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Union Internationale de Spéléologie (UIS)  
Commission on Volcanic Caves

*e*-NEWSLETTER



e-NEWSLETTER  
 U.I.S. COMMISSION ON VOLCANIC CAVES

No. 69 - April 2015

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<http://www.uis-speleo.org/>



<http://www.vulcanospeleology.org>

The Commission on Volcanic Caves Newsletter has been published quarterly since December 22, 1993. The Newsletter is available free of charge to all members of the commission, and to others who are interested in lava caves.

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U.I.S. COMMISSION ON VOLCANIC CAVES



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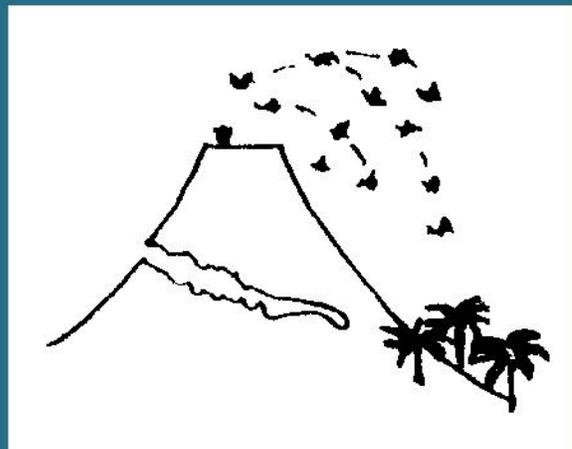
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MISSION STATEMENT

The U.I.S. Commission on Volcanic Caves encourages exploration and scientific investigation of volcanic caves, and hosts the International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology about every two years.



COVER PHOTO

An active eruption during the 1969–1971 Mauna Ulu eruption of Kilauea Volcano, Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, Hawai'i. Photo by J.B. Judd, October 21, 1970. Photo is courtesy of the U.S Geological Survey (U.S.G.S).

You are invited to the

# 17th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology

Ocean View Community Center  
Big Island, Hawai'i, U.S.A.  
February 6–12, 2016



Photo courtesy of the  
U.S.G.S. Hawaiian Volcano Observatory



## 17th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology

Aloha from our mid-Pacific Polynesian island. The small band of cavers on the Big Island of Hawai'i, together with a larger group of regular visitors, welcome you to attend the next Symposium of Vulcanospeleology on Hawaii in 2016.

It will be the 25th anniversary of the last time the symposium was held in Hawai'i. In the past 25 years there have been some momentous discoveries here and we hope that many vulcanospeleologists will make the effort to see the world class lava tubes and other volcanic features (active and dormant) on the Big Island. We, the organizers, will do all we can to make your long trip very

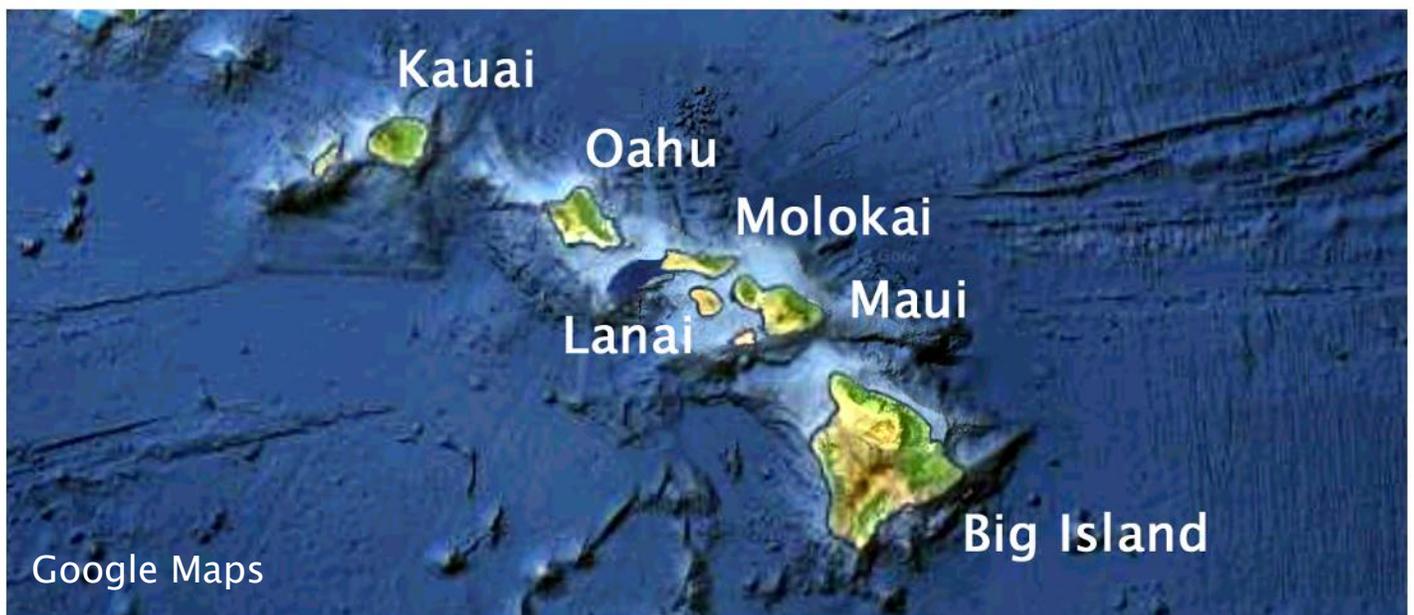
worthwhile.

