

Ice ageEUROPE

NETWORK OF HERITAGE SITES

Magazine

ISSUE 6 - 2022

Rewriting our understanding of Neanderthals

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Dedicated to the protection, research and communication of Ice Age heritage

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DEAR READERS,

Our annual magazine is now published in its sixth edition. We are grateful for the worldwide response to our free publication and hope that we can once again provide you with insights into many exciting developments in the context of European Ice Age heritage.

In this issue you will find the new feature "In conversation with...". We spoke to renowned author Rebecca Wragg Sykes about her book, *Kindred: Neanderthal Life, Love, Death and Art*, which has since been translated into many languages and points the way to a better understanding of our close relatives.

A job well done needs to be celebrated. A section of this magazine is therefore devoted to several recent anniversaries: The 20th of the new site of the National Museum and Research Centre of Altamira in Spain, the 25th of the new Neanderthal Museum, Germany, and the 50th anniversary of cultural heritage mediation on Hušnjakovo hill in Croatia, where the Krapina Neanderthal site and its museum is located (see pages 12–17).

On the first pages of the magazine, you will not only find our new network map. We also share with you some insights into the activities of the Ice Age Europe network. Like almost everywhere, digitization is a topic that keeps us busy. Not only has our collaboration become more digital in the course of the last years, but our joint projects as well. Read about our new Ice Age Europe Online Tours and the Virtual Ice Age Experience, a significantly elaborated successor to our virtual dice game, which we offered from 2014 for a number of years.

In 2022, we are again official partner of the European Archaeology Days, June 17 to 19, 2022. On Sunday, 18 September 2022, the network members and partners will also celebrate the 5th edition of the international Ice Age Europe Day. Celebrate with us, online or on site, on these days or any others, and explore the Ice Age heritage around you.

And now, enjoy reading!

Dr. Bärbel Auffermann

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Director of the Neanderthal Museum, Germany

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© Creswell Crags Museum & Heritage Centre

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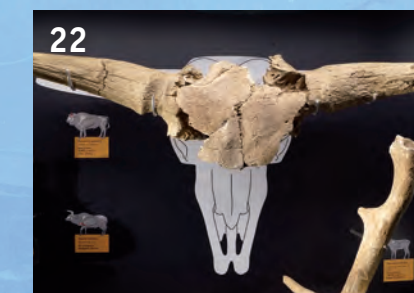
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Ice age europe

NETWORK OF HERITAGE SITES

- Europe's coastline today
- Ice Age coastline
- Maximum ice coverage



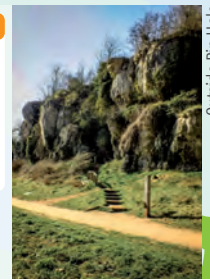
5 CRESWELL CRAGS MUSEUM & HERITAGE CENTRE, UK

Make profound connections and get lasting inspiration by stepping through 50,000 years of human history.

New gorge audio trail spanning 125,000 years available from Summer 2022.

www.creswell-crags.org.uk

HAVE A LOOK



Outside Pin Hole

6 SCLADINA CAVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CENTRE – Espace muséal d'Andenne, Belgium

"Le Phare" presents Scladina, a major prehistoric cave, and the ceramic history of Andenne.

From May 2022, the Ceramic Art Andenne is dedicated to contemporary ceramics.

www.lephare-andenne.be/ema

HAVE A LOOK



Le Phare, Andenne

7 PRÉHISTOMUSEUM, Belgium

Convert your family into a tribe and live the amazing journey of Sapiens! A unique cultural adventure between heritage and nature.

"La terre en héritage, du Néolithique à nous", opening December 2022.

www.prehisto.museum

HAVE A LOOK



© Préhistomuseum

2 NATIONAL MUSEUM AND RESEARCH CENTER OF ALTAMIRA, Spain

Discover the first art of humanity, the Palaeolithic rock art in the cave of Altamira, recognised as a World Heritage Site since 1985.

Exhibition in 2022: World Heritage rock art in India.

www.museodealtamira.es

HAVE A LOOK



© Museum of Altamira - Pedro Saura

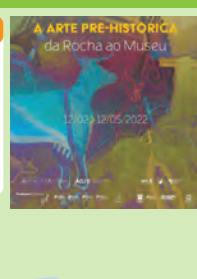
1 CÔA MUSEUM AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK OF THE CÔA VALLEY, Portugal

As an immense open-air gallery, the Côa Valley features more than a thousand outcrops with rock art at almost 100 sites.

Exhibitions: From The Rock to the Museu / Artist Graça Morais

www.arte-coa.pt

HAVE A LOOK



3 CAVE OF SANTIMAMIÑE AND BIZKAIA MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY, Spain

The visit to the replica of the cave and the museum in Bilbao will draw you into the Palaeolithic of the Biscay region.

