Shopping	Teatro / Movie theater
Arquitetura religiosa Religious architecture	Hospedagem Places to stay	MOVE
Artesanato Arts and crafts	Informação turística Tourist information	Terminal Ferroviário e metrô Train station
Mirante / Viewpoint	Luneta / Telescope	Terminal Rodoviário Bus station
Caixa eletrônico / ATM	Museu / Museum	

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19th ICS - Third Circular - April 2025
www.speleo2025.org

Content

English Language

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7 ACCOMODATION

As described on the [19th ICS Second Circular](#), there is a range of accommodation available close to the Congress venue at a wide range of prices. This includes hotels, inns, guesthouses, hostels, Airbnb options, and dormitories.

Those on this page belongs to the Accor hotel chain, with which the Organizing Committee has signed an agreement to guarantee reasonable prices for Congress participants. **Remember to state in your booking that you are attending the Congress.**

Regarding **campground**, as the Congress Venue is in the center of the city, this option is not available.

For those who have not yet made their reservation, we reinforce the information that **other big events will be held in Belo Horizonte during the same period as the congress**, which puts pressure on accommodation at specific times. We therefore recommend that you make your reservation soon.

• IBIS BUDGET MINASCENTRO

Reservations:

h5625-re@accor.com or +55 (33) 3343 6400

Distance to the venue: 350 m

ROOM CATEGORY	SINGLE	DOUBLE
Standard	R\$ 329	R\$ 369

• IBIS BH LIBERDADE

Reservations:

h5298-re@accor.com or +55 (31) 2111 1500

Distance to the venue: 1.2 km

ROOM CATEGORY	SINGLE	DOUBLE
Standard	R\$ 349	R\$ 399
Superior	R\$ 389	R\$ 429

• IBIS AFONSO PENA

Reservations:

h8498-re@accor.com or +55 (31) 2108 2950

Distance to the venue: 1.7 km

ROOM CATEGORY	SINGLE	DOUBLE
Standard	R\$ 349	R\$ 399

• MERCURE BH LOURDES

Reservations:

h3575-re@accor.com or +55 (31) 3298 4100

Distance to the venue: 1.8 km

ROOM CATEGORY	SINGLE	DOUBLE
Classic	R\$ 469	R\$ 529
Standard	R\$ 529	R\$ 589
Superior	R\$ 589	R\$ 649
Privilege	R\$ 649	R\$ 709



MERCURE
HOTELS

NOVOTEL
HOTELS & RESORTS

CONDITIONS:

- Prices per room in Brazilian currency (Real). Conversion to US Dollar, Euro or other currency will be done at the time of booking.
- Rates valid only for the period from 19-28 July 2025.
- Rates with breakfast and Wi-Fi included.
- Add 5% of TAX to the rates.
- Rates valid according to category availability.
- The hotels doesn't block membership rates.

• NOVOTEL BH SAVASSI

Reservations:

h8754-re@accor.com or +55 (31) 3311 9400/9401

Distance to the venue: 2.1 km

ROOM CATEGORY	SINGLE	DOUBLE
Superior	R\$ 539	R\$ 599
Executive	R\$ 599	R\$ 659

• IBIS BH SAVASSI

Reservations:

h7021-re@accor.com or +55 (31) 3888 4300

Distance to the venue: 2.1 km

ROOM CATEGORY	SINGLE	DOUBLE
Standard	R\$ 369	R\$ 419

• IBIS BUDGET SAVASSI

Reservations:

h8750-re@accor.com or +55 (31) 3311 9420

Distance to the venue: 2.1 km

ROOM CATEGORY	SINGLE	DOUBLE
Standard	R\$ 289	R\$ 329

In addition to these congress partner hotels, there are other accommodation options in the Minascentro region, such as other hotels, hostels, guesthouses, inns, Airbnb, dormitories, as well. Participants feel free to choose.



8 THE VENUE

Occupying an entire city center block, the Minascentro Convention Center, **recently renamed BeFly Minascentro**, has Neoclassical style architecture. Listed by the Historic Heritage of the Municipality of Belo Horizonte, it undergone recent modernization in its structure to become one of the largest experiential centers in Minas Gerais.

Located just 1.2 km from the main bus station, BeFly Minascentro is 40 km from Tancredo Neves (Confins) International Airport.

Spanning over 23,000 square meters across 3 floors, independent entrances and accessibility, it has the capacity to accommodate over 8,000 people simultaneously, featuring one of the largest theaters in MG (1,570 seats). With modular and multi-format occupancy and air conditioned in all internal areas, it also boasts:

- 6 auditoriums of varying sizes (from 100 to 428 seats)
- 18 rooms for various uses
- 1 multipurpose room (1,368 m²)
- Areas for exhibition (2,235 m²)
- A car park (80 spaces inside, but there are many options in the vicinity)
- 2 open air areas for bars and recreation