Since the symposium is 10 months away, plans can, and probably will, change. There will be updated information about accommodations, pre- and post-symposium activities, and cave trips offered during the symposium. We are giving you enough information now so you can decide whether to attend and when to arrive and leave.

If Ocean View is covered in lava, the symposium is off!

Ann Bosted

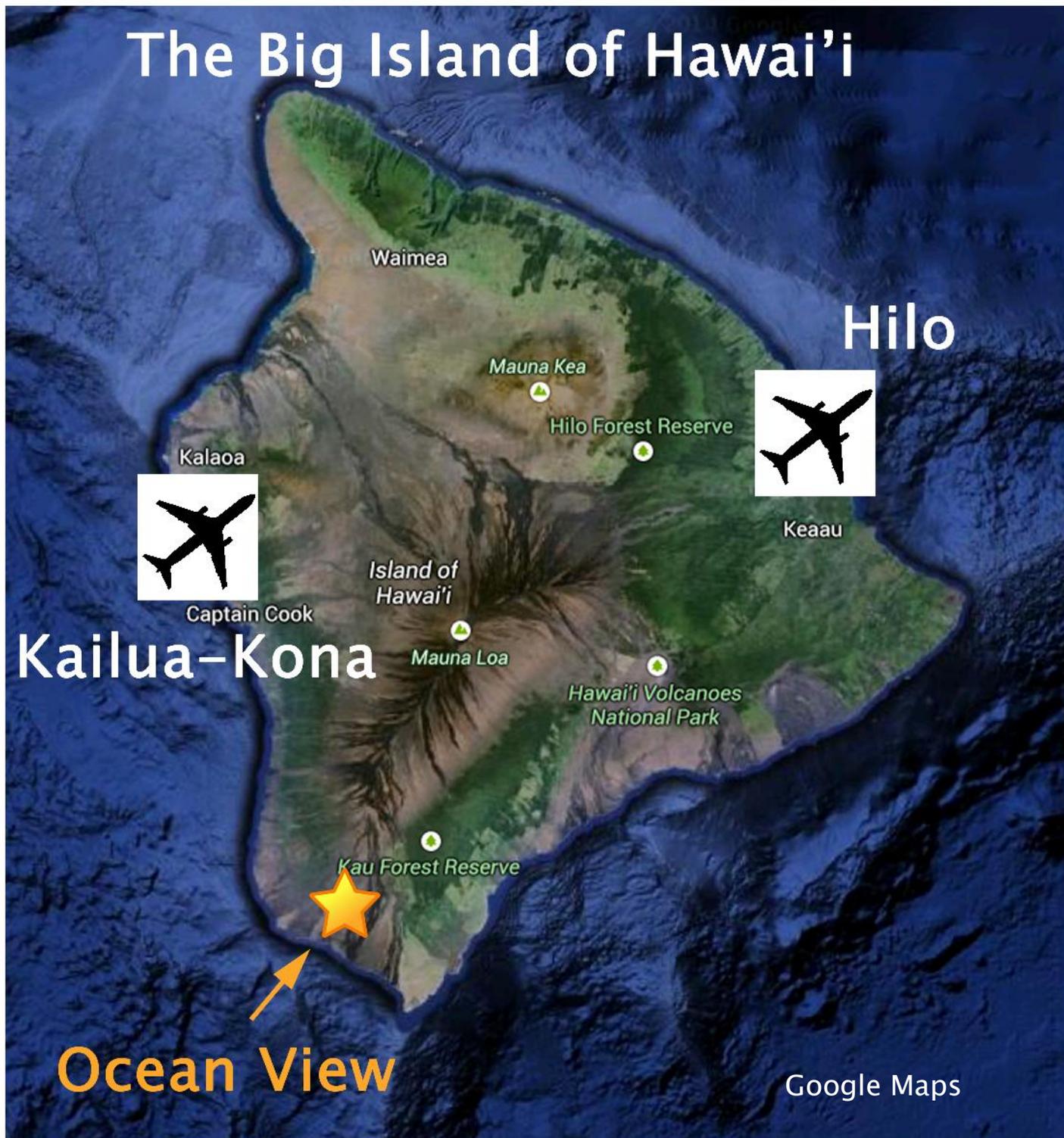
[bosted@earthlink.net](mailto:bosted@earthlink.net)





