

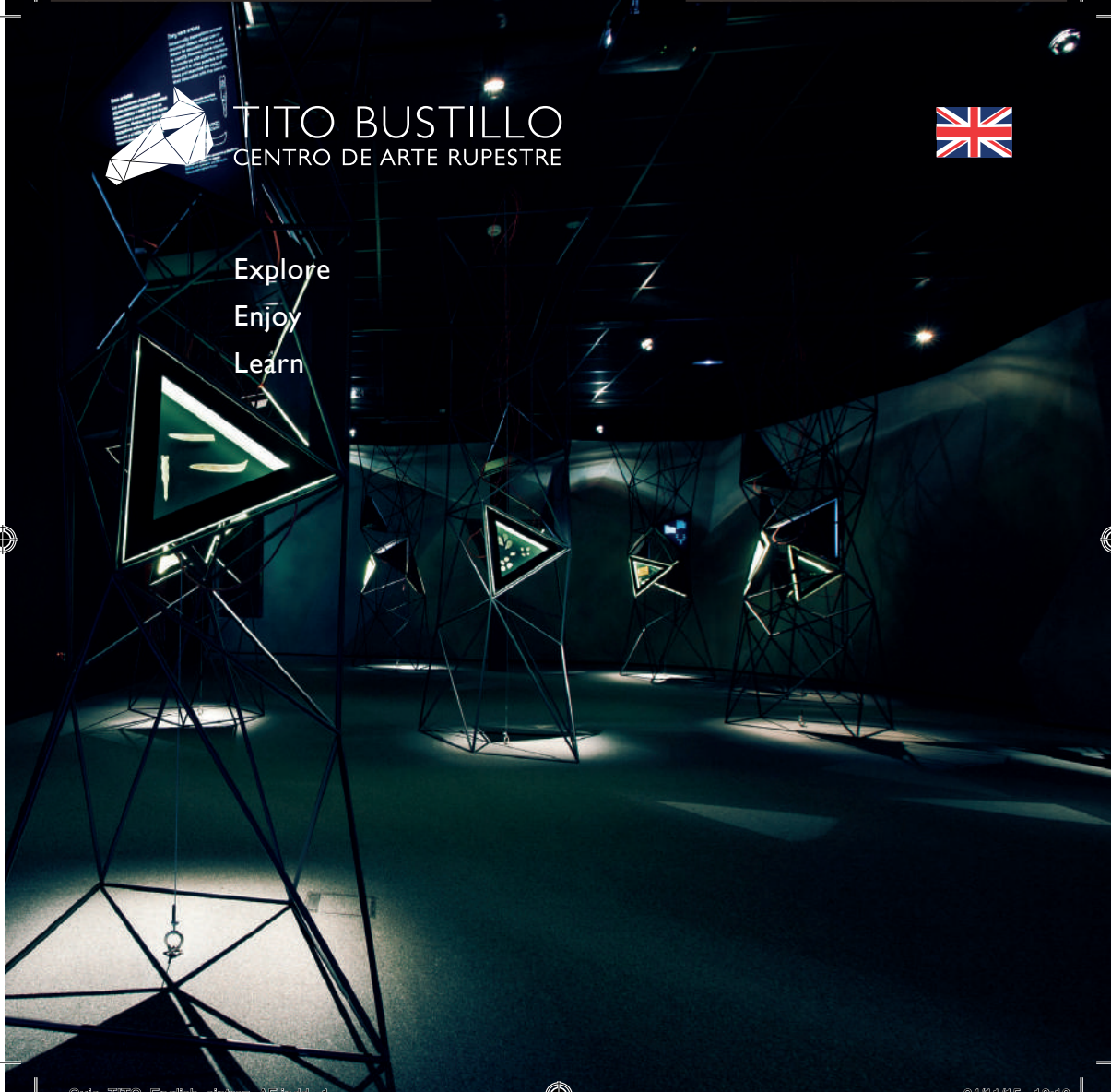


# TITO BUSTILLO

CENTRO DE ARTE RUPESTRE



Explore  
Enjoy  
Learn





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- ▶ **AREA 2** A massif that isn't quite so massive
- ▶ **AREA 3** Hunters and artists

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Tito Bustillo Cave is one of the best examples of Palaeolithic cave art in all Asturias. The hard-to-reach location of several of the artistic groups and the need to preserve this exceptional heritage motivated the creation of the Tito Bustillo Cave Art Centre.

As they follow the exhibition itinerary, visitors will learn when the cave was discovered, how it was formed, who lived in it, and what kind of cave art it contains.