New access to the entrance hall of the cave, opening Summer 2022.

www.bizkaikoa.bizkaia.eus

HAVE A LOOK



Magdalenian engraving, Lumentxa (Lekeitio)

4 EKAINBERRI – THE REPLICA OF THE EKAIN CAVE, Spain

Discover the Basque coastline's most stunning cave paintings, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, through a journey for all senses to the origins of culture on our planet.

Celebrating Basque Caves' Day on June, 6th 2022.

www.ekainberri.eus

HAVE A LOOK



Ekain Cave's Great Panel

8 NEANDERTHAL MUSEUM, Germany

The Neanderthal Museum in Mettmann welcomes you in the valley where in 1856 the famous, name giving Neanderthal bones have been found.

New „Höhlenblick“ experience tower at the discovery site, opening summer 2022.

www.neanderthal.de

HAVE A LOOK



© Neanderthal Museum

9 MUSEUM OF PREHISTORY BLAUBEUREN, Germany

The URMU displays archaeological finds from the UNESCO World Heritage Site "Caves and Ice Age Art of the Swabian Jura", including the oldest artworks, instruments and jewellery of humankind.

New immersive exhibition on sound.

www.urmu.de

HAVE A LOOK



Transformation © urmu - Hannes Wiedmann

10 ARCHAEO-PARK VOGEL-HERD, Germany

The Archaeopark Vogelherd in Niederstotzingen welcomes you in the Lone valley where famous ice age art was found in 1931.

Two live size mammoths are welcoming visitors since 2021.

www.archaeopark-vogelherd.de

HAVE A LOOK



© Archaeopark Vogelherd

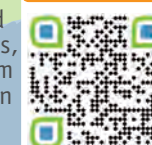
11 FUMANE CAVE, Italy

Grotta di Fumane hosted both Neanderthals and sapiens, restoring traces of the symbolism and daily life of the two human species.

Come and visit us during the summer excavations to see behind the scenes of the archaeological activity!

www.grottadifumane.eu

HAVE A LOOK



© Grotta di Fumane

12 MUSE – SCIENCE MUSEUM OF TRENTO, Italy

Its task is to interpret nature and its relationship to humankind through time stimulating scientific curiosity and the pleasure of knowledge.

Temporary exhibition "Lascaux 3D experience" opening summer 2022.

www.muse.it

HAVE A LOOK



13 KRAPINA NEANDERTHAL MUSEUM, Croatia

The museum at the richest-in-finds Neanderthal site in the world makes a unique cultural and tourist destination – the best in Europe!

New exhibitions, educational workshops and various cultural events throughout the year.

www.mkn.mhz.hr

HAVE A LOOK



Reconstruction of a Neanderthal boy. © KRANEVUS

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INSIDE ICE AGE EUROPE

WAIT A MINUTE, DOC. ARE YOU TELLING ME YOU BUILT A TIME MACHINE...?

Author: Rick Springer / Neanderthal Museum, Germany, research officer

The Virtual **Ice Age Experience** is a new, joint project of the Ice Age Europe Network, made possible by the financial support of the German national funding scheme KULTUR.GEMEINSCHAFTEN. The project is carried out by the German network members Archaeopark Vogelherd, Museum of Prehistory Blaubeuren and Neanderthal Museum in cooperation with the Institute for Museum Studies at the University of Würzburg. By further including the international partners of the Ice Age Europe Network and with the prospect of gaining valuable experiences, the product will serve as a prototype for a bigger, trans-European project.

The prototype project aims to send visitors out on an intuitive and interactive time travel. Following a fascinating story, digital artefacts and many playful elements will bring the extinct animals and hunters of the mammoth steppe back to life. The low-threshold discovery tour takes advantage of the possibilities

of virtuality, making finds and sites accessible in a way that is hardly possible in a museum or at the sites itself. Furthermore, archaeological sites in different regions can be discovered in a sustainable way, without putting artefacts or sites at risk of corrosion. Instead, users will become actors in a virtual Ice Age world.

Using a Design Thinking approach, the project consistently puts the needs and expectations of its audience in front. Workshops with the active involvement of users and media designers serve to evaluate and optimise the prototype as part of an iterative development process. The virtual journey will be publicly accessible by the end of 2022. As a best practice example, it will help especially medium and small-sized institutions in the field to realise own digital projects.

More information will be available on our website www.ice-age-europe.eu and our social media channels.



© Sound on/Pexels, Neanderthal Museum

“The prototype project aims to send visitors out on an intuitive and interactive time travel.”