# U.S. COMMISSION ON VOLCANIC CAVES

Kona Airport (KOA) > Ocean View: 1 hour 30 minute drive on a winding 2-lane road  
Hilo Airport (ITO) > Ocean View: 2 hour drive on a 2-lane highway





# U.I.S. COMMISSION ON VOLCANIC CAVES

## LIMIT ON NUMBER OF ATTENDEES

At the Galapagos symposium, when we proposed holding the next symposium in Hawai'i, we said that we would have to limit the number of attendees to make the Ocean View venue workable and affordable.

After careful consideration, we have set the limit at 80 attendees. As far as we know, no symposium has had more than 80 attendees, so hopefully this will not inconvenience anyone. However, it does

mean that if you are planning to attend, you should register soon to avoid disappointment.

Since there is a limit, we ask that only those who plan to attend most talks and/or most cave trips should register.

If you are traveling with a companion who is not interested in vulcanspeleology, perhaps you should encourage him or her to not register and to pursue other activities.





**SCHEDULE IN BRIEF** (Subject to change)

**Saturday Feb. 6** Registration & welcome party serving pupu's (Hawaiian finger food), beer, wine, soft drinks.

**Sunday Feb. 7** – Talks at the OV Community Center, with lunch provided and dinner at other locations.

**Monday Feb. 8** – Field trips in Ocean View area. Dinner provided

**Tuesday Feb. 9** – Field trips in Volcano area, dinner in Volcanoes National Park, slide show in the Park

**Wednesday Feb. 10** – Field trips in Ocean View area. Dinner provided

**Thursday Feb. 11** – Talks at the OV Community Center, with lunch provided and dinner at other locations.

**Friday Feb. 12** – Field trips in Ocean View area. Farewell dinner party in evening.

**Saturday Feb. 13** – Optional extra field trip. Cost of this trip is not included in the symposium fee. It will cover the cost of renting a bus for the group, lunch, and other incidentals.

**SYMPOSIUM FEES**

The cost for the symposium is estimated to be about \$350 (subject to change) and includes:

1. Renting the Ocean View community center for the talks, providing tea, coffee and lunch on the days of the talks (Thursday & Saturday).
2. The "Welcome" party.
3. Tuesday evening dinner at the Park.
4. Providing 3 dinners at 3 different OV locations on 3 of the 4 nights in the above schedule. On the 4th night attendees can choose where to eat.
5. The "Farewell" party.
6. Appropriate incidentals, such as paperwork and the cost of publishing the proceedings electronically.





## SYMPOSIUM FEES DO NOT INCLUDE:

1. Accommodations. This can range from cheap camping to more deluxe vacation rental. The average cost will be about \$250 per person assuming double occupancy.
2. Transportation.
3. Breakfasts and one dinner.
4. Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park entrance fee (\$10 per vehicle).
5. Harry Schick's tour of Kazumura Cave during the symposium.
6. All other field trips are led by unpaid volunteers..

## TRANSPORTATION

Each attendee must have access to a rental car. We encourage sharing to keep down the costs. We advise sharing with attendees who are also sharing your living space. You can rent cars at both the Kailua-Kona and Hilo airports. You cannot rent vehicles in Ocean View. *Reserve your rental cars now!*

You will need to drive everywhere during the symposium. You will not need 4-wheel drive, but if you are offered a Jeep for little or no extra charge, take it.