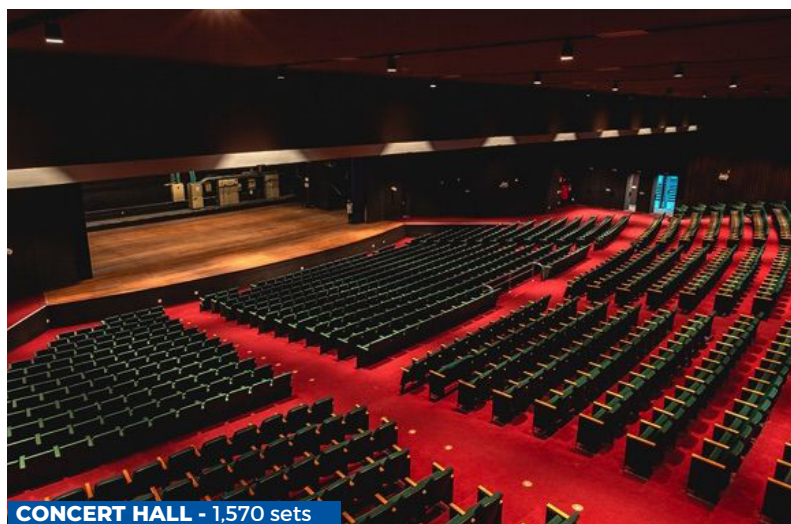
The decision in favor of BeFly Minascentro was because it offers all the facilities required for a UIS Congress as well as a comprehensive package of audiovisual solutions, high-performance internet, digital studios, furnished rooms, streaming, services, catering, automation, and technology.



PHOTOS OF BEFLY MINASCENTRO, THE 19th ICS VENUE - © <https://www.beflyminascentro.com.br/>



