

2026

Swiss International
Summer School Part 7
12th – 18th July

Neanderthal
landscapes



2026 for Alpine Archaeology

The Universities of Bern and Zurich are organising the seventh Swiss International Summer School for Alpine Archaeology (SISA) from 12th–18th July 2026. This year's summer school will take place in the Alpstein massif (Appenzell), in St. Gallen, in the Zurich area, and in the Jura mountains (Neuchâtel). The link between these various regions is that they were all inhabited by Neanderthals in the Middle and Late Pleistocene.

Finds from Alpine and Jura caves (Wildkirchli, Cotencher) as well as various lowland areas attest to the presence of humans within specific climates and environments, in which large mammals such as cave bears and mammoths played important roles, not least as game animals. Research on Neanderthal landscapes includes a broad variety of anthropological, archaeological and ecological approaches.

SISA 2026 aims to address Neanderthal landscapes through methodological training led by key-note speakers, site visits (caves and museums), and in-depth discussions of core research topics.



Topics **Geology, glaciology, natural history**
History and documentation of research
Cave environments, stratigraphy, dating methods
Animal bones, stone tools
Pleistocene vegetation and fauna
Neanderthals in Europe

Organizing unit: University of Zurich, IAKA
Prehistoric Archaeology
Division
Further information [sisa.archaeological.science](https://www.sisa.archaeological.science)
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Information

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| Date | 12nd – 18th of July 2026 |
| Intended for | PhD and advanced MA students with a special interest in the addressed topics |
| Location | Various, from the Alpstein massif across the Swiss Plateau to the Jura mountains |
| Lodging | Group houses in Weissbad (AI) and La Tène (NE) |
| Cost | Participation fee 300 CHF |
| Deadline | Apply by April 12th, 2026 |