The centre offers a variety of visitor services:

- Guided tours
- Workshops
- Special activities
- Resource room
- Temporary exhibition hall
- Multipurpose room
- Shop

**TITO BUSTILLO CAVE ART CENTRE**  
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▶ AREA 1

# A casual rappel down a sinkhole, and suddenly... a treasure trove of Palaeolithic art

**EN PLENO «LONDRES PREHISTÓRICA»  
PINTURAS RUPESTRES  
EN RIBADESELLA**



El descubrimiento de pinturas rupestres en la cueva de Ribadesella, en Asturias, ha sido el primer hallazgo de este tipo en el norte de España. El grupo que realizó el descubrimiento, formado por el profesor de Geología de la Universidad de Oviedo, Antonio Barja y sus alumnos, descubrió en la cueva, en el mes de agosto, un conjunto de pinturas rupestres que se estima que datan de entre el 15.000 y el 10.000 años antes de Cristo. El grupo que realizó el descubrimiento, formado por el profesor de Geología de la Universidad de Oviedo, Antonio Barja y sus alumnos, descubrió en la cueva, en el mes de agosto, un conjunto de pinturas rupestres que se estima que datan de entre el 15.000 y el 10.000 años antes de Cristo.

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**LA «CUEVA DEL RAMO», EN ARDONES, ERA EL PUDRIDO DE LAS RESES DEL LUGAR**

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The first area of the exhibition is dedicated to the cave's discovery in 1968 and the coverage it received in the media.

Various panels offer a visual collage of the photos taken by the discoverers, and an audiovisual featuring the testimony of four members of the group pays tribute to these intrepid adventurers.







Special mention is made of Celestino Fernández Bustillo, who passed away just a few days after making the discovery. The cave, formerly known as Pozu'l Ramu, was renamed Tito Bustillo in his honour.

The room contains helmets and carbide lamps loaned by the cave discoverers, as well as examples of the ice axes and ropes commonly used by mountaineers and cavers.

## ▶ AREA 2

# A massif that isn't quite so massive

Tito Bustillo Cave is part of the Massif of Ardines, one of the most important karst systems in Asturias. This massif contains a number of caves, some of which are interconnected, as is the case of Tito Bustillo and La Lloseta.

A large scale model accompanied by an audiovisual projection explains how this karst system originated and acquired its present-day form. A backlit table shows the layout of Tito

Bustillo Cave and the location of its most singular spaces and groups of artwork. The audiovisual production offers visitors a virtual tour of over 700 metres of underground passages.

This area also features panels with a diagram of how a karst system works and photographs of the cave's main areas and its most striking geological formations.



### ▶ AREA 3

## Hunters and artists

This area is dedicated to the creators of the Palaeolithic art found in the cave.

Archaeological excavations have revealed an intense human occupation of the cave towards the end of the Magdalenian, between 15,000 and 11,000 years ago.

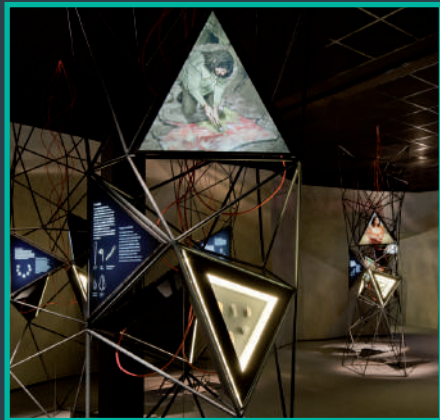
The display includes replicas of the most important pieces found during these excavations, which are grouped according

to their use: making clothes, hunting, personal adornment, etc.

Nearly all of the pieces were fashioned out of natural materials, such as stone and bone.

The replicas show each object as it must have looked when the Palaeolithic craftsman or artist first made it. The wear-and-tear of use and the ravages of time have been eliminated, allowing visitors to see these ancient items in a new and different light.

They wore clothes, they wore jewellery, they were artists, th







Pride of place is given to many of the portable art objects found at Tito Bustillo, given their historical and archaeological importance. These include ornamental objects such as seashells and small sculptures, richly decorated tools such as harpoons, assegais, staffs and scrapers, and stone tablets engraved with motifs similar to those covering the cave walls.



S, they hunted, they were craftsmen...

Some of the pieces seem to suggest a symbolic significance beyond their practical or decorative function, but their potential meaning remains a mystery.

The information is accompanied by an audiovisual production featuring the testimony of people who have explored and researched the cave.