MAIN ENTRANCE



CONCERT HALL - 1,570 sets



GÉZE Auditorium - 395 m² - 428 seats



CIGNA Auditorium - 238 m² - 240 seats



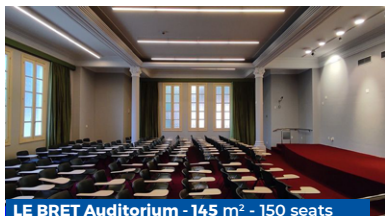
ERASO Auditorium - 145 m² - 150 seats



TRIMMEL Auditorium - 240 m² - 230 seats



ANAVY Auditorium - 100 m² - 100 seats



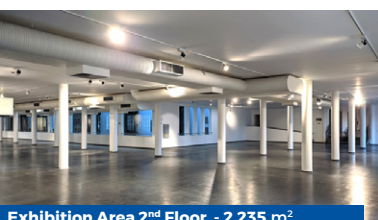
LE BRET Auditorium - 145 m² - 150 seats



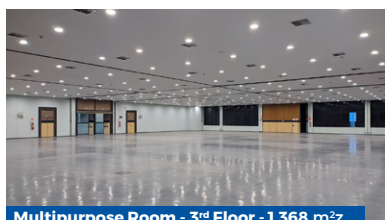
PILÓ Auditorium - 100 m² - 100 seats



Exhibition Area B - 450 m²



Exhibition Area 2nd Floor - 2,235 m²



Multipurpose Room - 3rd Floor - 1,368 m²



BH Square - 690 m² - SpeleoBar 1



Bandstand Square - 645 m² - SpeleoBar 2





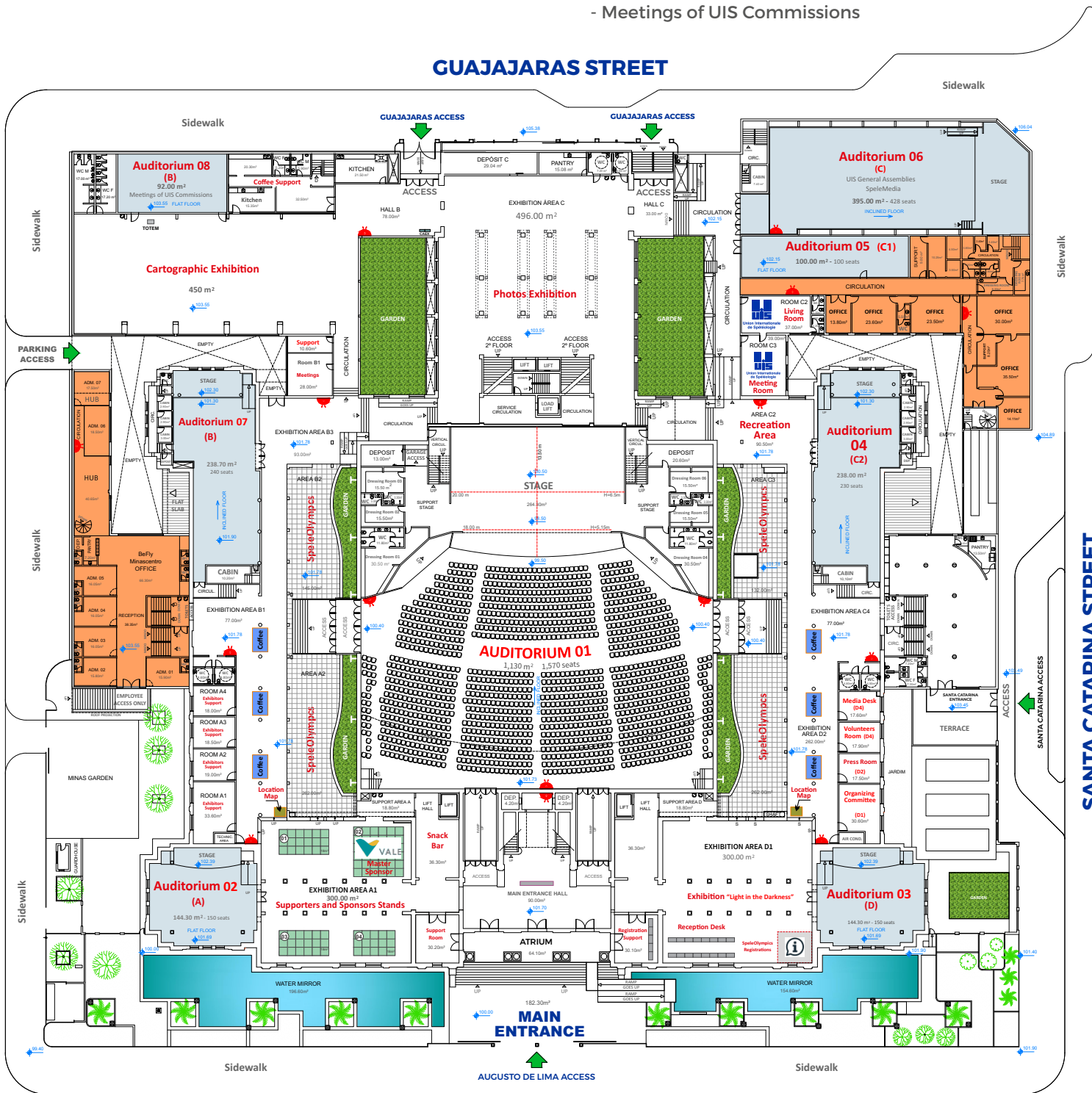
FIRST FLOOR

- IN THIS FLOOR:**
- UIS ROOM
 - Opening Ceremony
 - UIS General Assemblies
 - SBE General Assembly
 - Keynote Lectures
 - UIS 60th Anniversary Ceremony
 - Michel Le Bret Brazilian Prize Awards Ceremony
 - Contests Awards Ceremony
 - Technical and Scientific Sessions
 - SpeleMedia
 - SpeleOlympics
 - Photo and Maps Exhibitions
 - Exhibition "Light in the Darkness"
 - Meetings of UIS Commissions