Please do not consider attending the symposium without access to a car.



Do not attempt to drive across 'a'a lava in passenger cars



### GETTING TO OCEAN VIEW

The Big Island's two airports are equally convenient to Ocean View. There are direct flights to both Kailua-Kona (KOA) and Hilo (ITO) from many cities on the mainland. If you are flying from other countries, you will likely have to fly through Honolulu and you may have to spend a night in the big city. From Honolulu you can fly to either Hilo or Kailua-Kona. Both airports have car rental facilities. We prefer Kailua-Kona as it is on the dry side of the island, it stays open longer and is generally cheaper.

### AIR QUALITY & HEALTH ISSUES

When the prevailing Trade Winds blow, the town of Ocean View is down wind of the island's active caldera called Halema'uma'u, which has been spewing a plume of sulfur dioxide for about the last 6 years. People who suffer from bad asthma or other respiratory problems should consider not attending the symposium.

[http://health.hawaii.gov/cab/files/2015/02/kilauea\\_vog\\_faq-january-2015b.pdf](http://health.hawaii.gov/cab/files/2015/02/kilauea_vog_faq-january-2015b.pdf)

### ORGANIZERS

There are a few cavers living in Ocean View who are willing to put this event together. They are Peter & Ann Bosted, Ric Elhard & Rose Herrera, and John & Mary Wilson. Stephan Kempe, who lives in Germany and has attended most of the symposia, will be heavily involved and he takes responsibility for organizing the papers and proceedings and keeping us all in line. Hilo caver, Steve Smith, Volcano volcanologist, Jack Lockwood and cave biologist Fred Stone of Kurtistown will all be supporting. We are counting on a huge number of cavers, who regularly cave on the island, to volunteer to lead field trips and help with the running of the symposium.

### THE CAVES

The Big Island of Hawai'i is home to world class lava caves and many of them are in the Ocean View area. These amazing lava caves are the primary reason for holding the symposium in Ocean View. If you go to Bob Gulden's web site, you will see how heavily Hawaiian lava tubes feature in his list of the world's longest. Here is the link:

<http://www.caverbob.com/lava.htm>



### ACCOMMODATIONS

Each attendee will be responsible for finding a place to stay and paying for it. We will provide a list of possible places and prices. If you come, you must choose a place that you like and pay for it independently of the symposium organizers.

The exception is camping. The owner of the campground, a caver, Andreas Pflitsch, asked us to manage it, by arranging the bookings and collecting the fees. If you wish to camp in a yurt, please e-mail [bosted@earthlink.net](mailto:bosted@earthlink.net) to make arrangements.

We are still finalizing a few of the details, so we will send out a circular devoted exclusively to lodging. Please be patient. When it does arrive, please study your options carefully to make sure you are getting a place that suits your needs and your budget.

After doing a preliminary survey of vacation rental accommodation available in Ocean View, we determined that there are about 100 beds available in about 35 homes, guest cottages, small homes or large houses. A rough calculation shows that a person could spend a week

in Ocean View for an average cost of about \$250, assuming double occupancy and a willingness to share large family homes with multiple bedrooms. In addition there are professional Bed and Breakfasts, plus camping in yurts or permanently parked camper vans. Again, we are encouraging attendees to share. It will save money and improve your social life.

### MISCELLANEOUS

We will announce when the symposium web site is ready for registration.

If you change your e-mail address, please inform [bosted@earthlink.net](mailto:bosted@earthlink.net)

More detailed information about Ocean View and pre- & post-symposium activities was provided in a an e-mail. If you did not receive this e-mail:

"FIRST CIRCULAR FOR THE 17TH SYMPOSIUM OF VULCANSPELEOLOGY"

please contact the Bosteds directly or anyone one of the newsletter editorial staff (see page 2). We will be happy to forward that e-mail directly to you.



## Vietnam Volcanic Cave Survey

by

Tsutomu Honda and Hiroshi Tachihara  
NPO Vulcano-Speleological Society, Japan

From December 2013 to January 2015, the joint team of the Geological Museum of Vietnam belonging to the General Department of Geology and Minerals and NPO Vulcano-Speleological Society of Japan carried out a survey for volcanic caves in the lava flowed from the Chu'B'luk Volcano located in the central Vietnam plateau in Dak Nong Province, CU JUT Prefecture.

