



**baraćeve
špilje**
barać caves

STELEON
Centar podzemne baštine

29th international cave bear symposium

27th-28th september 2024.
Barac caves, Rakovica, Croatia



Conference Organisers:

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In cooperation with:

Public Institution Barać Caves – Protected areas management in the municipality of Rakovica

Nova Kršlja 47A, 47245 Rakovica, Croatia

Dear Cave Bear Friends,

in 2024 we will meet at the SPELEON, Centre of subterranean heritage in Rakovica, Croatia.

Barac Caves were among the first caves in Croatia open for visitors back in 1892. The data gathered by the first explorers (prof. Mijo Kišpatić) before opening, suggested that caves had also been visited by many Ice Age animals, coming here to hibernate, grow offsprings, or simply to peacefully eat prey. Today we know that the Barac Caves hide a large number of Pleistocene fauna fossilised bones, as well as at least 48,000-year-old traces of modern humans, and Neanderthals. The first scientific research is launched in 2013 when valuable archaeological and paleontological findings have been discovered. A year before, the project called Plitvice Valleys (*Plitvičke doline*) had kicked off, with a part of it exploring the Barac Caves and its heritage. The idea was to establish a small museum named The House of Caves. However, later research resulted in much greater archaeological and paleontological findings, so the initial idea became „too tight“. That is how the idea of the Speleon Centre came to life. The implementation began in 2016, after an EU grant had been approved. Today, seven years later, the Centre of Subterranean Heritage, located in the vicinity of the Barac Caves, is finally a reality. It opened to the public in 2023. With 850 sq m (out of 1.200 sq m in total) being available for public and exhibitions, the Centre strives to present all of the research so far conducted in the Rakovica Municipality and the Barac Caves Protected Landscape area.

Venue:

By plane: The closest airport is Zagreb, from there are bus connections to Rakovica:
<https://getbybus.com/en-gb/zagreb-rakovica>

By car: The region can be reached quickly and easily by car via motorway

How to reach the SPELEON: <https://barac-caves.com/how-to-reach-us/>

If you're arriving from the direction of Zagreb, turn left in the town centre of Rakovica and then follow the signs that (via Grabovac) lead to Barac Caves.

After approximately 7 kilometres, you will reach the parking lot of Barac Caves.

If you're arriving from the direction of Plitvice Lakes, turn right towards Irinovac when you reach Grabovac, and before arriving at Drežnik Grad turn left for Lipovača.

Continue following the signs and you will reach Barac Caves in about ten minutes.

COORDINATES

44.9844400

15.7266680

At the Barac caves and Speleon center there is free parking for all visitors, and at the center there is a charging station for electric vehicles. There is Coffee shop, Children's playroom and Souvenir shop. Center is adapted to all ages and adapted to people with disabilities. Pets are not allowed to enter.

Possible accommodations around the Barač Caves

OUR suggestion

1. <https://www.housetina.com/>
2. <https://www.sedraholidayresort.com/>
3. <https://www.trivago.hr/hr/oar/hotel-plitvicka-vila-rakovica?search=100-960569#>

4. General Booking for Rakovica

https://www.booking.com/searchresults.hr.html?ss=Rakovica&ssne=&ssne_untouched=&label=gen173nr-1BCAEoggl46AdIM1gEaGWIAQGYARC4ARfIAQ_YAQHoAQGIaGGoAgO4Avva_K4GwAIB0gIkYmYxOWY0MGQtNWl5MC00ODQyLTk5YzAtN2MxNDI5MmQ2OTEz2AIF4AIB&sid=0a087b944822abb9c900ae7107ea7f74&aid=304142&lang=hr&sb=1&src_elem=sb&src=index&dest_id=314611&dest_type=city&ac_position=0&ac_click_type=b&ac_langcode=en&ac_suggestion_list_length=5&search_selected=true&search_pageview_id=f1b85afd779d0010&ac_meta=GhBmMWI4NWVmZDc3OWQwMDEwIAAoATICZW46BIJha292aUAASgBQAA%3D%3D&group_adults=2&no_rooms=1&group_children=0#map_opened

Program

Friday, 27.09.2024. Day of presentations

8:00 h	Coffee bar and entrance hall opening
9:00 h	Registration at the SPELEON Center
9:30-17:00 h	Presentations
17:00-18:00 h	Poster session

Saturday, 28.09.2024

Excursions Day

- 9:00 h Barac caves guided tour
- 10:30 h Speleon guided tour
- 14:00 h Plitvice lakes national park tour

Registration

The deadline for registration is **15.07.24**

Please use the separate registration form and send it back to: nadja.kavcik@univie.ac.at

Symposium fee

The symposium fee is 70 EUR. For students we offer a reduced fee of 60 EUR. The fee includes entry to all presentations, refreshments during the day of presentations, lunch at the center (without drinks) and free entrance to the Upper Barac cave (only one opened for visiting), Speleon and Plitvice Lakes national park.

The conference fee must be paid into the account below by 30.07.24 at the latest.

Payment

Account number: IBAN: HR11 2400 0081 1902 6115 4

Karlovačka banka d.d.

SWIFT BIC: KALCHR2X

Account owner: Barac Cave Public Institution

Address: Nova Kršlja 47A, 47245 Rakovica

Model and reference number:

Model: HR99

Leave the call to the number blank

Payment description: Registration fee ICBS2024 (participant's name and surname)

Presentations and posters

Presentations may be given in English and should last 20 minutes + 5 minutes of discussion. Beamer and Laptop will be provided. Please prepare your presentations as MS PowerPoint file.

Posters should have the format DIN A0 portrait, Boards, pins and tapes will be provided.

Abstracts

The deadline for submission of abstracts is **31.07.2024**.

Abstracts may be written in English or German with a text length of maximum 3,000 characters including spaces. The texts should also contain the names, addresses, e-mails of all authors – please underline the author who will talk! All figures (photos, illustrations, diagrams, maps) should be provided as separate files (JPG, TIFF, PNG). Tables have to be submitted in separate MS Excel files. Texts should be provided unformatted in MS Word files.

You can send your Abstracts to: **nadja.kavcik@univie.ac.at**