GUAJAJARAS STREET

CURITIBA STREET

SANTA CATARINA STREET



AUGUSTO DE LIMA AVENUE



HYDRANT



BeFly MINASCENTRO RESTRICTED AREA



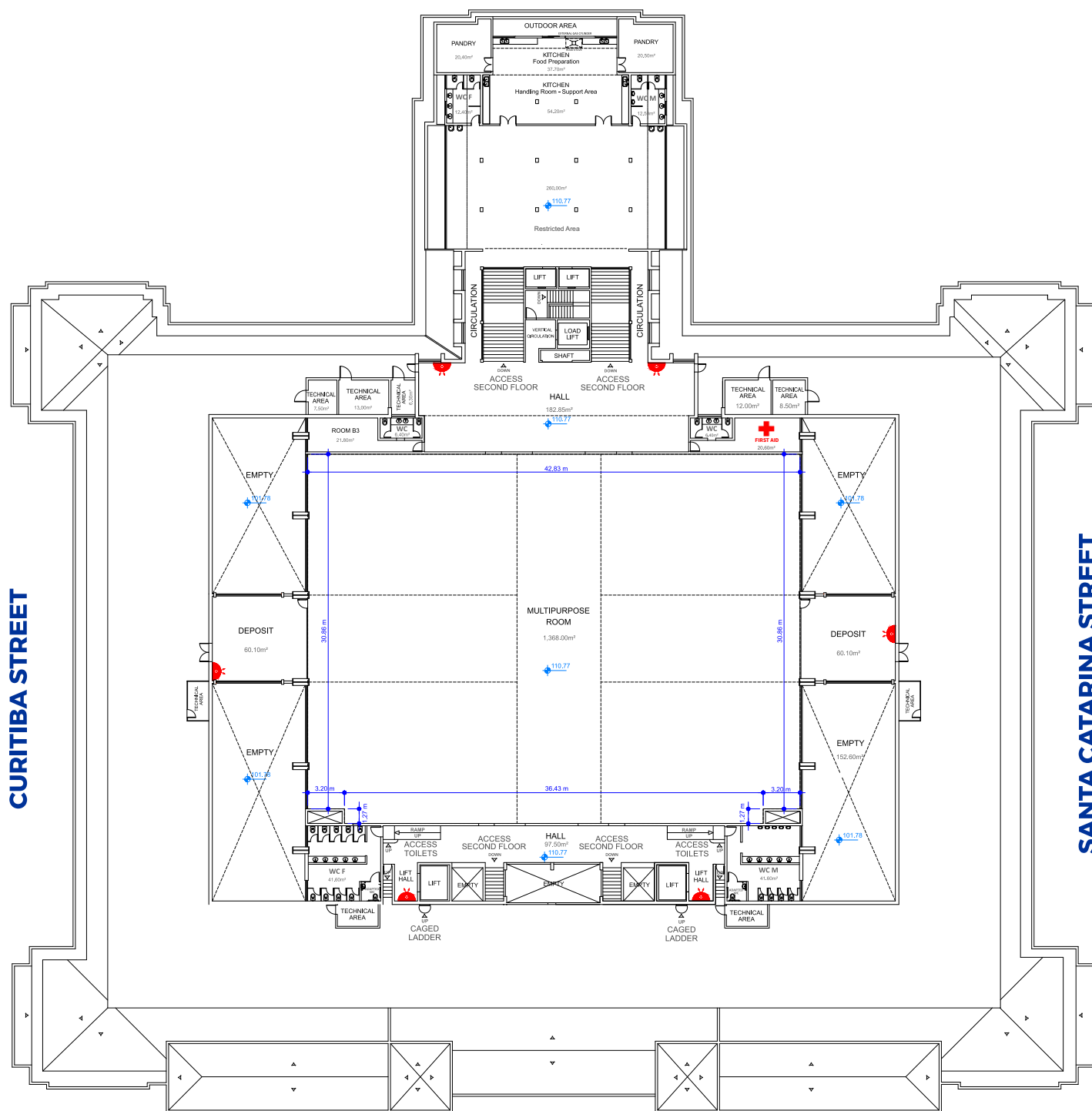


THIRD FLOOR

IN THIS FLOOR:

- First Aid Room
- Welcome party
- UIS 60th Anniversary party
- Michel Le Bret Brazilian Prize party
- Congress Contests party
- Evening programs
- UIS Prizes 2025 Awards Ceremony
- France Habe Prize Award Ceremony
- Closing banquet

GUAJAJARAS STREET



AUGUSTO DE LIMA AVENUE



9 INTERNATIONAL CAVE ARTS SALONS AND SPELEMEDIA

Following the tradition of UIS congresses, the 19th ICS will held a series of exhibitions and competitions related to cave art, as follows:

CAVE PHOTO SALON aims to stimulate reflections on the relationship between humans and caves, expand public knowledge about caves and karst, considering social, economic, and environmental aspects, through photographic language. This is a fantastic opportunity to have your work displayed, appreciated, and rewarded by an international speleology audience.

CARTOGRAPHIC SALON invites all cartographers to submit their cave documentation works for this contest. This competition combines both technical expertise and artistic representation.

SPELEMEDIA is a competition for videos and films related to the underground world: caves, abysses, speleology, exploration, science, conservation and restoration, art, and more. The contest is open to both amateurs and professionals.

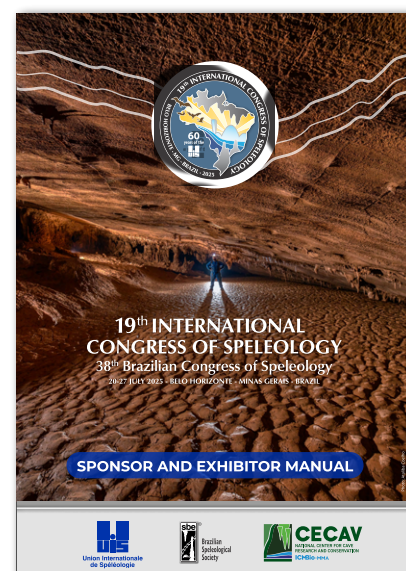
For those who have not yet registered, there is still time, whether to compete or simply exhibit your work. Details and rules are in their respective documents, which covers are below. Click on the image to access each document and make contact with the coordinators. Deadline for **submissions is May 15th 2025**.



CAVE ART SALON (SPELEOART) is the Congress space dedicated to exhibiting works of art inspired by caving. Artworks can be in any medium, from sketches to digitally altered photographs, computer graphics, ceramics and sculpture, textiles and mixed media. The theme must involve karst and caves, with a focus on the core interest of speleology.

To submit your speleological artwork, contact Rafael Balestrieri at speleoart_saloon@speleo2025.org. **Deadline for submissions is May 15th 2025**.

EXHIBITIONS. The exhibition area, one of the highlights of the 19th ICS, will occupy approximately 10,000 m² on the second floor of the venue. To ensure successful and organized participation for those who had reserved space, whether for sponsors, vendors, or just exhibitors, there is a manual available to guide them through all the procedures and deadlines for operations. Even so, if there is still any questions, please, write to: exhibitor_vendor@speleo2025.org



10 SOCIAL PROGRAM

Trips and formal papers are excellent ways to exchange information and meet people. So are social events. Fun activities throughout the week will entertain and educate children. For adults, the 19th ICS registration includes several formal and casual events designed to strengthen old friendships and build new ones.

The main social celebrations scheduled are:

COCKTAIL AND BANQUETS

- **Opening cocktail:** Sunday evening, July 20th, after the opening ceremony of the Congress.
- **UIS 60th Anniversary party cocktail:** Monday evening, July 21st, with the launch of the book 60 YEARS OF THE UIS - 1965-2025, by José Ayrton Labegalini, UIS past President 2001-2005.
- **Michel Le Bret Award cocktail:** Tuesday evening, July 22nd, the third issue of this Brazilian speleological award will recognize and reward works of greatest relevance for the management and conservation of Brazilian speleological heritage.
- **Awards Evening:** The evening of Friday, July 25th, will be dedicated to revealing and celebrating the winners of the various competitions and contests held throughout the week of the Congress.
- **ICS Banquet:** Saturday, July 26th, the Closing Banquet will include the UIS Prizes, which award the main publications and achievements of world speleology in the period between two ICSs in different categories, as well as the France Habe Prize, which acknowledges projects dedicated to the protection and management of caves and karst around the world.

