Ice age Europe
The Ice Age is one of the most fascinating periods in early human history. The foundations of our culture today were established during more than two million years of Ice Age history; its relicts are among the key testimonies of our cultural heritage and of human development.

Some of the most important Ice Age heritage sites are located in Europe, where human remains and rock art have been revealed, as well as campsites and living areas containing many exceptional finds. The importance of the sites is reflected in the fact that an increasing number of them have been declared UNESCO World Heritage Sites. UNESCO has even launched a special program known as HEADS (Human Evolution: Adaptations, Dispersals and Social Developments) to promote this Ice Age heritage.

Links must be urgently established between sites, especially across national borders, and collaboration between European cities and regions is essential. Finally, there is evidence of an ever-increasing public interest in visiting culturallysignificant sites. These issues will be addressed within the framework of a European network and the potential of this network will be developed and promoted from a scientific, touristic and governmental perspective.

The Ice Age Europe network tells the story of Ice Age people in Europe and our Pleistocene cultural heritage in space and time.

In order to learn about this heritage, we must first enhance its conservation and protection. The network's aims are to raise awareness on the conservation of Ice Age heritage and to develop valorization programs, to exchange best practices for site management and museum display and to encourage collaboration of all kinds, e.g. in the fields of science, management, pedagogy, tourism and governance.

As a new umbrella brand, the network provides an opportunity to reach both well-established and new target groups across Europe. This will enhance the attractiveness of the network to external collaboration partners and increase success in applying for funding programs as well as a joint World Heritage Site.

15 archaeological sites with Ice Age heritage and affiliated museums or visitor centers from 6 different European countries are the founding members of this network established in 2013.
The Ice Age is one of the most fascinating periods in early human history. The foundations of our culture today were established during more than two million years of Ice Age history; its relicts are among the key testimonies of our cultural heritage and of human development.

Some of the most important Ice Age heritage sites are located in Europe, where human remains and rock art have been revealed, as well as campsites and living areas containing many exceptional finds. The importance of the sites is reflected in the fact that an increasing number of them have been declared UNESCO World Heritage Sites. UNESCO has even launched a special program known as HEADS (Human Evolution: Adaptations, Dispersals and Social Developments) to promote this Ice Age heritage.

Links must be urgently established between sites, especially across national borders, and collaboration between European cities and regions is essential. Finally, there is evidence of an ever-increasing public interest in visiting culturally-significant sites.

These issues will be addressed within the framework of a European network and the potential of this network will be developed and promoted from a scientific, touristic and governmental perspective.

The Ice Age Europe network tells the story of Ice Age people in Europe and our Pleistocene cultural heritage in space and time.

In order to learn about this heritage, we must first enhance its conservation and protection. The network’s aims are to raise awareness on the conservation of Ice Age heritage and to develop valorization programs, to exchange best practices for site management and museum display and to encourage collaboration of all kinds, e.g. in the fields of science, management, pedagogy, tourism and governance.

As a new umbrella brand, the network provides an opportunity to reach both well-established and new target groups across Europe. This will enhance the attractiveness of the network to external collaboration partners and increase success in applying for funding programs as well as a joint World Heritage Site.

15 archaeological sites with Ice Age heritage and affiliated museums or visitor centers from 6 different European countries are the founding members of this network established in 2013.
At the meanwhile 18 member sites, a total of 350 personnel are dedicated to the promotion of our common heritage – as scientists, managers, curators or guides. Eleven of the sites are funded by public bodies, four are in public-private partnerships and three are run by private owners.

The sites attract no fewer than 1.4 million visitors per year from Europe and overseas, in accordance with the requirements for their protection. Most international visitors come from Europe, but nearly half of the sites welcome a significant number from all continents. Most sites provide a wide range of offers for these visitors, from information in several languages to travel packages developed in collaboration with tour operators.

Within the next few years, Ice Age Europe will be developed into a European brand. All quality-oriented sites in Europe with an adjoining museum or visitor center as well as all municipalities and local and government authorities concerned are invited to take part in the network. For more information about the network and the sites please visit www.ice-age-europe.eu.
At the meanwhile 18 member sites, a total of 350 personnel are dedicated to the promotion of our common heritage – as scientists, managers, curators or guides. Eleven of the sites are funded by public bodies, four are in public-private partnerships and three are run by private owners.

The sites attract no fewer than 1.4 million visitors per year from Europe and overseas, in accordance with the requirements for their protection. Most international visitors come from Europe, but nearly half of the sites welcome a significant number from all continents. Most sites provide a wide range of offers for these visitors, from information in several languages to travel packages developed in collaboration with tour operators.

Within the next few years, Ice Age Europe will be developed into a European brand. All quality-oriented sites in Europe with an adjoining museum or visitor center as well as all municipalities and local and government authorities concerned are invited to take part in the network.

For more information about the network and the sites please visit www.ice-age-europe.eu
It forges interactive links between nature, heritage, the sciences and the visitors. The museum examines the past to understand the present and to consider the future of mankind. Thanks to the original, attractive and pedagogical experience-enactments, the visitor not only observes the prehistory from the outside, but experiments it with his 5 senses and with the related emotions.

To accomplish this, the museum is not confined in a building preserving archaeological collections. It includes a discovery trail through 30 hectares full of unique experiences. Every visitor maps out his own path, plans his own trip through time, picturing another image of Prehistory.

Nature is indissolubly linked to Prehistory. Walking in the open air, smelling the earth, listening to the forest and observing the animals: this was the daily life of our ancestors. The Préhistomuseum invites to three experiences to vividly feel the ties which unite Man with Nature: The barefoot path, the paths of prehistoric hunting and the animals and plants of the first farmers.

