7th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF PALAEOGEOGRAPHY

October 16-19, 2026 - Mendoza, Argentina

Palaeogeography in the digital & AI age

Introduction

The International Conference of Palaeogeography (ICP) is a biennial event that promotes international academic exchange and interdisciplinary collaboration in palaeogeography and related disciplines. It is also strategically important for predicting and exploring energy and mineral resources worldwide. Since its inception in 2013, the ICP has been held six times in China, including Beijing (2013), Beijing (2015), Chengdu (2017), Beijing (2019), Wuhan (2022) and Nanjing (2024). The seventh ICP (2026) will be held outside China for the first time, and will provide an excellent opportunity to share and discuss the latest achievements in geoscience in a friendly and collaborative environment. It will be held in Mendoza, Argentina, during October 2026; located at the foot of the Andes, this city is world famous for its fantastic geology, cuisine and vineyards.

Organizers

Universidad Nacional de Cuyo (UNCUYO)
Universidad Nacional del Sur (UNS)

Sponsors

International Society of Palaeogeography (ISP)
China University of Petroleum (Beijing)
Editorial Committee of the *Journal of Palaeogeography*
Lithofacies Palaeogeography Commitee of the Chinese Society for Mineralogy, Petrology and Geochemistry
Shandong University of Science and Technology (SDUST)
Departamento de Geología UNS
Instituto Geológico del Sur (INGEOSUR)
Asociación Geológica Argentina (AGA)
Asociación Paleontológica Argentina (APA)
Sociedade Brasileira de Geologia

We warmly welcome additional organizations to join as co-sponsors! Interested parties may reach out to the Preparatory Committee of the 7th ICP

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Carlos Zavala

Santanu Banerjee

Technical Sessions

The sessions of the 7th ICP include (but not limited to):

Theme 1: Palaeobiogeography and major evolutionary events of life
Theme 2: Lithofacies palaeogeography, stratigraphy, sedimentology and basin analysis
Theme 3: Tectonic palaeogeography and global palaeogeographic reconstruction
Theme 4: Resource palaeogeography (hydrocarbon & mineral deposits)
Theme 5: Quaternary palaeogeography and palaeogeography of human historical periods
Theme 6: Small-scale palaeogeography and sedimentary architecture
Theme 7: Global change, palaeoclimate and event sedimentation
Theme 8: New technologies and big data applied to palaeogeographic reconstruction

We welcome all colleagues to propose new sessions actively by filling out the session application form (see attachment). Please visit the ISP website for conference Abstract submission (https: //www.isp2022.org/en/conferences).
Abstract submission deadline is April 30, 2026.

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International Society of Palaeogeography ISP 2021

Palaeogeography in the digital & AI age

Venue

Venue: Sheraton Mendoza Hotel, Primitivo de la Reta 989, M5500 Mendoza, Argentina. Located in the downtown of Mendoza, the Sheraton Mendoza Hotel, together with the Hualta and Huentala hotels share a common space, with 356 rooms and a number of meeting rooms.

Visiting Mendoza constitutes a wonderful experience for enjoying excellent geological exposures, food and wine. A selected options of complementary activities for attendees and accompanying members will be provided, focused in allowing a wonderful geological and touristic experience in Argentina.

Schedule

2026. Oct. 9–15 Pre-conference field excursions: (1) A field trip through the Proto-Andean sedimentary record and proxies for the reconstruction of western Gondwana basins through time (seven days); (2) Andean structural styles: Chos Malal fold-thrust belt, Neuquén Basin (three days)

2026. Oct. 16 Registration. Ice breaker

2026. Oct. 17 Opening Ceremony, plenary talks, oral presentations, poster presentations

2026. Oct. 18 Intra-conference field excursions and intra-conference activities: (1) Field trip to the highest Andes; (2) The Carnian Pluvial Episode in the Triassic Cuyo Basin; (3) Cambrian peritidal cyclic carbonates in epeiric seas: their main features, completeness and proxies to interpret epeiric seas; (4) City tour and Mendoza vineyards

2026. Oct. 19 Closing Ceremony, plenary talks, oral presentations, poster presentations

2026. Oct. 20-24 Post-conference field excursions: (1) Facies, depositional environments and reservoirs: an outcrop perspective. The Neuquén Basin as a case study (five days) (3) The Aconcagua transect (four days)

Field Excursions

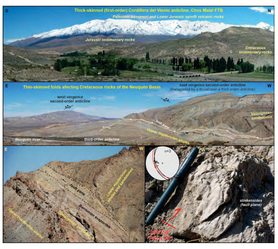
PRE-CONFERENCE

(1) A field trip through the Proto-Andean sedimentary record and proxies for the reconstruction of western Gondwana basins through time (seven days)