As a result of the survey, the joint team explored 18 lava tube caves, among which the measured total length of the caves C2, C3, C4, C6, C61, C7, C8, C9 and A1 is 4832.5 m.

The longest lava tube cave found is C7 which has a total length of 1066.5 m. The second longest cave is 967.8m of C3+C4 lava tube cave. The third longest



cave is 791.0m of C8 lava tube cave. The sixth longest cave is 475.5m of C0 lava tube cave. The seventh longest cave of A1 lava tube cave has a length of 438m. The eighth longest cave of C2 lava tube cave has a length of 402.2m.

So far the longest lava tube caves known from South East Asia since then was Hang Doi 1+2 Km 122 cave (549m) and Hang Doi 1+2 Km 12 3cave (495m) discovered by a team of speleologists from the German Speleoclub Berlin and members of the Vietnam Academy of Sciences (Institute for Tropical Biology) in the Tan Phu area of Dong Nai Province.

Consequently, Hang Doi 1+2 Km 122 and Hang Doi 1+2 Km 12 3 cave is fourth and fifth longest lava tube cave in South East Asia. Then, after C0, A1 and C2, Gua Lawa II cave in Indonesia will be ninth longest in South East Asia. Vietnam hosts now eight longest lava tube caves in South East Asia.

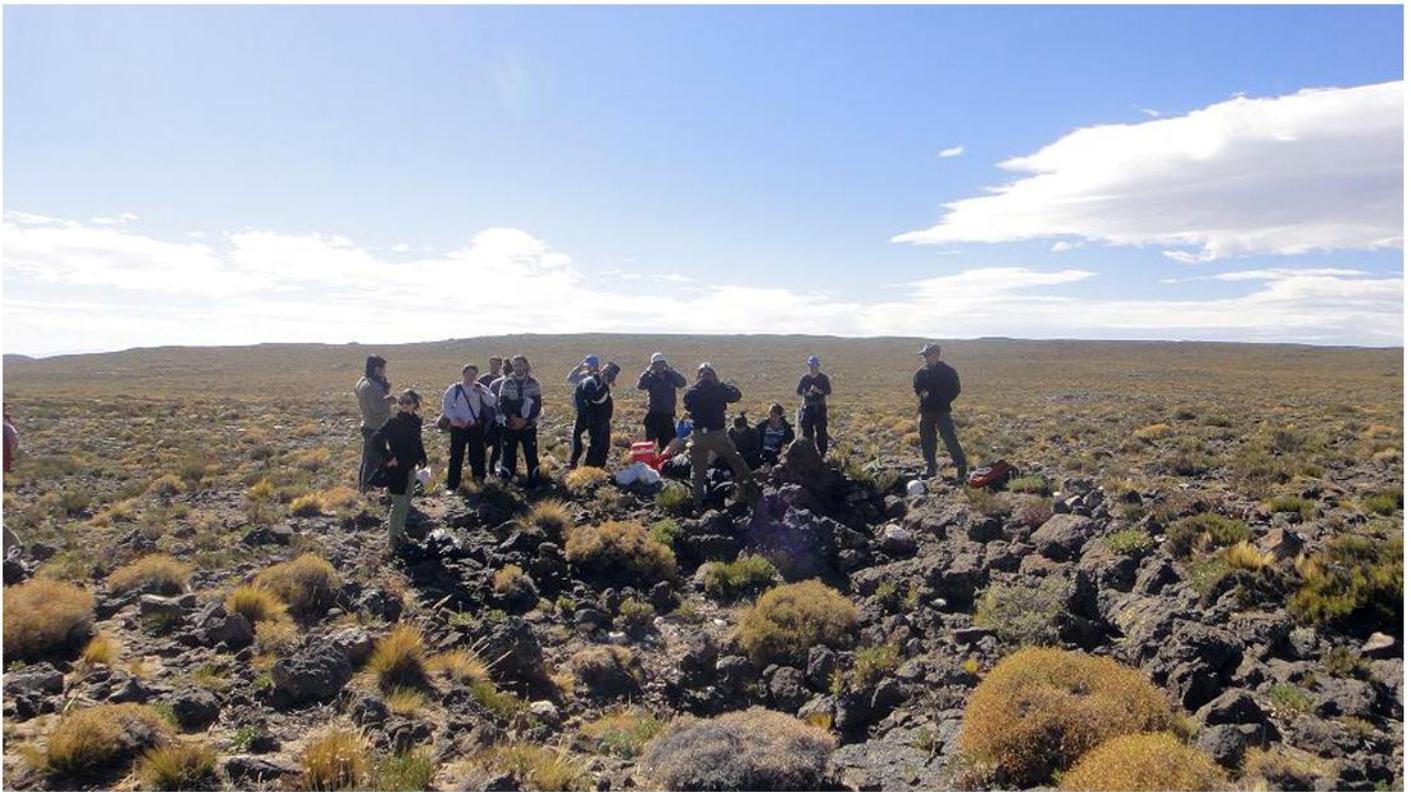
Total integrated length measured as a tube system of lava caves C2~C9 is 4393.8m.