The collections and scientific research are the foundations of our knowledge of Prehistory. Through its international research programs, the museums department of conserva-

PRÉHISTOMUSEUM
Flémalle, Liège / Belgium

Located at the archaeological site of the cave of Ramioul, in the heart of a forest, the Préhistomuseum extends over 30 hectares. Situated in the valley of the Meuse, it forms the link between the numerous archaeological sites which surround this river: from Engis, where the first bones of Neanderthals in the world were discovered in 1829, to the splendid caves of Goyet.

The Préhistomuseum is an archaeological museum of a new type and will open its doors in summer 2015.
tion, study and documentation, the laboratory of experimental archaeology and the vegetal labyrinth of evolution take the visitors into places of a kind usually closed to them, drawing them in its experiments and changing their vision about the development of science.

Four different and complementary experiments are devoted to the question of heritage: the archaeological site, the walk around the cave, the best of the collections and the ephemeral modern art. The protected and displayed prehistoric remains evoke wonder and reflection upon mankind and its heritage. This heritage in all its forms is unveiled here in its richness and complexity.

In archaeological workshops, the sciences become a children’s game. In the heart of the restaurant, nature is being eaten. With a fully archaeo-compatible menu, visitors taste the entire history of the food. In fifteen workshops, guided by archaeologists, the visitors become flint knappers, prehistoric painters, engravers, sculptors, fire makers, artisans ... Prehistory comes alive again in their hands!
The site where the Krapina Neanderthals were discovered, on Hušnjakovo Hill, is one of the most important paleoanthropological sites in the world, with the most numerous finds of Neanderthal man in one place. Some 900 fossil bones of Neanderthals were found, belonging to eighty-some individuals, along with around 1,200 stone artifacts and several thousand fossil remains of Pleistocene animals. The site was discovered in 1899 and the geological and paleontological excavations lasted for six years, directed by the well-known Croatian scientist Dragutin Gorjanović-Kramberger.

The location and the innovative architecture of the new Krapina Neanderthal Museum, inaugurated in 2010, correspond to the importance of the site, making it a monument to both the Croatian and the world’s natural and cultural heritage. The innovative multimedia display at the world famous Neanderthal discovery site presents the still mysterious path of human evolution and the history of life on earth in a fascinating manner. After the exciting tour through the Krapina Neanderthal Museum the visitor enters the path to the original site of discovery of the primeval habitat of the ancient Neanderthals.
The Museum is located in north-west Croatia in the town of Krapina, the centre of Krapina-Zagorje County, about 50 km from Zagreb.

The museum exhibition is intended for both individuals and groups, enabling visitors of all age groups interactive communication with the museum objects through multimedia elements. The interactive elements were developed especially for the use by families, as the museum aims to stimulate visits by this particular visitor segment.

Considering the complex themes the museum presents, guided tours are arranged for various age groups depending on their individual knowledge and audio-guides are available in eight languages. Visitors are also offered specialized workshops that supplement knowledge from individual fields. They can make artifacts, light a fire by using flints or manufacture the clothing of the Neanderthals from Krapina. Best known is the Summer Geology School, whose attendees become true investigators and become acquainted with the work of paleontologist and geologist. The entire project was achieved in cooperation with numerous renowned institutions throughout the world and scientists in the field of human evolution, which give the excavated and exhibited material a particularly elevated educational and scientific weight. The museum cooperates with the local community, creating mutual advertising material and organizing cultural and tourist events and stimulates local partners to the further development of additional services that are related to the museum exhibition.
of the high rock by hunters.

Solutré has given the name “Solutréan” to a distinct culture of the Upper Palaeolithic, which the marvellous “laurel-leaf” shaped flints have made famous.

Laid out on the excavation site, the archaeological and botanical gardens complete the visit of the museum. It offers a great variety of plant species typical of the natural environment and results of archaeological research. Access is provided via the museum.

Situated in the commune of Solutré, the Maison du Grand Site is a reception and information center for visitors. A permanent exhibition space devoted to the history of the
landscape and its preservation, tourist services, a shop, a picnic room, a restaurant area and toilet facilities are amongst the extensive offers to visitors, complemented by year-round activities such as conferences, shows, tours, workshops for children and adults.

Solutré can easily be reached by car via the A6 motorway, exit N°29 Moulins/ Mâcon, following the signs to Loché TGV station and then Solutré. The Mâcon-Loché TGV high-speed railway station is only 10 min away.

With its outstanding and novel landscape, dominated by the unique silhouettes of the Rocks of Solutré and Vergission providing a wonderful view over the entire Saone valley, it’s rich heritage and renowned vineyards the Solutré-Pouilly-Vergisson region in Southern Burgundy has a lot to offer for visitors of all ages.
In the very heart of 400,000 years of the history mankind the International Center of Prehistory, open to the public since July 2010, is meant to promote the world heritage of the Vézère Valley with its many major prehistoric sites, among which fifteen are listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. It fulfills several functions for the general public: welcoming visitors and providing them with information on the subject of prehistory, conducting educational programs in archaeology for school groups, providing a place for reading and studying through books and new technologies and the organization of cultural and scientific events.

The permanent exhibition at the Center is devoted to the presentation of the prehistory of the Vezere Valley. It offers original media and innovative scenography for a first approach to prehistory, using hyper-realistic reconstitutions of prehistoric men, short documentaries projected on giant screens, 3D models and touch-sensitive screens. Several workshops on archaeological sciences are conducted in the learning zone, which features the reconstruction of an archaeological site, field laboratories and study rooms.