The meals for these events will be prepared by the best Caterers in Belo Horizonte and region.

Participants in the Full Category will be entitled to attend all of them at no additional cost. Participants of other categories (except one day) are also invited to attend by extra fee and prior reservation.

SPELEOBAR

One of the most traditional places for ICS people to gather for moments of relaxation, the so-called SpeleoBar will be set up in two external areas of BeFly Minascentro, totaling 1,335 m².

In addition to typical dishes and appetizers of delicious Minas Gerais cuisine, the adults will enjoy different types of local craft beers and "*Caipirinha*", the famous Brazilian drink.

SPELEOKIDS

During the event, young explorers will have a special place just for them. Bring your children to enjoy this playful and educational environment designed to spark their curiosity about the fascinating world of caves!

To make the experience even more special, the Organizing Committee, in partnership with the [GeoMamas Network](#) of the Brazilian Association of Women in Geosciences (ABMGeo), has also made a form to identify better and meet the needs of those attending the event with children. [Click here](#) to access the form. We appreciate your collaboration!

SPELEOLYMPICS

Considered the main "sporting" attraction of the ICSs, SpeleOlympics 2025 will maintain the tradition with a series of speleological simulators installed in the BeFly Minascentro, the Congress venue, where candidates will have the opportunity to test their skills and participate in competitions in different categories.

Detailed information and rules can be found in the "SpeleOlympics 2025 Guide", available on the Congress website in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. To access the English version, please, click on the image below.



General Coordinator: **Rodrigo Lopes Ferreira** - Contact: scientificcomission@speleo2025.org

The 19th ICS will feature a range of topics organized into sessions with simultaneous presentations in different rooms, while posters will be on permanent display throughout the whole week of the Congress. Ten Symposia are also scheduled, as follows:

COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES

• Archeology in Caves

Coordination: André Strauss

• Paleontology in Caves

Coordination: Alex Hubbe & Donald McFarlane

• Subterranean Biology

Coordination: Marconi Souza Silva, Annette Summers & Palacios Vargas

• Karst Geomorphology

Coordination: Lucas Padoan de Sá Godinho & Nadja Zupan Hajna

• Geochronology, Paleoclimatology, and Climate Change

Coordination: Giselle Utida & Phillipe Hausemann

• Climatology and Monitoring

Coordination: Valdir Felipe Novello & José-Maria Calaforra

• Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis

Coordination: José Antônio Ferrari & Paul Williams

• Pseudokarst and Non-Traditional Karst

Coordination: Joel Rodet & Jan Urban

• Cave Mineralogy and Sediments

Coordination: Bogdan P. Onac & Paolo Forti

• Artificial Cavities

Coordination: Hernani Mota de Lima & Mario Parise

• Volcanic Caves

Coordination: John Brush

• History of Speleology, Arts and Letters

Coordination: Daivisson Batista Santos & Maria Alejandra Perez

• Cave and Karst Protection and Management

Coordination: Luciana Alt & Jean Claude Thies

SubCommittee on Legislation

Coordination: Diego Bento & Nathalia Uasapud

SubCommittee on Cave and Karst Tourism

Coordination: Vitor Moura & Friedrich Oedl

SubCommittee on Environmental Education

Coordination: Christiane Donato & András Hegedus

SubCommittee on Audio and Video Productions

Coordination: Daniel Menin & Boris Watz

• Exploration, Speleological Techniques, and Materials

SubCommittee on Exploration

Coordination: Elizandra Gomig & Natalia Morata

SubCommittee on Cave Diving

Coordination: Livia Medeiros & Rodrigo Severo

SubCommittee on Topography, Mapping, 3D Scanning, and Documentation

Coordination: Carlos Grohmann & Patricia Kambesis

• Cave Rescue

Coordination: Simone Devus & Gyula Hegedüs

• Special Topics

Coordination: Rodrigo Lopes Ferreira

SYMPOSIA

• Subterranean Biology

Coordination: Rafaela Bastos Pietrobon & Diego Bento

• Chiroptero fauna

Coordination: Enrico Bernard

• Cave Paleontology

Coordination: Mário Dantas

• Cave Diving

Coordination: Livia Medeiros

• Cave and Karst Protection and Management

Coordination: Jocy Cruz

• Caves in Ferruginous Rocks

Coordination: Allan Calux

• Artificial Cavities

Coordination: Mario Parise

• Arts and Letters

Coordination: Taraneh Khaleghe

• Glaciars, Firn, and Ice Cave

Coordination: Bulat Mavlyudov

• Karst Geology

Coordination: Lucas Padoan de Sá Godinho

12 EXCURSIONS AND FIELD TRIPS

WEDNESDAY TRIPS (WT)

The 19th ICS offers 16 options for Wednesday Trips during the mid-week break from sessions, symposia, and meetings. Descriptions of each itinerary are in the [19th ICS Second Circular](#) and in the Congress website ([click here](#) to access).

