

COMUNICADO

Gobierno de Gibraltar

Los principales investigadores mundiales en evolución humana se reúnen en Gibraltar con motivo de la Conferencia Calpe 2026

Gibraltar, 2 de junio de 2026

La Conferencia Calpe de este año, la trigésima de la serie, reunirá en Gibraltar a expertos de primer nivel mundial en el ámbito de la evolución humana. Organizada un año más por el Museo Nacional de Gibraltar, el evento se propone ofrecer un análisis actualizado del “estado de la cuestión” sobre nuestro conocimiento y comprensión de los neandertales. En particular, las recientes investigaciones en los campos de la genética y la ecología del comportamiento están cambiando rápidamente nuestra visión de los neandertales. Gibraltar se ha situado a la vanguardia de esta investigación, y los trabajos realizados en su yacimiento Patrimonio Mundial de la UNESCO, el Complejo de la Cueva de Gorham, han contribuido enormemente a transformar esas perspectivas.

El yacimiento de Gorham celebra este año el décimo aniversario de su inscripción en la Lista del Patrimonio Mundial, que coincide además con el centenario del descubrimiento del neandertal Gibraltar 2 en el Refugio Rocosos de Devil’s Tower. Aquel neandertal de cuatro años se popularizó con el nombre de Flint cuando su reconstrucción forense, junto a la del neandertal Gibraltar 1 procedente de la Cantera de Forbes, se expuso por primera vez en el museo en 2016. El Museo Nacional de Gibraltar ha encargado ahora una nueva imagen de Flint, obra del paleoartista de reconocido prestigio internacional Mauricio Antón, que figura en el cartel y el programa de la conferencia. Esta nueva imagen se presentó por primera vez en el museo antes del Día de Puertas Abiertas del Museo, celebrado el 15 de mayo.

El programa de la Conferencia Calpe es espectacular, con cincuenta instituciones académicas representadas procedentes de catorce países distintos: Alemania, Austria, Bélgica, Canadá, España, Estados Unidos, Finlandia, Francia, Gibraltar, Irlanda, Israel, Portugal, Reino Unido y Suiza. La conferencia se celebrará en la Universidad de Gibraltar del 2 al 5 de septiembre y la inscripción, gratuita para los residentes locales, ya está abierta en el sitio web: <https://www.gibmuseum.gi/news/calpe-2026>.

El Ministro de Patrimonio, John Cortés, destacó: “El Museo Nacional de Gibraltar sigue realizando una aportación única a la comprensión global de la evolución humana. Sus investigaciones gozan de reconocimiento internacional y han ayudado a situar a Gibraltar en el centro de descubrimientos importantes sobre nuestro pasado neandertal. Estamos orgullosos de dar de nuevo la bienvenida a Gibraltar a tantos científicos de primer nivel para lo que promete ser un extraordinario décimo aniversario de la Conferencia Calpe”.

PRESS RELEASE

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Leading world researchers on human evolution to meet in Gibraltar for the Calpe '26 Conference

This year's Calpe Conference, the thirtieth in the series, will bring to Gibraltar world leading experts on the subject of human evolution. Organised once again by the Gibraltar National Museum, the conference aims to produce an up-to-date "state of the question" analysis of our knowledge and understanding of the Neanderthals. Recent research in the fields of genetics and behavioural ecology, in particular, are rapidly changing our views on the Neanderthals. Gibraltar has been at the forefront of this research with work at its UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Gorham's Cave Complex having contributed greatly to the changing perspectives.

The Gorham's site celebrates its tenth anniversary of inscription on the World Heritage List this year, which is also the centenary of the discovery of the Gibraltar 2 Neanderthal in Devil's Tower Cave. The four-year old Neanderthal became popularly known as Flint when a forensic reconstruction, alongside the Gibraltar 1 Neanderthal from Forbes' Quarry, was first exhibited at the museum in 2016. A new image of Flint has now been commissioned by the Gibraltar National Museum. It has been produced by internationally recognised palaeoartist Mauricio Antón and is featured in the conference poster and programme. This new image was first revealed at the museum prior to the Museum Open Day on the 15th May.