Further information at www.pole-prehistoire.com
available for groups. This scenario-based ensemble, integrating the principal archaeological data of the Vezere Valley, also offers training courses for guides and teachers on the subject of prehistory.

In addition, cultural, artistic and educative exhibitions about prehistory and the Vézère Valley are hosted in the temporary exhibit hall. The 230 seat auditorium is dedicated to screenings of films and documentaries and provides a facility for conferences, colloquia and seminars as well as concerts or plays on the theme of prehistory.

The Center plays the leading role in a major project transforming the territory into the largest prehistoric site in Europe and one of the foremost destinations in the world for Prehistory.

The site, run by a Public Establishment for Cultural Cooperation (EPCC), covers a total of 16,000m². It includes parking areas, a landscaped park providing access to the Center over a long footbridge crossing the streams, and the building itself. The architect Raphaël Voinchet (Cabinet W. Architectures in Toulouse) conceived a dynamic and innovative building that seems to blend with the cliff face, with its two discrete levels laid out at the foot of this striking natural backdrop. The building does not impose itself on the site, but simply inhabits it, thus respecting the natural environment.
Isturitz is famous for the discovery of a series of prehistoric flutes dating from the Upper Paleolithic (Aurignacian to the Magdalenian, about 35,000 to 10,000 BC). The Périgordien period accounts for two thirds of the discoveries. Among them are also bone harpoons, figurines of bison on a sandstone plate (Magdalenian), heads of spear throwers made of reindeer antler from the Middle Magdalenian and an impressive series of ornamental objects made of different material.

The caves also contain carvings and cave paintings. Isturitz features a bas-relief pillar and deep etchings depicting deer, wolverines and other subjects, whilst the cave walls in Oxocelhaya boast etched bison and horses.

Both Isturitz and Oxocelhaya are today accessible to the general public. A visit to the caves and the museum at the site, run by a non-profit association founded in 2007, highlights all the various elements and showcases the immense wealth and long existence of humanity. The museum runs events and offers tours and workshops covering different topics both at the site and in schools and institutions in the surrounding departments.

Isturitz, Oxocelhaya and Erberua are located in the Basque Country in the Aquitaine region of Southwest France. 30 min away from Bayonne, Biarritz and Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port, they are part of a perfect day trip to the beautiful Arberoue Valley and Gaztelu Hill.

From 1913 to the present day, the superimposed caves of Isturitz, Oxocelhaya and Erberua have been inexhaustible sources of knowledge about humans from Neanderthals to Homo sapiens as long ago as 80,000 years. Throughout the 20th century and into the 21st, the three caves have attracted experts from diverse backgrounds interested especially in the Upper Palaeolithic layers. Through their various specialisations, archaeologists have helped to paint a portrait of daily life during that 30,000 year long period: the use of the caves and it surroundings as hunting sites and gathering places, thus shedding light on topics like prehistoric socialisation, prehistoric economics and much more. Even today, numerous researchers are busy at the caves. Besides archaeologists and geologists also visual artists, acoustics specialists and musicians are seeking inspiration for their contemporary research and creation.

GROTTES D’ISTURITZ ET D’OXOCELHAYA
64 640 Saint Martin d’Arberoue
France

Further information at www.grottes-isturitz.com
plate (Magdalenian), heads of spear throwers made of reindeer antler from the Middle Magdalenian and an impressive series of ornamental objects made of different material. The caves also contain carvings and cave paintings. Isturitz features a bas-relief pillar and deep etchings depicting deer, wolverines and other subjects, whilst the cave walls in Oxocelhaya boast etched bison and horses.

Both Isturitz and Oxocelhaya are today accessible to the general public. A visit to the caves and the museum at the site, run by a non-profit association founded in 2007, highlights all the various elements and showcases the immense wealth and long existence of humanity. The museum runs events and offers tours and workshops covering different topics both at the site and in schools and institutions in the surrounding departments.

The caves are located in the Basque Country in the Aquitaine region of Southwest France. 30 min away from Bayonne, Biarritz and Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port, they are part of a perfect day trip to the beautiful Arberoue Valley and Gaztelu Hill.
then became famous: the man from La Chapelle aux Saints is the missing link between ape and man! Subsequently, he was depicted in an archaic form.

In 1984, Professor Jean Louis Heim studied the skull again and proved that the first conclusions were not correct. In fact, the Neandertal man looks more like a man than an ape, he walked more upright than what was first thought and he was very well able to speak. Today, the man from La Chapelle aux Saints is an international reference in the field of archeology, anthropology and human evolution.

In 1996, a museum has been created presenting the history of the discovery, human evolution and the Neanderthal man. Since then, the museum actively promotes and develops a cultural program dedicated to visitors of all ages: guided tours, Stone Age workshops for schools and families, conferences, the European Prehistoric Weapon Championship and the “Great Weekend of the Prehistory” with a book fair. This unique book fair is dedicated to books about Prehistory, which takes place on the first weekend of August and is a great occasion to gather people who are passionate about Prehistory. It’s one of few occasions...
to meet cartoonists, fiction writers and scientists all in one place. The public appreciates to discuss the various topics with the authors and listen to talks and presentations. In 2013, the Literary Award “Prix Prehistoire Jean Pierre VILLE” was created in order to encourage writers and promote prehistory.