Also, it is worth to mention that the large lava tree mold is found on the surface of the inner side wall of C2 and C3 lava tube cave.





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Lava caves in Payunia, Argentina, by Carlos Benedetto





## Provisional Report – 16th Symposium of the Commission on Volcanic Caves Galápagos 15th – 22nd March 2014

Since I (chairman of the commission – Jan-Paul) was not present at this symposium notes are based on the first E-mails from participants.

First many thanks to the organizers *Theofilos Toulkeridis and Aaron Addison*.

The number of participants was some 58, which is considerable. From a card I received I counted some 10 nationalities! As someone wrote: we had an adventurous meeting, many interesting caves, many nice people and many beers ...

Stephan Kempe et al will make an article about this symposium for the Journal of Cave and Karst Studies which is almost finished to be published, and Greg will also make a report for the commission, but later, as he has a very busy business program coming.

During the commission meeting some interesting points were reported:

- the long awaited book about caves of volcanic origin will come! This long time ago started project came to a halt by the untimely demise of Chris Wood. Now a concrete lay-out is projected by Stephan Kempe, Greg Middleton and Paolo Forti. Also a publisher is in view.

- the next symposium of the commission will be in 2016 in Hawaii (Ocean View).



Gallardo Cave, Galapagos Islands  
Photo by Peter and Ann Bosted



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Quaternary Research 70 (2008) 358–367

QUATERNARY  
RESEARCH

[www.elsevier.com/locate/yqres](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/yqres)

## Paleoenvironment of Jawa basalt plateau, Jordan, inferred from calcite speleothems from a lava tube

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Received 17 January 2008

Available online 2 September 2008

### Abstract

This paper explores the environmental conditions that faced the people of ancient Jawa during the Holocene, as well as previous prehistoric periods of the mid-late Pleistocene. Calcite speleothems in a lava tube are dated using the U–Th method, to marine oxygen isotope stage 7 from ~250 to 240 ka and from ~230 to ~220 ka; and the stage 5/4 transition between ~80 and 70 ka. The available evidence indicates general aridity of the Black Desert during most of the mid-late Quaternary, punctuated by short wetter periods, when the Mediterranean cyclonic systems intensified and penetrated the north Arabian Desert. These Mediterranean systems had a longer and more intense effect on the desert fringe closer to the Mediterranean and only rarely penetrated the Black Desert of Jawa. The results do not exclude some increase of rainfall which did not change water availability dramatically during the warm Holocene. The ancient Jawa city appears to have depended on technological ability to build elaborate runoff-collection systems, which became the prime condition for success.

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## Holuhraun Eruption, Iceland

December 2014

Photos by Phil Collett

In December 2014 Phil Collett took a flight over the Holuhraun eruption in a small aircraft. He described the flight as a "once in a lifetime event."

Lava was erupting from a 400 metre section of the original 1.5 km fissure. A lava lake has formed over the fissure.

Lava was being thrown above the surface of the lake in places.

More of Phil's photos can be seen here:

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/pc\\_image/sets/72157647365802904/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/pc_image/sets/72157647365802904/)





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1975 CATANIA

1982 U.S.A.

1983 CATANIA

1986 JAPAN

1991 U.S.A.

1994 CANARY IS.

1998 KENYA

1999 CATANIA

2002 ICELAND

2004 AZORES

2006 MEXICO

2008 KOREA

2010 AUSTRALIA

2012 JORDAN

2014 ECUADOR



VULCANOSPELEOLOGY  
SYMPOSIA