The Calpe programme is spectacular, with fifty academic institutions represented from fourteen different countries: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Ireland, Israel, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. The conference takes place at the University of Gibraltar between the 2nd and 5th September and registration, free for local residents, is now open at <https://www.gibmuseum.gi/news/calpe-2026>

Minister for Heritage, the Hon Prof John Cortes, said: "The Gibraltar National Museum continues to make its own unique contribution to our global understanding of human evolution. Its research is recognised internationally and has helped place Gibraltar at the centre of important discoveries about our Neanderthal past. We are proud to welcome so many leading scientists to Gibraltar once again for what promises to be an outstanding 10th anniversary Calpe Conference."

ENDS

Nota a redactores:

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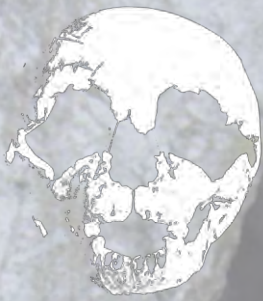
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NEANDERTHAL: THE CONFERENCE

CALPE '26 PROGRAMME

2nd – 5th September 2026

Wednesday 2nd September

09:00 Official Opening

09:15 Alex Menez^{1,2}

¹The Gibraltar National Museum, Gibraltar

²University of Gibraltar, Gibraltar

Dorothy Garrod and The Devil's Tower Skull

10:15 Coffee

10:35 Jose Maria Fernandez Palacios

Universidad de La Laguna, Spain

Islands as refugia. The case of the Macaronesian laurel forest

11:35 Geraldine Finlayson^{1,2,3}, Stewart Finlayson^{1,2,3}, Richard Jennings², Joaquín Rodríguez Vidal¹, Clive Finlayson^{1,2,3}

¹The Gibraltar National Museum, Gibraltar

²Liverpool John Moores University, UK

³University of Gibraltar, Gibraltar

Mainland Macaronesia? Thoughts on the Gibraltar and other Atlantic Neanderthal coastal refugia

12:35 John Murray

University of Galway, Ireland

There is another: William King and the naming of the Neanderthals

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Carlos Neto de Carvalho

Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark, Portugal

Tracks, Tides, and Time: Six Million Years of Hominid Footprints and Shoreline Use

15:00 Geoff Bailey

University of York, UK

World History from the Margins: Coastal Archaeology, Drowned Landscapes and their Relevance to Human Evolution

16:00 Tea

16:20 Discussion

18:30 International Premier Film Screening

The Last Traces of the Neanderthal

09:00 John Shea

Stony Brook University, USA

O brave New World: What insights does the Contact Period in the Americas offer about Later Pleistocene human dispersals into Europe?

10:00 Coffee

10:20 Mina Weinstein-Evron

University of Haifa, Israel

***Homo sapiens* and others in Middle Palaeolithic Mount Carmel**

11:20 Tom Higham

University of Vienna, Austria

Improved chronometric methods and their impact on dating the disappearance of Neanderthals

12:20 G. Abrams^{1,2}, M. Hajdinjak³, K. Di Modica², S. Pirson^{4,5}, T. Devière⁶, T. Higham⁷, G. Guérin⁸, P. Semal⁹, I. De Groote¹, M. Toussaint¹

¹Department of Archaeology, ArcheOs - Research Laboratory for Biological Anthropology, Ghent University, Belgium

²Scladina Cave Archaeological Centre, Espace muséal d'Andenne, Belgium

³Department of Evolutionary Genetics, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Germany

⁴Direction scientifique et technique, Agence wallonne du Patrimoine, Belgium

⁵Department of Geology and European Archaeometry Centre, University of Liège, Belgium

⁶European Centre for Research and Education in Environmental Geosciences (CEREGE), Aix-Marseille University, CNRS, IRD, INRAE, France

⁷Human Evolution and Archaeological Sciences (HEAS), University of Vienna, Austria

⁸Univ Rennes, CNRS, Géosciences Rennes, France

⁹Scientific Heritage Service, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Belgium

Post MIS4 Neanderthals in Belgium: coexistence or succession of different maternal lineages?