The museum was built by the village of la Chapelle aux Saints, but is now also partly supported by the European Council, the French State, the region, the local territories and the tourist offices. In 2012, the museum has won two regional awards for tourism and cultural associations. The museum is ideally located within an attractive tourist destination, being only 15 minutes away from Collonges la Rouge or Padirac and quite close to the Vezere Valley and its great prehistoric sites such as Lascaux. The museum can be reached by car via the A20 motorway (exit 52) following the direction of Collonges la Rouge. The Brive Vallée de la Dordogne Airport and Brive train station are only 30 minutes away.
URGESCHICHTLICHES MUSEUM BLAUBEUREN
Kirchplatz 10, 89143 Blaubeuren
Germany
Further information at www.urmu.de

URGESCHICHTLICHES MUSEUM BLAUBEUREN
Kirchplatz 10, 89143 Blaubeuren
Germany
Further information at www.urmu.de

MUSEUM OF PREHISTORY
BLAUBEUREN
Blaubeuren, Ulm / Germany

Around the town of Blaubeuren in the karst landscape of the Swabian Alb, the valleys of the rivers Ach, Blau and Lone are located. In several caves in these valleys archaeologists discovered former habitats of Neanderthals and anatomic modern humans from the middle and upper Paleolithic. The most important and famous finds are the examples of figurative art from the Aurignacian, carved from mammoth ivory, and several music instruments made from ivory and bird bones. With an age of 35,000 up to 40,000 years they belong to the oldest records of art and are the oldest evidence for music instruments worldwide.

The Museum for Prehistory Blaubeuren is specialized in ice age art. It presents the daily life of ice age hunters and gatherers as well as treasure rooms displaying the extraordinary Ice Age art from the Swabian Alb region. Additionally, each year a temporary exhibition covers a selected aspect of Paleolithic culture and life. After a significant enlargement in 2014, the famous Venus figure from the Hohle Fels cave is presented to the visitors.

The museum can be reached by car via the A8 motorway, exit Merklingen or Ulm-West. The local train station of Blaubeuren is just 1 Kilometer away from the museum; Stuttgart Airport can be reached within one hour.
The museum is operated by the foundation “Urgeschichtliches Museum + Galerie 40tausend Jahre Kunst Blaubeuren”. The federal state of Baden-Württemberg decided that the Museum is the State Museum for Paleolithic times, a branch of the Archaeological State Museum. Additionally, an application for the nomination of the prehistoric sites around Blaubeuren as UNESCO World Heritage is in preparation.

The museum has a strong link to the prehistoric department of the University of Tübingen, the chair of the department being the scientific director of the museum. The museum expenses are covered by the foundations income as well as through grants from the city of Blaubeuren and the administrative district Alb-Donau-Kreis. The museum and its exhibitions attract more than 20,000 visitors each year.

The museum offers an extensive educational program for schools, kindergarten groups and adults, including guided tours and workshops using Stone Age tools and materials. These hands-on-experiences are a well-known feature of the museum exhibitions, workshops and museum events.

The museum can be reached by car via the A8 motorway, exit Merklingen or Ulm-West. The local train station of Blaubeuren is just 1 kilometer away from the museum; Stuttgart Airport can be reached within one hour.
The museum’s Stone Age workshop offers workshops, Stone Age birthday parties and courses. Around 25,000 visitors have fun in discovering Stone Age skills every year.

The museum has become a successful brand, inspiring large customer circles. The brand includes customer communication, a successful shop with a reseller product line and the development of our digital brand through social media activities and a smartphone App.

The Neanderthal Museum is an internationally recognized research institution. In addition to participating in international excavations and research projects, the Museum hosts the world’s largest database for glacial archaeology: NESPOS. International conferences are held which generate interdisciplinary contacts and spark new ideas and perspectives.

The museum is operated by the Neanderthal Museum Foundation and is only partly supported by public funds. Most of the museum’s expenses are covered by entrance fees and sales proceeds. 150,000 people visit the museum and its exhibitions every year.

The museum’s successful special exhibitions cover a wide range of cultural historical topics. Some of them are travelling exhibitions that tour through museums all over Germany and abroad.

The Neanderthal Museum is an extraordinary attraction providing an explorative experience in the heart of North Rhine Westphalia, right at the spot where the legendary Neanderthal bones were discovered. The museum narrates the story of human evolution and along with its exhibition has won many national and international awards. Not least because of its modern presentations with impressively staged exhibits, audio material, films and interactive PCs, visitors of all ages will have an exciting and unforgettable museum visit.

In addition to a visit to the museum, the site of the Neanderthal discovery and the nearby Ice Age game reserve is also worth a visit. Wild horses, aurochs and bison were successfully bred here.

The museum can be reached by car via the A3 motorway, exit Hilden/Hochdahl, as well as the A46, exit Haan-West. Additionally, the local transport authority, the VRR, runs the S 28 and S 8 train services in the area. Both lines run in close vicinity to the museum and offer an attractive alternative. Airport Duesseldorf International is only 30 min away.

STIFTUNG NEANDERTHAL MUSEUM
Talstr. 300, 40822 Mettmann
Germany

Further information at www.neanderthal.de
The museum is operated by the Neanderthal Museum Foundation and is only partly supported by public funds. Most of the museum’s expenses are covered by entrance fees and sales proceeds. 150,000 people visit the museum and its exhibitions every year.

The museum’s successful special exhibitions cover a wide range of cultural historical topics. Some of them are travelling exhibitions that tour through museums all over Germany and abroad.

The museum’s Stone Age workshop offers workshops, Stone Age birthday parties and courses. Around 25,000 visitors have fun in discovering Stone Age skills every year. The museum has become a successful brand, inspiring large customer circles. The brand includes customer communication, a successful shop with a reseller product line and the development of our digital brand through social media activities and a smartphone App.

The Neanderthal Museum is an internationally recognized research institution. In addition to participating in international excavations and research projects, the Museum hosts the world’s largest database for glacial archaeology: NESPOS. International conferences are held which generate interdisciplinary contacts and spark new ideas and perspectives.

