



The HYDROGEODAY: Raising awareness of groundwater

The Spanish Chapter of IAH would like to promote and expand Hydrogeoday in other countries, in line with IAH's education and outreach goals. Do not hesitate to contact us at aih-ge@aih-ge.org. We will receive proposals for guided tours during December and January. We will help organisers with the steps that they should follow to ensure the success of their event.



WHAT IS HYDROGEODAY?

The Hydrogeoday is a day of awareness raising of hydrogeology, held on a weekend close to World Water Day (March 22), and promoted by the Spanish Group of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (AIH-GE) since 2017. Research organisations, universities and others whose activity is related to groundwater also collaborate in it. This initiative consists of free activities, guided by hydrogeologists, and is open to the general public, regardless of their knowledge in the field.



THE OBJECTIVES OF HYDROGEODAY

The main objectives of Hydrogeoday are to:

- Disseminate and raise awareness of the importance of underground water resources
- Promote the scientific and technical developments that allow us to exploit and protect these resources
- Highlight the historical and cultural heritage associated with groundwater.



WHAT ARE THE ACTIVITIES?

The activities consist of walking tours with a series of planned stops. The walks are usually short and of low difficulty. Although in some cases buses are made available to reach the planned stops. On other occasions, the activities have been carried out by private cars or even public transport (bus / subway).

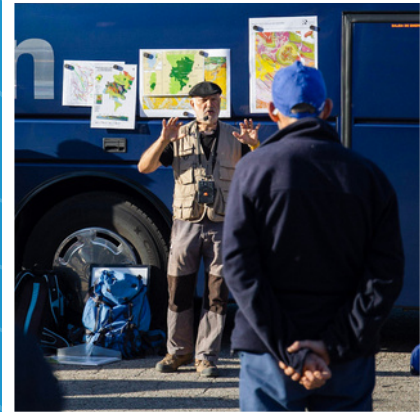


ACTIVITY DETAILS

The explanations are given by qualified volunteer guides, who accompany the participants on the tour. The guides deliver interactive talks, which the participants can join in and share their opinion. The format for delivering the explanations can differ depending on the number of participants. Generally, if the groups are small, the guides accompany the visitors on the tour and explanations are given at the chosen points. For larger groups, guides are at each stop and groups of about 10-20 people can go through the successive information points to receive the explanations. This speeds up stops by making activities more dynamic.

Generally, the explanations are theoretical, accompanied by maps, panels or explanatory brochures prepared by the guides themselves. When logistics allow, practical demonstrations can be carried out: participants are offered the opportunity to manage field equipment and perform measurements "in situ". This allows them to experience 'first-hand' the work of a hydrogeologist, and makes the activity much more enjoyable and interactive for the attendees.

Keeping the walking routes short helps to ensure the activity is accessible for more people. However, in all cases, the participants are informed of the route in advance, to avoid any access issues on the day. It is important to keep in mind that there is no liability insurance, so participants should be informed about that.



Top tips for organising a Hydrogeoday

- You need a group of at least 5 voluntary people organising it. But the more volunteers, the better!

- Carefully choose the area of the excursion. Check accessibility, and how people will get there (this is very important if you are not hiring transportation)

- Produce an advertisement or poster with important information about the activity, including:
 - Date and start time
 - Meeting point
 - How to book / register
 - Organiser contact address for any questions or issues
 - The organisation and themes of the itinerary (if the route is difficult, you must say so here). Also include the finish time (take into account that we do not usually organise any lunch and may suggest taking a sandwich or packed lunch if the event finishes late).

- Plan how you will manage the bookings and if you need to limit the number of participants.

- The most difficult part, which takes more time, is that you must plan out the activity structure and itinerary, access, and a timed schedule of the stops. You should also test the route with the volunteers several weeks before the “big day”.

- This is optional: You can prepare educational material to show during the excursion. For example, a leaflet explaining information related to the event, including any graphic material (such as images and maps of the route) and simple explanations about the stops.

- Announce the Hydrogeoday several weeks in advance through promotional campaigns via various platforms.

- If you can involve the municipalities or local companies, you can ask them for help with transport or printed material, in exchange for including their logo in the event materials.



MORE INFORMATION

Find out more about Hydrogeoday on the IAH Spanish Chapter website at <https://www.iah-ge.org/hidrogeodia/>