12:40 Tristan Dedrie^{1,2}, Kévin Di Modica³, Stéphane Pirson^{4,5,6}, Isabelle De Groote¹, Grégory Abrams^{1,2}

¹ArcheOs, Department of Archaeology, Ghent University, Belgium

²Research Foundation-Flanders (FWO), Belgium

³Scladina Cave Archaeological Centre, Espace Muséal d'Andenne, Belgium

⁴Direction Scientifique et Technique, Agence Wallonne du Patrimoine, Belgium

⁵European Archaeometry Centre, Liège University, Belgium

⁶Department of Geology, Liège University, Belgium

Human Presence and Faunal Dynamics during the Late Saalian at Scladina Cave (prov. Namur, BE)

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Katerina Douka

University of Vienna, Austria

Biomolecular approaches to understanding Neanderthals and Denisovans

15:00 Matthias Meyer

Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Germany

Investigating Neanderthal evolutionary history through DNA analysis

16:00 Tea

16:20 John Hawks

University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA

Living with Neanderthals: Biographies of Lost People Through Sites and Skeletons

17:20 Grégory Abrams^{1,2,3}, Patrick Auguste⁴, Stéphane Pirson^{5,6}, Isabelle De Grootte^{2,7}, Éva Halbrucker⁸, Kévin Di Modica³, Camille Pironneau², Tristan Dedrie^{1,2}, Carlo Meloro⁷, Valentin Fischer⁹, Hervé Bocherens^{10,11}, Yves Vanbrabant¹², Fabrice Bray¹³

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³Scladina Cave Archaeological Centre, Espace muséal d'Andenne, Belgium

⁴CNRS, Univ. Lille UMR 8198 - Evo-Eco-Paléo, France

⁵Direction scientifique et technique, Agence wallonne du Patrimoine, Belgium

⁶Department of Geology (RU Geology) and European Archaeometry Centre (RU Art, Archaeology, Heritage), University of Liège, Belgium

⁷Research Centre in Evolutionary Anthropology and Palaeoecology, School of Biological & Environmental Sciences, Liverpool John Moores University, UK

⁸Prehistory Research Group, Department of Archaeology, Ghent University, Belgium

⁹Evolution & Diversity Dynamics Lab, RU Geology, University of Liège, Belgium

¹⁰Department of Geosciences, Biogeology, University of Tübingen, Germany

¹¹Senckenberg Centre for Human Evolution and Palaeoenvironment, Germany

¹²Geological Survey of Belgium, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Belgium

¹³UAR 3290 - MSAP - Miniaturisation pour la Synthèse, l'Analyse et la Protéomique, CNRS, University of Lille, France

Earliest Evidence of Multifunctional Bone Tool Production by Neanderthals Using Cave Lion Remains

17:40 Jordi Rosell^{1,2}, Maite Arilla^{1,2}, Ruth Blasco^{1,2}, Gabriel Cifuentes^{1,2}, Daniel Vivar-Ríos^{1,2}, Rubén Llorente^{1,2}, Arnaud Barat^{1,2}, Andreu Sansó^{3,4}

¹Àrea de Prehistòria, Universitat Rovira i Virgili (URV), Spain

²IPHES, Institut Català de Paleoecologia Humana i Evolució Social, Spain

³Departament d'Economia Aplicada, Universitat de Les Illes Balears, Spain

⁴Models for Information Processing and Fuzzy Information (MOTIBO) Research Group, Health Research Institute of the Balearic Islands, Idisba, Spain

Who Is Behind the Chaos? Wild Carnivore Neotaphonomy and Middle Palaeolithic Settlement Duration

18:00 Gabriel Cifuentes^{1,2}, Daniel Vivar-Ríos^{1,2}, Rubén Llorente^{1,2}, Arnaud Barat^{1,2}, Andreu Sansó^{3,4}, Maite Arilla^{1,2}, Ruth Blasco^{1,2}, Jordi Rosell^{1,2}

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²IPHES, Institut Català de Paleoecologia Humana i Evolució Social, Spain

³Departament d'Economia Aplicada, Universitat de Les Illes Balears, Spain

⁴Models for Information Processing and Fuzzy Information (MOTIBO) Research Group, Health Research Institute of the Balearic Islands, Idisba, Spain

The Order Within Chaos: Wild Carnivore Neo-taphonomy to Disentangle Complex Archaeological Assemblages at Teixonerres Cave (Barcelona, Spain)