In addition to a visit to the museum, the site of the Neanderthal discovery and the nearby Ice Age game reserve is also worth a visit. Wild horses, aurochs and bison were successfully bred here.
The open-cast lignite mine of Schöningen is one of the most important archaeological sites for the Paleolithic in the world. To a depth of more than 100 meters the mine enables a unique view of human development and climatic change. The most exciting discovery proved to be a hunting camp on the shores of an ancient lake. Over 300,000 years ago Palaeolithic hunters preyed on a herd of wild horses - and left behind eight wooden spears, the oldest unambiguous hunting weapons ever recovered. The paläon is located in the immediate vicinity of the archaeological site and opened its doors in June 2013.

The center encompasses two main components, the research and the exhibition department. Archaeological finds from the ongoing excavations will be studied by specialists in the research facilities. Any research conducted in the center will be made available to the public by allowing close-up experience of the adventure of science at both the excavation site and in laboratory rooms designed to be observable. The exhibition is centered around the archaeological treasures discovered in the mine. The original finds, the visualization of the former scenery and a panorama cinema convey
a vivid image of the way of living of early humans in northern Germany. Children and adults alike can actively conduct their own experiments in a visitor laboratory. In addition, special exhibitions on natural and cultural history complement the visitor experience.

The museum is situated in a large park area, which offers additional attractions to the visitors. A herd of wild horses grazes on grasslands near a small lake as their predecessors did over 300,000 years ago, while on a neighboring area a wooden biotope conveys the picture of a warmer period, when rhinos and elephants roamed the countryside. Walkways through the park and to the original excavation site, a spear throwing range, several activity areas and a playground for children offer a family-friendly experience. A café with patio invites to relax while enjoying the scenery and the view of the open-cast mine.

The paläon is an officially approved off-campus learning center, offering an extensive program of courses and workshops on Stone Age archaeology, ecology and evolution for children and adults. The workshops take place in indoor seminar rooms and at a covered shelter in the park. In addition, the center offers rooms and an auditorium for meetings, conventions, events and festivities.

The center can be reached by car via the A2 motorway, exit Marienborn / Helmstedt or Helmstedt Zentrum. Additionally, the local transport authority KVG runs a bus line from the main station in Helmstedt to the paläon.
From the time of Neanderthals until the late Ice Age, the Vogelherd cave near Niederstotzingen exhibits a nearly complete, approx. 100,000 year long history of settlement. It is one of the most important and outstanding discovery sites for the Aurignacian. Here a large amount and a great variety of artefacts from the time between 35,000 and 40,000 years ago were found. The caves in the valleys of the Ach and Lone rivers, which revealed the earliest evidence of human art and music, were proposed for the list of UNESCO world cultural heritage.

The sensational discovery of Ice Age animal sculptures in the Vogelherd cave by Prof. G. Riek in 1931 put the Lone valley in the center of both scientific and also public attention for the first time. But only the spectacular success of the excavations in 2006 lead by Prof. Nicholas J. Conard, which revealed a sculpture of an Ice Age mammoth, lead to the construction of the Archaeopark, which makes this cultural heritage accessible to a wide audience. The mammoth from the Vogelherd cave is considered the oldest completely preserved figurative art in human history. Its age is estimated at 35,000 to 40,000 years. For the production of the mammoth more
than 50 hours of work were needed, which shows the importance of this figure for the artist. The mammoth is on display at the visitor center of the Archaeopark Vogelherd. The visitor center bears resemblance to a cave, hidden under a grass-covered hill, fitting nicely in the landscape of the Lone valley. The visitors enter the center by crossing a narrow entrance through the hill and find themselves in an arrangement of bright and open rooms. From here, a glass front is facing the cave site of Vogelherd, revealing an impressive view of the cave. On the inside, the center presents stunning aspects of the Stone Age world. On approx. 30.000 m², the outdoor area presents Stone Age not in the conventional way, instead the visitor can undertake an adventurous investigation and make his very own personal experience. The different stages on round trips around the park invite our visitors to experiences Stone Age life. A variety of typical plants as well as animal sounds and traces can be discovered.

Accompanying information is available via the Vogelherd App for both Android and iOS. The Archaeopark Vogelherd offers great learning programs for kids, school classes, families and adults. Guided tours are offered individually tailored to meet the needs of groups up to 25 participants. Workshops and special events are held on a regular basis, dates are announced on the park’s website www.archaeopark-vogelherd.de.

The park can be easily accessed by car via Autobahn A7 Ulm-Würzburg, exit Niederstotzingen. By train, the park can be reached from Ulm main station, direction Heidenheim, get off at Niederstotzingen. From their, bus lines No. 59 and 7203 are leading to the park.
To challenge the crucial, cognitive and behavioural difference between Neanderthals and anatomically modern humans, archaeological evidence must be produced from reliable sites. This is the case of Grotta di Fumane, a cave set at the base of a rock cliff at 350 m a.s.l. on the southern edge of the Veneto Pre-Alps, in the North of Italy. The cave belongs to a fossil karst complex system probably composed of several cavities and tunnels excavated in dolomitic limestone. The present-day morphology of this site is a result of the combined action of huge collapses which during the Late Pleistocene affected the massive rock banks and the dismantling phases mostly caused by freezing and thawing.

After a first exploration carried out by the Natural History Museum of Verona in 1964, the site has been the object of a new series of investigations since 1988, bringing to light an impressive sequence of Middle and Upper Paleolithic levels. The sequence documents the main climatic events which occurred during the last glacial cycle from 90.000 to 30.000 years ago and affected the human settlement.