The granite environment surrounding the new Palaeolithic figure at Faia. © Côa Parque

UPPER PALAEOLITHIC ART IN A MONUMENTAL GRANITE LANDSCAPE. NEW FINDINGS FROM THE SITE OF FAIA (CÔA VALLEY, PORTUGAL)

Côa Museum and Archaeological Park of the Côa Valley, Portugal /

Authors: Mário Reis, Lara Bacelar Alves, Bárbara Carvalho, Vera Caetano, João Muralha Cardoso, Andrea Martins, research team



A view across the canyon of Faia, in a north-south perspective. Palaeolithic Art is concentrated on the central area, © Côa Parque



A summer view of the central area of Faia, seen from the south. The arrows signal the rock outcrops where Palaeolithic Art occurs: above, rock 6 (white) and below the newly discovered rock 19 (red), © Côa Parque

In the Côa Valley region, the place name “Faia” means “cliff” or “escarpment” and is often applied to the steep slopes of the valley’s granite environment, upstream from the schist landscape typical of the areas closer to the confluence with river Douro. The latter contain most of the remains conforming the immense Côa Valley rock art complex, covering 30.000 years from the Upper Palaeolithic up to the present. As known, it gathers the largest collection of open-air Palaeolithic rock art worldwide, with more than 4000 figures distributed in over 60 different sites. Faia is one of these sites, where Palaeolithic art was identified in 1995 during the fierce controversy that opposed the construction of a hydro-electric dam to the rock art heritage then found in archaeological survey, which happily culminated in its preservation and the World Heritage status conferred by UNESCO in 1998. Soon, Faia deservedly became one of the most iconic rock art sites of the assemblage, now further highlighted by a new discovery.

The site of Faia shines through its majestic landscape, telluric roughness, rockiness and wildness, not to mention that it is so far the only site known worldwide in which Upper Palaeolithic Art is found on a granite environment. It is a narrow gorge, approximately 1450 m long and 200 m deep, with exceptionally steep rocky slopes. The Palaeolithic Art concentrates in the central parts of the canyon, which are also the hardest to reach. This is one of the most striking features regarding the setting of these engraved surfaces: its dangerous and difficult access. As a matter of fact, walking 700 m along the rugged terrain can easily take over an hour. The monumentality of the place increases the further inside the canyon we move and reaches its pinnacle precisely in the central area of the gorge where the Ice Age figures assemble.

Sharing their landscape setting with post-glacial paintings, Palaeolithic Art, engraved both by pecking and abrasion, occur

on two different settings. Rock 7 is in the entrance of a dark cavity made by the juxtaposition of large fallen blocks, displaying a large doe in an almost upright position, which outline takes advantage of the water-eroded smooth and convex shape of the backdrop. Rock 6 sits on the bottom of a colossal escarpment and shows, to the left, the heads of a horse and an aurochs facing and overlapping each other, accompanied by a third, undetermined, animal figure; to the right, a superb sequence of four aurochs’ heads, some of which show the engraved lines simultaneously painted with red ochre, an original and rather intriguing feature within the Côa Valley rock art. Stylistically, they all seem to cover a relatively short period, possibly between Late Gravettian and early Magdalenian.

In October 2021, field surveys aiming the study of the post-glacial rock art as part of the LandCRAFT project¹ led to the discovery of a new Palaeolithic figure on a surface that lies just in front of rock 6. It is now recorded as rock 19. Even though it exhibits a large engraved figure, the extreme weathering of the carvings and their discrete position on the panel’s surface partly explain its persistent invisibility until now. It features a single horse, whose dimension and technique closely match those of the other Ice Age engravings in the site. The similarities extend to style: parallels to its large, rounded mane within the region suggest a Solutrean chronology, within the time span proposed for contemporary figures on site.

To sum up, the new discovery of a Palaeolithic engraved horse at Faia emphasises the value of this highly original site: for its diverse and outstanding iconography, deeply connected with its powerful monumentality and for being the only known Palaeolithic art site in the world on granite. ■

ABOUT CÔA MUSEUM AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK OF THE CÔA VALLEY

As an immense open-air gallery, the Côa Valley features more than a thousand outcrops with rock art, identified in almost 100 different sites, predominantly from the Upper Palaeolithic, some 25,000 years ago. In 1998, UNESCO included the Pre-historic Rock Art of the Côa Valley in the World Heritage List. The Côa Museum serves as a gateway to the “real” museum: the open-air rock art sites. At the present time, four sites are open for regular public visitation.

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More information at www.arte-coa.pt

¹ LandCRAFT. The socio-cultural contexts of Late Prehistoric Art in the Côa valley.” is an interdisciplinary research project that includes, as its primary aims, the production of a catalogue of the post-glacial rock art, pigment analysis, site excavation and conservation studies. This work is funded by Portuguese national funds through FCT – Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. with the reference COA/OVD/0055/2019.



On the left, the moment of the discovery of the new Palaeolithic rock in Faia by Bárbara Carvalho, on October 25, 2021. On the right, two images of the Upper Palaeolithic horse figure on rock 19 of Faia obtained by photogrammetry, © Côa Parque

“Faia deservedly became one of the most iconic rock art sites of the assemblage, now further highlighted by a new discovery.”

Further reading

An extended text on this topic, featuring additional images, may be found at: https://issuu.com/almadan/docs/ao25_1

REIS, M., ALVES, L.B., CARVALHO, B., CAETANO, V., CARDOSO, J. M. (2022). Uma Nova Rocha Gravada do Paleolítico Superior no Sítio da Faia (Vale do Côa) – ao ar livre e em ambiente granítico. *Almadan-Online* 25 (1): 9–16.