#### ▶ AREA 4

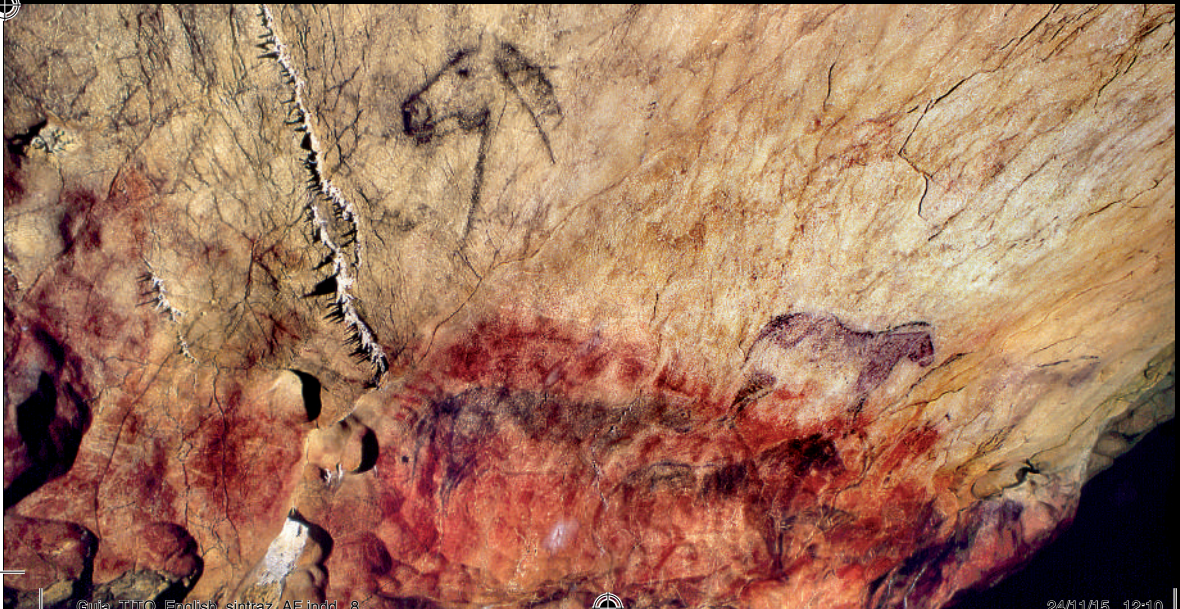
## A canvas over 20,000 years old

The first examples of cave art are found near the occupied area at the old entrance and, like the rest of the specimens, in a post protected from the natural light of the sun. An interesting aspect of some of these creations is the use of the colour violet, a characteristic pigment at Tito Bustillo.

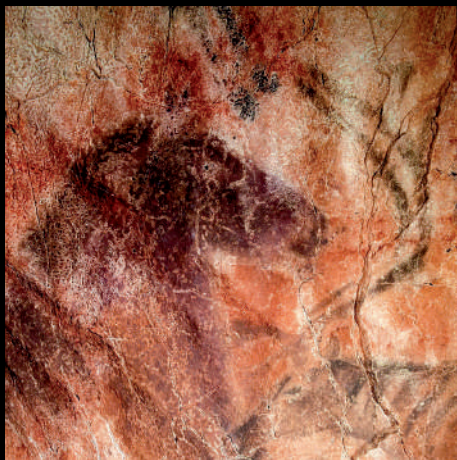
As visitors pass through a corridor, an interactive game is activated that gives the impression of using stone lamps to enter the

cave, and display cases and panels light up to show how the cave art and groups at the cave entrance were made. A crack in the wall shows how the pigments used were found naturally in the cave.

A spectacular audiovisual production shown on a 6 x 2 metre screen, allows visitors to discover how the Main Panel at Tito Bustillo took shape, revealing details that are impossible to see on the cave tour.











The Main Panel is a veritable palimpsest, a wall on which the illustrations of Palaeolithic artists were gradually accumulated and superimposed over a period that probably spanned more than 10,000 years.

Several different phases of execution have been identified; some motifs predate the Magdalenian (over 18,000 years ago) and others were added at later dates over the course of this cultural era.





## ▶ AREA 5

# Discovering hidden treasures

In addition to the groups at the entrance, Tito Bustillo Cave boasts nine other clusters of cave art which are not open to the public. In this room, visitors can discover all of them.

This area contains replicas of the three most important spaces: the Gallery of Anthropomorphic Figures, the Gallery of Horses and the Chamber of Vulvas, each with an antechamber where its location and cave art specimens are explained.

An audiovisual illustrates the difficulty of reaching the Gallery of Anthropomorphic Figures, while a series of projections on a replica of the panel in the Gallery of Horses clearly reveals the delicate engravings that are almost imperceptible to the naked eye. An impressive recreation of the wall in the Chamber of Vulvas allows visitors to admire the figures depicted.

The exhibit is rounded out by panels illustrating the other artistic groups and a visual game which shows the negative image of a hand, the only known example of its kind in Asturias.







Hands from El Castillo Cave (Cantabria)



Bears from Ekain Cave (Basque Country)

## ▶ AREA 6

# From Palaeolithic art to World Heritage

A huge interactive table allows visitors to explore five themes that have shaped the unique identity of Tito Bustillo Cave: World Heritage, the cave art of northern Spain, the relationship between cave art and nature, conservation issues, and the meaning of cave art.

Suspended over the centre of the table are six enlarged resin replicas of singular pieces found in other Asturian caves:

- The head from Entrefoces (Morcín)
- The tawny owl from La Viña (Oviedo)
- The sperm whale tooth carved on both sides from Las Caldas (Oviedo)
- The bird-shaped sculpture from El Buxu (Cangas de Onís)
- The disc from Llonín (Peñamellera Alta)
- The decorated deer hyoid bone from La Güelga (Cangas de Onís)







Anthropomorphic figure from Llonín Cave (Asturias)

Bison from Covaciella Cave (Asturias)





TITO BUSTILLO  
CENTRO DE ARTE RUPESTRE



GOBIERNO DEL  
PRINCIPADO DE ASTURIAS



CAMINOS DE ARTE  
RUPESTRE PREHISTÓRICO  
CHEMINS DE L'ART  
RUPESTRE PRÉHISTORIQUE  
PREHISTORIC  
ROCK ART TRAILS

Cultural Route of the  
Itineraire Culturel du  
COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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