Excavations are conducted on a regular basis every year by the
University of Ferrara under the patronage of the Superintendence for the Archeological Heritage. After an ancient landslide which completely obstructed the external vault was removed in 1996, a sheltered area of almost 60 sq m was brought to light and extensive digging began, with the aim of investigating evidence of the last Neanderthals and the first anatomically modern humans.

Grotta di Fumane makes this possible, thanks to the abundance of well preserved remains in several finely stratified archaeological layers. Thousands of flint flakes and cores, bones, teeth, charcoal, worked pebbles, bone retouchers and hammers prove that Neanderthals lighted fire, manufactured stone tools, butchered ungulates, carnivores and birds, and treated hides and pelts. From the Aurignacian up, dwelling structures, lithic assemblages, bone and antler tools, painted stones and pierced molluscan shells mark the arrival of the first Anatomically Modern Humans into this region with a clear discontinuity with the former cultural entities. Nevertheless, the archeological evidence prove that also Neanderthals achieved a level of behavioral complexity that was not culturally transmitted or mimicked via incoming modern humans.

The cave is now open to the public after security measures have been implemented in 2005. Visitors are allowed to the entrance of the cave also when archaeological fieldwork takes place and view the sections showing the finely layered Paleolithic sequence.

Not far away, at the village of Sant’Anna d’Alfaedo, a selection of the most relevant findings is permanently exhibited at the Palaeontological and Archaeological Museum.
Leaving the museum, guests are invited to visit the archaeological sites that are easy to reach from the museum with a shuttle. The archaeological sites of the Sierra de Atapuerca were honored with the World Heritage Status by the UNESCO committee in 2000. Its importance is based on the fact that fossils of hominids with an age of more than 1.2 million years (the oldest of Western Europe) have been found there. The Sierra, due to its special ecosystem and its geographical location, constitutes an exceptional example of continuous human occupation. Among the fossils archaeological vestiges of four different species of hominids stand out: Homo antecessor (more than one million years old), Homo heidelbergensis (500,000 years), Homo neanderthalensis (50,000 years) and Homo sapiens. Therefore, the rich fossil record provides unique evidence about the human origins and evolution, besides priceless information that recalls the European lines of evolution from our African ancestors.

The MEH is a museum specialized in human evolution. Its highly modern, permanent exhibition presents the original fossils of the main discoveries at Atapuerca, the scientific disciplines involved and the interpretations and theories drawn from them. The museum seeks to present a holistic vision of human presence on earth with the exceptional sites located in the mountains of Burgos being an important piece of evidence. The exhibition is complemented by a full range of activities for all audiences that link the research about human evolution to the present through temporary exhibitions, workshops, conferences etc.
Leaving the museum, guests are invited to visit the archaeological sites that are easy to reach from the museum with a shuttle. The archaeological sites of the Sierra de Atapuerca were honored with the World Heritage Status by the UNESCO committee in 2000. Its importance is based on the fact that fossils of hominids with an age of more than 1.2 million years (the oldest of Western Europe) have been found there. The Sierra, due to its special ecosystem and its geographical location, constitutes an exceptional example of continuous human occupation. Among the fossils archaeological vestiges of four different species of hominids stand out: Homo antecessor (more than one million years old), Homo heidelbergensis (500,000 years), Homo neanderthalensis (50,000 years) and Homo sapiens. Therefore, the rich fossil record provides unique evidence about the human origins and evolution, besides priceless information that recalls the European lines of evolution from our African ancestors.
The Museum of Altamira is a place devoted to learning about, enjoying and experiencing the life of those who painted and inhabited the cave of Altamira. The most attractive offer of the museum is the opportunity to gain knowledge into the earliest Palaeolithic art of humanity. The Museum is in charge of a legacy of maximum value, the cave of Altamira, a milestone in universal art history whose discovery meant the discovery of Palaeolithic cave art in general and one of its most spectacular manifestations. The splendor of the artistic expression of the cave’s inhabitants was recognised by UNESCO, which in 1985 registered it on the World Heritage List. The new Museum of Altamira, opened to the public in 2001, is a modern, functional museum, integrated in the landscape, where the latest technology and the most modern museography take visitors back to the times when Altamira was utilized.

The reproduction of the cave, the Neocave, presents Altamira as a Palaeolithic venue, a habitation site
and a sanctuary. This meticulous and exact reproduction, made in full scale, reconstructs what the cave of Altamira was like in Prehistory; it is based on data provided by archaeological and geological research and the most cutting-edge topographical technology. The paintings have been reproduced with absolute fidelity to the original using the same artistic technique and the same natural colourings: charcoal, ochre and water. The permanent exhibition “The times of Altamira” gives visitors a closer look at the prehistoric era of the Iberian Peninsula. Different aspects of prehistoric life in Altamira are presented: art, culture, life, hunting techniques, etc. All this can be seen through exhibits displaying the most representative items from this period on the Iberian Peninsula.

Visitors can stroll freely in the natural environment surrounding the museum building and enjoy its magnificent landscape. This large park has been restored with vegetable species that we know once existed around the cave, thanks to pollen studies carried out on the sediments in the cave.

The Museum provides full accessibility and guaranteed enjoyment, making its surprising history and fascinating prehistory available to everyone. More than 250,000 people visit the museum every year.
The cave of Santimamiñe is one of the most important archaeological sites in the Basque Country and has been a point of reference in that area for most of the past century. Now, after 90 years of visits, the cave, which is a real geological, artistic and archaeological treasure, needs a great deal of cleaning and conservation work. With a new presentation, partly physical and partly virtual, the public will have the opportunity to get to know and enjoy the complex in a sustainable and responsible way.