Participants registered in the full category have the benefit of choosing one of these tours, subject to availability. Those registered in the partial and children's categories can also choose to join them, but at an additional cost and also subject to availability once most of them are already completed.

Attention, please: June 30th is the deadline to register for Wednesday Trips.

ONE-DAY TRIPS

Remember that some of itineraries of Wednesday Trips, and others, can be taken by congress participants and their companions during the whole week of the congress. These outings are suitable for the whole family to get away, try typical food, and have some fun.

Interested parties should contact **MAAC Travel**,

the 19th ICS official Tourism Agency, which will have an office installed inside the Congress venue to assist with additional tour needs (see contact information on [page 5](#) of this circular).

PRE- AND POST-CONGRESS TRIPS

For pre- and/or post-Congress trips 25 options were planned to occur throughout Brazil. Descriptions are in the [19th ICS Second Circular](#).

For those who have already booked a pre- and/or post-Congress trip, please [click here](#) to access and carefully read the important information and instructions.

Attention, please: May 15th 2025 is the deadline to register for pre- and post-congress trips.

CAVING TRIPS

During the Congress, there will be opportunities to do what has brought us all together, go caving! Such a trips will be to caves of different types in the vicinity of Belo Horizonte and can be agreed with local cavers/speleologists during the event.



DATE - JULY 2025	MORNING	AFTERNOON	EVENING
Sat 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return from pre-Congress Excursions • UIS Bureau Meeting • Venue closed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return from pre-Congress Excursions • UIS Bureau Meeting • Venue closed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return from pre-Congress Excursions • No evening program • Venue closed
Sun 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration of General Assembly Delegates • UIS General Assembly (First Session) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start of registrations (available all week) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening Ceremony of the 19th ICS and 38^o CBE • Opening Keynote Lecture • Welcome party
Mon 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific and Technical Presentations • Symposia • Keynote Lecture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific and Technical Presentations • Symposia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UIS 60th Anniversary Ceremony and launch of the book "SIXTY YEARS OF THE UIS-1965-2025" • UIS Anniversary Party
Tue 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific and Technical Presentations • Symposia • Keynote Lecture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific and Technical Presentations • Symposia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michel Le Bret Prizes Award Ceremony • Commemorative Cocktail
Wed 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday Trips • Open SpeleMedia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday Trips • Open SpeleMedia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No evening program
Thu 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific and Technical Presentations • Symposia • Keynote Lecture • SpeleMedia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific and Technical Presentations • Symposia • SpeleMedia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evening Program
Fri 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific and Technical Presentations • Symposia • Keynote Lecture • SpeleMedia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific and Technical Presentations • Symposia • SpeleMedia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contests and SpeleOlympics Awards' Ceremony • Evening Awards
Sat 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific and Technical Presentations • Symposia • Best of SpeleMedia • Keynote Lecture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific and Technical Presentations • Symposia • Best of SpeleMedia • Brazilian Speleological Society General Assembly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19th ICS Closing Banquet • UIS Prizes Award Awards Ceremony • France Habe Prize Award Ceremony
Sun 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UIS General Assembly (Second Session) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICS Closing Ceremony 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No evening program
Mon 28	Post-Congress Excursions departure (or as arranged)		

Data		SUNDAY, 20 JULY 2025		MONDAY, 21 JULY 2025							
Auditorium Time		Aud. 01	Aud. 06	Aud. 01	Aud. 02	Aud. 03	Aud. 04	Aud. 05	Aud. 06	Aud. 07	Aud. 08
8h	8h20		UIS General Assembly - First Session		Symposium on Cave Diving	Symposium on Glaciers, Firn, and Ice Caves	Oral Presentations - Committee on Geochronology, Paleoclimatology, and Climate Change	Oral Presentation - Sub-Committee on Audio and Video Productions	Oral Presentations - Committee on Subterranean Biology		
8h20	8h40										
8h40	9h										
9h	9h20										
9h20	9h40										
9h40	10h										
10h	10h20										
10h20	10h40										
10h40	11h										
11h - 12h											
12h - 14h											
14h	14h20					Oral Presentations - Committee on Archeology in Caves	Oral Presentations - Sub-Committee on Legislation	Oral Presentations - Committee on Pseudokarst and Non-Traditional Karst	Oral Presentations - Committee on Subterranean Biology	Oral Presentations - Special Topics	
14h20	14h40										
14h40	15h										
15h	15h20										
15h20	15h40										
15h40 - 16h											
16h	16h20										
16h20	16h40										
16h40	17h										
17h	17h20										
17h20	17h40			Oral Presentations - Sub-Committee on Legislation	Oral Presentations - Committee on Pseudokarst and Non-Traditional Karst	Oral Presentations - Committee on Subterranean Biology	Oral Presentations - Special Topics	Meeting UIS Commission on Archeology and Paleontology in Caves - President Donald MacFarlane			
17h40	18h										
18h	18h20										
18h20 - 19h				Break							
19h - 20h		19 th ICS and 38 ^o CBE Opening Ceremony		Celebration of the UIS 60 th Anniversary							
20h - 21h		Keynote with GEORGE VENI Living with Karst: Results and Possibilities from the International Year of Caves and Karst		Cocktail 60 th Anniversary of the UIS - Launch of the book "60 YEARS OF THE UIS-1965-2025" - with autographs by the author José Ayrton Labegallini							
21h - 23h		Welcome Party on the 3 rd Floor									