Instructors: Ricardo ASTINI and Susana DE LA PUENTE. Professors at National Universities of Argentina and Researchers of the National Council on Science and Technology (CONICET)

Summary: This seven days compact and demanding field trip offers a comprehensive introduction to the stratigraphic framework and main geological features of the western margin of Gondwana. Through the use of multiple proxies, we will explore the evolutionary history and key paleogeographic reconstructions that shaped this region. Our journey will traverse various cordilleran regions along the Andes, where we will make detailed observations and examine multiple lines of evidence that contribute to our current understanding of the complex tectonic evolution of the Proto-Andean margin. From north to south, we will visit stratigraphic sections near the Argentina–Bolivia border, spanning the Subandean Ranges, the Cordillera Oriental and the Puna Plateau, as well as the stunning geological transects of the Famatina and Precordillera regions, to the south. By doing so, we will be able to explore both the geology of the autochthonous crust and that of the exotic Laurentian-derived accreted terrane that helped shape the Proto-Andean margin of Gondwana. A particular focus will be placed on the glacial events that impacted this region and their connection to the geodynamics of the Terra Australis orogen. Participants will gain insight into the sedimentary processes, depositional environments, and sequence stratigraphy that characterize these regions, and will also understand how this knowledge has been used to reconstruct the complex paleogeography of this truly unique case on Earth. We will also examine variations in accommodation space and basin types, discussing their tectonic and climatic controls. In addition to geological and stratigraphic exploration, we will engage in discussions on regional tectonics, geomorphology, and landscape evolution. The field trip will also offer excellent opportunities to enjoy breathtaking scenery, savor traditional regional cuisine, and taste some of the finest local wines—an unforgettable blend of science and culture in one of South America's most spectacular settings.

(2) Andean structural styles: Chos Malal fold-thrust belt, Neuquén Basin (three days)



Instructors: Dr. Martín TURIENZO, Researcher-Professor of Structural Geology, UNS-CONICET, Bahía Blanca

Summary: The Chos Malal FTB (~37°S), offers the opportunity to explore the complete stratigraphy of the Neuquén Basin and observe and discuss the different structural styles created during the Andean contraction. The excellent outcrops allow for field studies of the geometry of both the large first-order structures involving the Paleozoic basement and the thin-skinned structures of different orders developed in the Mesozoic sedimentary sequences. Across this fold belt, we will be able to discuss the interaction between these structures of different order, the influence of inherited extensional structures, the spatial-temporal evolution of this orogenic system based on recent low-temperature thermochronological data (ZHe, AFT, AHe), and the influence of tectonics on the petroleum systems of adjacent sectors of the Neuquén Basin.

INTRA-CONFERENCE

(1) Field trip to the highest Andes (one day)

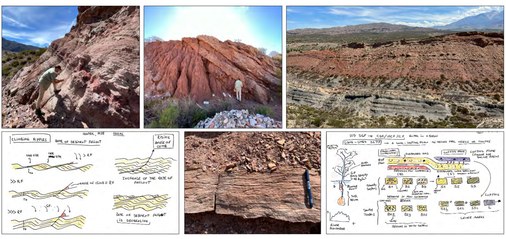
Instructor: Dr. Victor RAMOS, Universidad de Buenos Aires

Summary: The present intra-conference field trip provides the opportunity to examine the tectonic evolution of the Central Andes, in one of the most classic sections. It aims to show the key localities where field data have been obtained and the different regional relationships and tectonic models have been based. Despite its short duration, it will provide a comprehensive view of the geology of the Central Andes. The main objective of the trip is to examine one of the most complete traverses of the Andes, where a noncollisional orogenic belt reaches elevations near 7 km (Mount Aconcagua the highest mountain of the Western Hemisphere). These mountains are in an area of no present volcanic activity, and therefore, the Late Cenozoic shortening is directly related to the present uplift and convergence rates. The route as chosen will show the different structural styles of the Argentine Precordillera, the Cordilleras Frontal and Principal as indicated in the field trip road map, with some classic stops along the road.

Mount Aconcagua

(2) The Carnian Pluvial Episode in the Triassic Cuyo Basin (one day)

Instructors: Dr. Carlos ZAVALA, SDUST, Qingdao, China; Valentin TROBBIANI (CONICET, UNS); Dr Yang LI, SDUST.



