Aim of the forum is to exchange the experience in the field of research and protection of underground objects: natural caves, underground architectural constructions, old mines

**The main themes:**

- Caves associated with historical events
- Artificial caves as objects of cultural heritage (underground architectural constructions, old mines)
- Rock painting and cave graffiti
- Sacred complexes in natural and artificial caves (Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, pagan and so on)
- Idea of underground space in the culture of different nations, its value and mythologization
- Underground space in ancient literature (up to and including the XVIII century)
- Historical city and military underground constructions
- Problems of protection of caves and related applied research
- Musefication of caves: technical, ethical and legal aspects
## PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

| 16-17 April | Excursions  
(please refer to page Excursions) |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 April</td>
<td>Voronezh. Arrival and registration of participants. Opening Ceremony Session. Evening guided tour around Voronezh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 April</td>
<td>Transfer to the Museum-Reserve Divnogorye. Excursion to the museum-reserve Kostenki, Ostrogozhsky Historical and Art Museum. Resettlement. Guided tour to the cave complex in Bolshie (Big) Divy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 April</td>
<td>Session. Opening of the photo exhibitions. Guided tour to the cave complex in Malye (small) Divy and monuments of the museum-reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 April</td>
<td>Excursion to the Kostomarovsky cave complex. Lunch at the monastery. Excursion to the Belogorsky cave complex. The final session. Banquet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 23-24 April | Excursions  
(please refer to page Excursions) |
To participate in the Forum you must complete the registration form and send it up to the **20 of October, 2015** by e-mail to the Organizing Committee. You can complete the online form on the page of the Forum: [http://www.divnogor.ru/konf2016](http://www.divnogor.ru/konf2016)

**FEES**

| Regular conference fee | Participant package, proceedings of the Forum, coffee break, transfer Voronezh-Dvnogorye, transport on exit excursions | 50 € |

**ARTICLE GUIDELINE**

By the beginning of the Forum proceedings of the Forum will be published. Article deadline: **20 of December 2015**. Each participant can present only 2 (two) articles, either as author or as co-author (absentee participant not more than one article). Articles should correspond to the guidelines below, otherwise, may be rejected by the Organizing Committee. **Admitted languages:** English and Russian. Texts should be limited to 2 to 10 pages, typed sesquialteral spaced using the Microsoft Word (.doc) file format and Times New Roman 14 pt font, indent 2 cm, and should not contain figures, tables and photographs embedded. The first page must contain the following elements in the following order:

**S.M. Baranov**

*Russian geographic society, Chelyabinsk, Russia*

**“HOLY CAVES” IN CHELYABINSK REGION (EXPERIENCE AND RESULTS OF LITERATURE AND HISTORICAL SURVEY)**

Brief abstract placed under the title (not more than 200 words). References should be pointed in the text in squire brackets and include the author’s surname (or the first word in the title of the book), the year of edition, page e.g: [Dubljansky, 1963. P. 117]. The list of references (under the heading “References”) should be placed in the end of the text.

References to figures and tables are given in round brackets: (Fig. 1), (table 1). Black-and-white figures jpg, 300 dpi and tables should be submitted as the separate files. Captions to the figures should be given on a separate page of the text. The files with the paper and figures should be archived by zip (rar) and sent as a single file.

**POSTER GUIDELINE**

Posters should be made by participants. Theme of the poster should correspond to the theme of the report. Size 70x100 sm. Times New Roman not less than 18 point font must be used. The top part of the poster must contain the following information on English or Russian and English languages: Full name of the report, full name of authors, and name of the organization. Photos and schemes must be with explications and references to the authors.

**INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS**
IMPORTANT DATES

20 of October 2015
- deadline for registration for participation in Forum

20 of December 2015
- article deadline

1 of February 2016
- publication of the Second Circular

20 of March 2016
- deadline for registration on individual excursions (detailed information will be published in the second Circular)

16-17 of April 2016 - individual excursions
19-22 of April 2016 - Forum
23-24 of April 2016 - individual excursions

Attention! We will announce about all changes in separate information letters

SECRETARIAT

For correspondence and applications please use the following address
Kondrateva Sofia (executive secretary)
kosofia@yandex.ru; Tel. +79036518872

Post address of the administration of the museum-reserve "Divnogorye" in Voronezh
394030 Voronezh Koltsovskaya street 56-a
Tel. (+7-473) 220-52-97, div-vrn@mail.ru

Official internet page of the Forum:

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS
In Voronezh participants of the Forum can stay in Azimuth hotel. Price according to the April 2015 for one night for single room is: ~25-45€. The conditions of the reservation will be announced later

From the 20 of April participants can stay at the hotel complex of the museum-reserve. There are such types of rooms:
- free rooms-apartments for 3-5 persons with bath, toilet, kitchen, balcony;
- paid (private guest house) rooms for 1-2 persons.
Food is centralized. Also there is a small shop nearby

Attention! The number of free rooms is limited. Their distribution will be carried out upon receipt participants applications
During forum there will be wide excursion program, which will consist of two parts: common and individual

**COMMON PROGRAM**

**Hiking around the historical part of Voronezh**

*Museum-reserve Kostenki* - the biggest in Russia place of concentration of high Paleolithic sites (50-20 thousand years ago). More then 60 sites are opened here. Museum building is build above one of the sites.