18:20 Discussion

Friday 4th September

- 09:00** Rob Foley
University of Cambridge, UK
Species, speciation and macroevolution in hominin evolution
- 10:00** Coffee
- 10:20** Christoph Zollikofer, Marcia Ponce de Leon
University of Zurich, Switzerland
Neanderthals from head to toe
- 11:20** Marta Mirazón Lahr
University of Cambridge, UK
Forty years on: changing perspectives on recent human evolution
- 12:20** Miki Ben-Dor, Ran Barkai
Department of Archaeology, Tel Aviv University, Israel
Neanderthal Extinction as a Consequence of the Late Quaternary Megafaunal Extinction: A Bioenergetic Hypothesis
- 12:40** Discussion
- 13:00** Lunch
- 14:00** Ian Tattersall
American Museum of Natural History, USA
Neanderthals: still evolving in the human mind
- 15:00** Milford Wolpoff, Rachel Caspari
University of Michigan and Central Michigan University, USA
Candelabras, Noah's Ark and Neandertals: Personal Perspectives on the Evolution of a Discipline
- 16:00** Tea
- 16:20** José Antonio Solano-García¹, Arturo de Lombera², Alejandro Prieto de Dios³, Juha Saarinen⁴, Hervé Bocherens⁵, Manuel Munuera⁶, Gabriela Amorós⁷, Mario Gutiérrez⁸, Natalia Egüez⁹, Antonio García-Alix¹⁰, Christian Sánchez-Bandera¹¹, Alexia Serrano-Ramos¹², Darío Herranz-Rodrigo¹, Elisabeth Ortiz-García¹, Juan José González-Quiñones¹², Eva Montilla¹³, César Viseras¹⁰, Mathieu Duval¹⁴, José Carrión⁷, Carolina Mallol¹⁵, Juan Manuel Jiménez-Arenas¹
- ¹Departamento de Prehistoria y Arqueología, Universidad de Granada, Spain
²Departamento de Historia, Universidad de Oviedo, Spain
³Grupo de Investigación SPEGEOCHERT StG-ERC, Universitat de Barcelona, Spain
⁴Department of geosciences and geography, University of Helsinki, Finland
⁵Department of Geosciences, University of Tübingen, Germany
⁶Departamento de Ingeniería Agronómica, Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena, Murcia
⁷Departamento de Biología Vegetal, Universidad de Murcia, Spain
⁸Departamento de Patrimonio Histórico, Universidad de Jaén, Spain
⁹Instituto de Productos Naturales y Agrobiología, CSIC, Spain
¹⁰Departamento de Estratigrafía y Paleontología, Universidad de Granada, Spain
¹¹Institut Català de Paleoecologia Humana i Evolució Social, Spain
¹²Departamento de Expresión Gráfica en la Arquitectura, Universidad de Granada, Spain
¹³Museo Primeros Pobladores de Europa 'Josep Gibert', Orce, Granada, Spain
¹⁴Centro Nacional de Investigación sobre la Evolución Humana, Spain
¹⁵Departamento de Geografía e Historia, Universidad de La Laguna, Spain
- Old landscapes, new lenses: revisiting the Middle Pleistocene archaeological site of Solana del Zamborino (Fonelas, Geopark of Granada, Spain)**

Friday 4th September

16:40 Peter Sahlins

University of California, USA

The “Hominization” of Neanderthals: What’s Driving the Story?

17:00 Chris Stringer

The Natural History Museum, UK

Still “In Search of the Neanderthals”

18:00 Discussion



Saturday 5th September

09:00 Ludovic Slimak

CNRS, Centre for Anthropobiology and Genomics of Toulouse, Université de Toulouse, France

What Neanderthals Reveal About Us

10:00 Coffee

10:20 Joao Zilhao

University of Lisbon, Portugal

The Neanderthal debate two centuries after Engis: one step forward, two steps backward

11:20 Francesco d'Errico

University of Bordeaux, France

The culturalisation of the body in human evolution and the origin of fashion

12:20 Linda Amos

Christian Albrechts University of Kiel, Germany

Neanderthal Bird Exploitation at Devil's Tower Rock Shelter: Integrating a Legacy Assemblage into the Gibraltarian Middle Palaeolithic

12:40 Discussion

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Stewart Finlayson¹⁻³, Clive Finlayson¹⁻³

¹The Gibraltar National Museum, Gibraltar

²Liverpool John Moores University, UK

³University of Gibraltar, Gibraltar

Neanderthals and birds

15:00 April Nowell

University of Victoria, Canada

Paleolithic Children Come of Age

16:00 Tea

16:20 Clive Finlayson¹⁻³

¹The Gibraltar National Museum, Gibraltar

²Liverpool John Moores University, UK

³University of Gibraltar, Gibraltar

The Neanderthal Niche

17:20 Discussion