The Santimamiñe cave is located on the eastern side of the basin of the Urdaibai River, dominating a vast landscape of diverse ecosystems: Holm oak forests in Cantabria, rural areas, estuaries, etc.

In one of its rooms, a remarkable archaeological fill is preserved displaying a cultural sequence ranging from the beginning of the Upper Palaeolithic to Roman times.

The cave of Santimamiñe is intensely connected to the Arkeologi Museoa, where the materials which are being recuperated in this archaeological site since 1916, are conserved.
The Arkeologi Museoa, located in the Old Quarter of Bilbao, is a new cultural centre and its main objectives are:

1. Guaranteeing the conservation of the materials retrieved from archaeological excavations, and the documents generated by such materials, given that the museum must preserve the objects and their context.

2. Promoting archaeological research by documenting the collections and creating the necessary infrastructures and services for their study: Research rooms, wash rooms, dating and cataloguing, conservation laboratories and library.

3. Disseminating knowledge about the History of Bizkaia, by connecting the past with modern-day society in order to contribute to its future projection, through organising exhibitions, courses, conferences and issuing publications, among other activities.
The Tito Bustillo Cave, discovered in 1968, is one of the most important rupestrian sets of Palaeolithic art. Together with other caves of the Cantabrian it was declared UNESCO World Heritage Site in June 2008 for its extraordinary representations of Palaeolithic rupestrian art. The need to maintain its environmental balance to guarantee its preservation and the difficulty to access the majority of the artistic sets led to the creation of the Tito Bustillo Rupestrian Art Centre. Sections as emblematic as the spectacular Chamber of Vulvas, the Gallery of Horses, the mysterious Anthropomorph or the essential Polychromatic Panel have now a singular location where they can be observed closely. Besides, visitors learn about the discovery of the cave, its geological value, its inhabitants and how the samples of rock art are preserved inside. The modern approach of the centre based on innovative techniques attracting all audiences allows visitors to perceive the site as a place of national and international significance regarding Palaeolithic art. In addition, the Tito Bustillo Rupestrian Art Centre offers workshops and games for families, children and groups to spread the knowledge about Paleolithic life and art in both educational and fun way. A visit to the cave itself is restricted to certain seasons and to a limited number of visitors per tour.
The Tito Bustillo Cave, discovered in 1968, is one of the most important rupestrian sets of Palaeolithic art. Together with other caves of the Cantabrian it was declared UNESCO World Heritage Site in June 2008 for its extraordinary representations of Palaeolithic rupestrian art.

The need to maintain its environmental balance to guarantee its preservation and the difficulty to access the majority of the artistic sets led to the creation of the Tito Bustillo Rupestrian Art Centre. Sections as emblematic as the spectacular Chamber of Vulvas, the Gallery of Horses, the mysterious Anthropomorph or the essential Polychromatic Panel have now a singular location where they can be observed closely. Besides, visitors learn about the discovery of the cave, its geological value, its inhabitants and how the samples of rock art are preserved inside.

The modern approach of the centre based on innovative techniques attracting all audiences allows visitors to perceive the site as a place of national and international significance regarding Palaeolithic art. In addition, the Tito Bustillo Rupestrian Art Centre offers workshops and games for families, children and groups to spread the knowledge about Paleolithic life and art in both educational and fun way.

A visit to the cave itself is restricted to certain seasons and to a limited number of visitors per tour.
EKAINBERRI - THE REPLICA OF THE EKAIN CAVE
Zestoa, Basque Country / Spain

In 1969, an Upper Paleolithic artistic treasure was discovered. It was hidden for millennia in the heart of the Ekain hill, located in Deba (Gipuzkoa). The late discovery of the cave art of Ekain allowed taking measures for its preservation. The Homo Sapiens arrived to Ekain in the beginning of the Upper Paleolithic period. Some time ago this cave was a cave bear refugee. The surrounding area of Ekain was a great place to hunt deers and goats for the hunters and gatherers of the Upper Paleolithic period. The entrance of the cave is located in a hill which allows bringing under control the valley. This place is a natural trap for the animals because of the confluence of two streams and the narrowing of the valley. In the end of the Magdalenian period, 14,000-13,000 years ago, the inhabitants of the Ekain valley started decorating their cave. Most of the paintings were horses. André Leroi-Gourhan described them as “the most perfect set of horses in all Quaternary Art”.

The Ekain cave is located in Deba, in the province of Gipuzkoa. To preserve its cave art it is closed to the public. There is a replica opened since 2008 where it is possible to enjoy the most important paintings of the original cave as well as their surfaces. Ekainberri, the replica of the Ekain cave, is located close to the original cave, to one kilometre far from the town centre.
since 2008 where is possible to enjoy the most important paintings of the original cave as well as their surfaces. Ekainberri, the replica of the Ekain cave, is located close to the original cave, to one kilometre far from the town centre.

Placed in the Sastarrain Valley the project of the Museum Ekainberri offers the opportunity to deep in the same environment where Paleolithic people lived. It provides the chance to enjoy a wide offer of activities related with the Prehistory. All tours in the replica are guided tours with no more than 20 people each tour. Ekainberri, with its experimental archaeology workshops, also offers the opportunity to live as a Paleolithic inhabitant during an hour.