CONGRESS PROGRAM OVERVIEW - *Subject to change*

Date		TUESDAY, 22 JULY 2025							
Auditorium Time		Aud. 01	Aud. 02	Aud. 03	Aud. 04	Aud. 05	Aud. 06	Aud. 07	Aud. 08
8h	8h20		Oral Presentations - Committee on History of Espeleology, Arts, and Letters	Oral Presentations - Committee on Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis	Oral Presentations - Committee on Subterranean Biology	Oral Presentations - Committee on Cave Rescue	Symposium on Caves in Ferruginous Rocks	Oral Presentations - Subcommittee on Cave and Karst Tourism	
8h20	8h40								
8h40	9h								
9h	9h20								
9h20	9h40								
9h40	10h					Meeting UIS Cave Rescue Commission - President Gyula Hegedüs			
10h	10h20								
10h20	10h40								
10h40 - 10h50		Coffee break							
11h - 12h		Keynote with STEFANO MAMMOLA: Global Conservation of Subterranean Biodiversity							
12h - 13h30		Lunch							
13h30 - 14h		Poster's Presentation							
14h	14h20	Symposium on Karst Geology	Oral Presentations - Committee on History of Speleology, Arts, and Letters	Oral Presentations - Committee on Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis	Oral Presentations - Committee on Subterranean Biology	Oral Presentations - Subcommittee on Environmental Education		Oral Presentations - Committee on Cave Mineralogy and Sediments	
14h20	14h40								
14h40	15h								
15h	15h20								
15h20	15h40								
15h40 - 16h		Coffee break							
16h	16h20	Symposium on Karst Geology	Oral Presentation - Committee on History of Speleology, Arts, and Letters	Oral Presentations - Committee on Paleontology in Caves	Oral Presentations - Committee on Subterranean Biology	Oral Presentations - Subcommittee on Environmental Education		Oral Presentations - Committee on Cave Mineralogy and Sediments	
16h20	16h40		Meeting UIS Commission on History of Speleology						
16h40	17h								
17h	17h20								
17h20	17h40								
17h40	18h								
18h	18h20								
18h20 - 19h		Break							
19h	20h	Michel Le Bret Brazilian Prize - Awards Ceremony							
20h	21h	Michel Le Bret Awards - Party on the 3 rd Floor							
21h	22h								
22h	23h								



CONGRESS PROGRAM OVERVIEW - *Subject to change*

Date		THURSDAY, 24 JULY 2025							
Auditorium Time		Aud. 01	Aud. 02	Aud. 03	Aud. 04	Aud. 05	Aud. 06	Aud. 07	Aud. 08
8h	8h20		Symposium on Cave Mineralogy	Oral Presentations - Committee on Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis	Symposium on Artificial Cavities	Oral Presentations - Subcommittee on Exploration	SpeleMedia	Oral Presentations - Committee on Karst Geomorphology	
8h20	8h40								
8h40	9h								
9h	9h20								
9h20	9h40								
9h40	10h								
10h	10h20								
10h20	10h40								
10h40 - 11h		Coffee break							
11h - 12h		Keynote with HAZEL BARTON Cave Microbes: How Caves are Going to Save Us All							
12h - 13h30		Lunch							
13h30 - 14h		Poster's Presentation							
14h	14h20	Symposium on Chiropteroфаuna		Oral Presentations - Committee on Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis		Oral Presentations - Subcommittee on Explorations	SpeleMedia	Oral Presentations - Committee on Karst Geomorphology	
14h20	14h40								
14h40	15h								
15h	15h20								
15h20	15h40								
15h40 - 16h		Coffee break							
16h	16h20	Symposium on Chiropteroфаuna		Oral Presentations - Committee on Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis		Oral Presentations - Subcommittee on Exploration	SpeleMedia	Oral Presentation - Committee on Karst Geomorphology	
16h20	16h40								
16h40	17h								
17h	17h20								
17h20	17h40								
17h40	18h								
18h	18h20								
18h20 - 19h		Break							
19h - 21h		Evening program on the 3 rd Floor							
21h - 23h									