**Ostrogozhsky Historical and Art Museum named after I.N. Kramskoy**

Museum is situated in a former fire station building with twenty meters watchtower. There is the collection of authenticity paintings of the famous Russian painters XIX and the beginning of the XX centuries: I.N. Kramskoy, V.D. Polenov, I.E. Repin, I.K. Ayivazovsky, A.I. Kuindjy, I.I. Shishkin and others.

**Cave complex in Bolshie (Big) Divy.** The complex occupies two levels. On the first level near the entrance to the cave church there is the Sicilian icon of Our Lady.

**Cave complex in Malye (Small) Divy.** It is the biggest complex among Divnogorsky group of cave complexes. There are fragments of ancient rock rooms near.

**Guided tour around historical and natural monuments of museum-reserve Divnogorye.**

**Kostomarovsky cave complex** includes five caves with three cave churches. It is situated on the territory of the female monastery.

**Belogorsky cave complex** is one of the biggest sacred caves in Eastern Europe. It is the labyrinth of galleries with amplitude of 60 meters. There is handmade well depth of 80 meters.
Individual excursions will be organized on the **16-17 of April** and on the **23-24 of April**, detailed program, cost of participating and information about necessary equipment will be published at the second circular. During this period participants will live in hotel complex of the museum-reserve Divnogorye.

**OBJECTS FOR INDIVIDUAL EXCURSIONS**

Kalacheevsky cave complex is one of the biggest and the most mysterious in Eastern Europe. There is no information about the time of its construction. It consists of galleries, two cave churches, chapels, rooms of unknown purpose, spiral stare case, which leads to the second and third level.

Kolibelkinsky cave complex consists of two parts. There is cave church, galleries and rooms on a few levels.

Selyavninsky cave complex and Uliana’s cave are well preserved and there is a great amount of small architectural forms and ancient graffiti.

Shatrischegorsky cave complex is situated inside huge chalk outlier is Shatristche. There is a Malaya (Small) Shatristchegorsky cave nearby.

Liski chalk mines. Chalk mine complex with unique morphology. Mining of chalk was carried out by scrapping that’s why there is a whimsical system of round sections on different levels.

Valuysky cave complex is in Belgorod region. It consists of galleries and rooms including former cave church.

Khokhovskiy cave complex is also in Belgorod region. It includes two caves with cave church and household cave.
Voronezh is one of the largest cities in European part of Russia. It is situated 500 km to the south of Moscow. It was founded as a fortress on the high right bank of the river Voronezh in 1586 for protection southern borders of Russian state. At the end of the XVII century tzar Peter I began to build navy. First battleship of the Russian navy "Goto Predestination" was made here.

Today Voronezh is a big industrial and cultural center with multiply literature and historic past. There is a lot of beautiful architecture, although most of the buildings were damaged during World War II. Historic center with ancient churches, unusual monuments, parks, museums and theaters is the visit card of the city.

More then one million people live in Voronezh. The city is well known as an educational and scientific center. There are more then 30 universities, more then 10 research institutes. Voronezh is a huge transport hub. There is federal road M4, roadway and international airport.

Voronezh is situated in the temperate climate zone. The average temperature in April is +14° C. In the second half of April temperature could rise up to 20° C. Also there could be slight rainfall. At this time of the year the city is especially beautiful - the foliage appears and trees are blooming.
Divnogorye - Natural, architectural and archaeological museum-reserve. It is situated in the southeast of the Middle Russian upland, in the south of the forest-steppe zone in Liski district of Voronezh region. It is founded in 1991. It's unique open-air museum. There are chalk outlier Divy, millennial archaeological antiquities, picturesque landscapes, magnificence and expanded of blossoming steppe with relict and endemic plants and animals, and surely mysterious caves. Six caves and cave complexes are known in Divnogorye. They are situated in the chalk highplain on the right bank of the river Tihaya Sosna and Don on a stretch of 8 km. The length of the smallest cave is 27 m and the length of the largest is 351 m.

The time of creation of the first cave in Divnogorye is unknown. Most parts of caves were created by monasteries and local residents in XVII-XIX centuries. In the caves of Divnogorye there is a great amount of functional parts such as underground churches and crypts, long roundabout galleries, stair flights between the tiers, living quarters, sepulchral vault. Most of the complexes have tiers. The best example if Shatristche where underpass goes by spiral to a depth of 30 meters. Cave complex in Bolshie (Big) Divy is completely restored and equipped with Led lighting. Only church part of cave complex in Malye (Small) Divy is restored. Divnogorye is also rich with geomorphological monuments: there are strange shape chalk poles-diva the creation of nature, chalk canyons and other places of interest.