To conclude your visit to Ekainberri you can also enjoy participating in different workshops, visiting an exhibition room, a small library and a souvenir shop.
The Rock of Gibraltar at the southernmost part of the Iberian Peninsula, and in full view of North Africa, is a British Territory with a long tradition of work on Ice Age humans, fauna and geology which dates back to the 18th Century. It was in Forbes’ Quarry that the Gibraltar 1 Neanderthal skull was found in 1848, eight years before the Feldhofer specimen. The Gibraltar Museum is a long-standing institution which was founded in 1930. It is situated in Bomb House Lane, just off the Main Street in the heart of the city. Here galleries display representative findings of Ice Age Europe in the extreme south-west where climatic changes were not as severe as in the north of Europe.

The Gibraltar Museum is responsible for the 14 Ice Age sites on the 6-km long peninsula, nine of which were occupied by Neanderthals including two fossil sites. It runs a Field Station at Parson’s Lodge where researchers are accommodated and where post-excavation work is carried out. The Gibraltar Museum’s brief includes research and it carries out annual excavations in Gorham’s and Vanguard Caves. Gorham’s Cave is currently the last known site of Neanderthal survival, as recently as 31 thousand years ago. These sites

The Gibraltar Museum
18-20 Bomb House Lane
PO Box 939
Gibraltar

Further information at www.gibmuseum.gi
are also being used to reconstruct the lives of the southern Neanderthals. These findings, such as the exploitation of seals and dolphins or the feathers of large raptors, are exhibited in the Gibraltar Museum which acts as the interpretation centre for all the Gibraltar Ice Age sites.

In addition to exhibitions and research, the Gibraltar Museum has an active hands-on education programme on Ice Age Europe and the Neanderthals. This programme is available to local schools and those from outside as well on request. The Gibraltar Museum is currently developing the extension of this education programme to some of the cave sites. The programme will be available to adults as well as children by prior request. The aim is to bring the sites closer to the public where possible. Site visits can be organised including during the period of excavation where visitors can interact with archaeologists. For those unable to access the caves, visits are organised to the Parson’s Lodge Field Station where the process of sieving sediment is demonstrated. The museum’s website www.gibmuseum.gi, a blog and a Facebook page, provide continuous information about the progress of excavations and work during the rest of the year.
In 2011 Nature, the world’s leading scientific journal, published research dating a fragment of human jawbone, found in the cave in 1927 under the upper floor, at over 41,000 years old. This is the oldest modern human fossil discovered in Northwestern Europe, making Kents Cavern, for the moment, the oldest known human settlement across all of Europe down to the southern tip of Italy.

Under the lower floor, some of the oldest evidence of human activity in Britain has been found. The flint hand axes found are well over 500,000 years old. These stone tools were made by Homo heidelbergensis and are some of the oldest evidence of human activity in Britain. Animal and plant remains enable reconstruction of climatic changes through a number of glacial and interglacial cycles during the Pleistocene period, 2 million to 12,000 years ago.

Kents Cavern is the largest natural cave open to the public in South West of England. The limestone rock surrounding the caves was formed during the Devonian period some 385 million years ago when this part of the world lay beneath the sea south of the Equator. The shells and bones from the earliest forms of life to live on this planet bonded together at the bottom of the ocean to form the Coralline Devonian Limestone. Kents Cavern is the underground visitor centre for the UNESCO endorsed English Riviera Global Geopark.

The caves contain a long sequence of deposits from the lower Palaeolithic to the post-prehistoric period with two major stalagmite floors providing dating evidence for archaeological material within the caves. The upper floor seals material from more than 10,000 years ago, while the lower floor seals deposits older than 350,000 years.

The caves were extensively excavated during the last two centuries, revealing a wealth of artefacts.

Kents Cavern is one of Europe’s top Prehistory Stone Age caves with an extensive labyrinth of spectacular and easily accessible caverns. This iconic heritage attraction in the South Devon seaside resort of Torquay has many quality tourism awards and comes highly recommended by visitors on TripAdvisor.

It is the official underground visitor centre for UNESCO’s English Riviera Global Geopark and features on the Agatha Christie Riviera Trail.
In 2011 Nature, the world’s leading scientific journal, published research dating a fragment of human jawbone, found in the cave in 1927 under the upper floor, at over 41,000 years old. This is the oldest modern human fossil discovered in Northwestern Europe, making Kents Cavern, for the moment, the oldest known human settlement across all of Europe down to the southern tip of Italy.

Under the lower floor, some of the oldest evidence of human activity in Britain has been found. The flint hand axes found are well over 500,000 years old. These stone tools were made by Homo heidelbergensis and are some of the oldest evidence of human activity in Britain. Animal and plant remains enable reconstruction of climatic changes through a number of glacial and interglacial cycles during the Pleistocene period, 2 million to 12,000 years ago.

Kents Cavern is the largest natural cave open to the public in South West of England. The limestone rock surrounding the caves was formed during the Devonian period some 385 million years ago when this part of the world lay beneath the sea south of the Equator. The shells and bones from the earliest forms of life to live on this planet bonded together at the bottom of the ocean to form the Coralline Devonian Limestone. Kents Cavern is the underground visitor centre for the UNESCO endorsed English Riviera Global Geopark.

The caves have been owned and operated by the Powe family since 1880 and today Nick Powe is the 5th generation of the family to manage the operations.

Tours of the cave are led by entertaining guides who bring the incredible story of the cave’s Ice Age history back to life, concluding the visit in an underground exhibition chamber. Plenty goes on in and around the caves all year including a woodland trail quest, kids archaeological dig area, hands-on cave art walls and regular appearances by the attractions mascot Cavog the Caveman. Underground theatre and evening entertainment is a speciality of the cave.

Located only 250 metres from two of the English Riviera’s most beautiful coves, Meadfoot and Anstey’s, the caves are a popular starting point for circular walks along sections of the South West Coast Path. There is a gift shop and restaurant serving Devon cream teas, a bar and attractive gardens.