CONGRESS PROGRAM OVERVIEW - *Subject to change*

Data		FRIDAY, 25 JULY 2025							
Auditorium		Aud. 01	Aud. 02	Aud. 03	Aud. 04	Aud. 05	Aud. 06	Aud. 07	Aud. 08
Time									
8h	8h20		Symposium on Arqueology in Caves	Oral Presentations - Subcommittee on Topography, Mapping, 3D Scanning, and Documentation	Symposium on Subterranean Biology	Oral Presentations - Committee on Volcanic Caves	SpeleMedia		
8h20	8h40								
8h40	9h							Oral Presentations - Committee on Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis	
9h	9h20								
9h20	9h40								
9h40	10h								
10h	10h20								
10h20	10h40					Meeting UIS Commission on Volcanic Caves - President John Brush			
10h40 - 11h		Coffee break							
11h - 12h		Keynote with ANDY EAVIS The Largest Caves in the World							
12h - 14h		Lunch							
14h - 15h40		Symposium on Caves and Karst Protection and Management	Oral Presentations - Committee on Subterranean Biology	Oral Presentations - Subcommittee on Topography, Mapping, 3D Scanning, and Documentation	Oral Presentations - Committee on Karst Climatology and Monitoring		SpeleMedia		
15h40 - 16h		Coffee break							
16h- 18h20		Symposium on Caves and Karst Protection and Management	Oral Presentations - Committee on Subterranean Biology	Oral Presentations - Subcommittee on Topography, Mapping, 3D Scanning, and Documentation	Oral Presentations - Committee on Karst Climatology and Monitoring		SpeleMedia		
18h20 - 19h		Break							
19h - 21h		Contests Awards Ceremony (photo, map, video, Sami Karkabi, and SpeleOlympics)							
21h - 23h		Award's Party on the 3 rd Floor							



CONGRESS PROGRAM OVERVIEW - Subject to change

Date		SATURDAY, 26 JULY 2025								SUNDAY, 27 JULY 2025				
Auditorium Time		Aud. 01	Aud. 02	Aud. 03	Aud. 04	Aud. 05	Aud. 06	Aud. 07	Aud. 08	Aud. 06				
8h	8h20						SpeleMedia							
8h20	8h40													
8h40	9h													
9h	9h20		Oral Presentations - Subcommittee on Topography, Mapping, 3D Scanning, and Documentation					Oral Presentations - Committee on Subterranean Biology			Symposium on Paleontology in Caves	Symposium on Arts and Letters	Oral Presentations - Subcommittee on Environmental Education	Meeting Commission on Karst and Cave Protection
9h20	9h40													
9h40	10h													
10h	10h20													
10h20	10h40													
10h40 - 11h00		Coffee break												
11h - 12h		Keynote with Robbie Schmittnee: Unveiling the Complex Cave Systems of the Yucatán Peninsula, Mexico												
12h - 14h		Lunch												
14h	14h20		Oral Presentations - Subcommittee on Cave Diving	Oral Presentations - Committee on Subterranean Biology		Symposium on Arts and Letters	SpeleMedia	Oral Presentations - Subcommittee on Environmental Education		19 th ICS and 38 th CBE Closing Ceremony				
14h20	14h40													
14h40	15h													
15h	15h20													
15h20	15h40									Unveiling and passing of the UIS flag				
15h40 - 16:00		Coffee break												
16h	16h20													
16h20 - 18h		SBE General Assembly												
18h - 19h														
19h - 23h		Closing Banquet on the 3 rd Floor with UIS Prizes 2025 and the France Habe Prize Awards Ceremonies												



15 KEYNOTE LECTURES

To further brighten the 19th ICS program, six inspiring keynote lectures are confirmed for the week of the congress. For them, leading figures from the world of speleology have been invited, as follows:

SUNDAY 20 JULY - 19:00

"Living with Karst: Results and Possibilities from the International Year of Caves and Karst"



George Veni
(USA)

- President of the UIS (2017-2022).
- Executive Director of the US National Cave and Karst Research Institute (2007-2023).

MONDAY 21 JULY - 11:00

"UNESCO World Heritage Caves and Karst: Present Situation and Future Prospects"

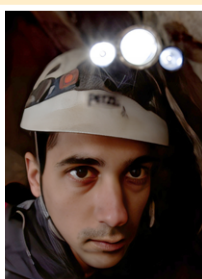


Paul Williams
(New Zealand)

- Adjunct Secretary of the UIS (2005-2013).
- Professor Emeritus, University of Auckland New Zealand
- IUCN Karst and Geoscience Consultant.

TUESDAY 22 JULY - 11:00

"Global Conservation of Subterranean Biodiversity"



Stefano Mammola
(Italy)

- Ecologist and conservation biologist at the Italian National Research Council, with a primary interest in understanding biodiversity patterns from local to continental scales.

THURSDAY 24 JULY - 11:00

"Cave Microbes: How Caves are Going to Save us All"



Hazel Barton
(USA)

- Microbiologist, geologist and cave diving explorer, interested in extremophile microorganisms.

FRIDAY 25 JULY - 11:00

"The Largest Caves in the World"



Andy Eavis
(United Kingdom)

- President of the UIS (2005-2013)
- Cave Explorer and organizer of over 40 expeditions to many parts of the world.
- Honored by the Royal Geographical Society with their Top Award.
- In 2018 the expedition team received the Malaysian Merdeka Award for their contribution to the people of Malaysia.

SATURDAY 26 JULY - 11:00

"Unveiling the Complex Cave Systems of the Yucatán Peninsula"



Robbie Schmittner
(Germany)

- He has been studying the mostly water-filled cave systems beneath the Yucatán Peninsula for 27 years. Together with his colleagues, he has successfully connected fifteen cave systems, documenting the world's longest underwater cave (Sac Actun).





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