Summary: The Cuyo Basin constitutes one of the main depocenters configured during the Triassic in west-central Argentina. The stratigraphic succession includes deposits of continental origin with a thickness of more than 3,000 m, accumulated in different fluvio-lacustrine environments. The infill of the Cuyo Basin occurs along several transgressive-regressive cycles associated with the evolution from an underfilled to an overfilled lake. Of particular interest is the Cacheuta Formation, which consists of organic-rich shales accumulated during a general lake transgression associated with the Carnian Pluvial Episode. During this one-day excursion, participants will have the opportunity to review the entire stratigraphic column overlying basement rocks. The excursion will end with a typical "asado" in the Potrerillos town.

(3) Cambrian peritidal cyclic carbonates in epeiric seas: their main features, completeness and proxies to interpret epeiric seas (one day)

Instructors: Ricardo ASTINI and Fernando GOMEZ. Professors at the National University of Córdoba in Argentina and Researchers of CONICET

Summary: Peritidal cyclic carbonates are valuable paleogeographic indicators, as they preserve detailed records of highly specific ancient environments and serve as proxies for carbonate productivity, sea-level fluctuations, and associated tectonic settings. This one-day intracongress field trip will take us to a stunning gorge in the Argentine Precordillera (~100 kilometers from the convention center in the city of Mendoza), where several thousand meters of carbonate strata are spectacularly exposed. This exceptional sedimentary record, of Late Cambrian age, has been interpreted as representative of deposition in epeiric seas that developed while the Precordillera terrane drifted away from Laurentia toward Gondwana, with which it eventually collided during the Middle to Late Ordovician. Throughout the trip, we will explore carbonate sedimentology and the cyclic nature of the succession, along with the controls on carbonate productivity—including physical, chemical, and biological processes—that influenced this repetitive stratigraphy. We will review indicators of shallow-water and subaerial exposure, physical and evaporitic proxies, and microbial structures, with particular emphasis on features and criteria in order to distinguishing stromatolites from thrombolites. We will discuss the internal architecture of the succession, its variability at multiple scales, and the significance of lateral continuity, sequence stratigraphic frameworks, completeness, and accommodation. These elements are essential for interpreting epeiric seas, reconstructing paleogeography, inferring sea-level dynamics, and understanding plate tectonic evolution.

(4) City tour and Mendoza vineyards (half day)

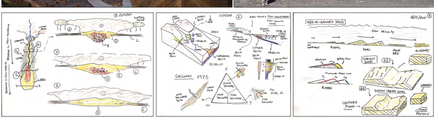
Summary: This city tour and vineyard visit was designed for accompanying persons. During this trip the attendees will visit the most iconic places of the Mendoza city. Additionally, we will have the opportunity of visiting one of the most internationally famous vineyards of Mendoza.

POST-CONFERENCE

(1) Facies, depositional environments and reservoirs: an outcrop perspective. The Neuquén Basin as a case study (five days)

Instructor: Dr. Carlos ZAVALA, SDUST, Qingdao, China

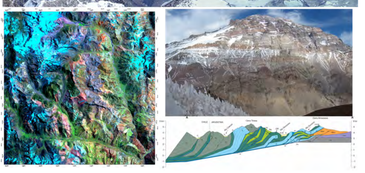
Summary: The Neuquén Basin is well-known because of bearing excellent examples of deposits accumulated in a number of depositional environments. These deposits and their body rocks can be used as analogs for characterizing hydrocarbon reservoirs in the oil industry. During five days of field training, the attendees will review its more than 7,000 m thick stratigraphic column. Excellent exposures will be complemented with on field explanations and hand-made drawings by Prof. Zavala, making this training an outstanding experience. During our trip we are going to review a number of depositional environments and their related facies and reservoirs, like (1) alluvial fans, (2) fluvial systems, (3) lacustrine systems, (4) aeolian systems, (5) littoral deltas, (6) subaqueous (hyperpycnal) deltas, (7) tidal reworked shelfal deposits, (8) wave reworked shelfal deposits, (9) cascadites (10) intrabasinal and extrabasinal turbidites, (11) carbonatic ramp, (12) hypersaline lake deposits, and (13) volcaniclastic deposits.



(2) The Aconcagua transect (four days)

Instructors: Dra. Laura GIAMBIAGI. José MESCUA, Andrés ECHAURREN, Julieta SURIANO and Matías BARRIONUEVO. Researchers at the IANIGLA - CONICET Centro Científico y Tecnológico Mendoza

Summary: This four-day transect at the latitude of Aconcagua offers a unique opportunity to explore the tectonic architecture and evolution of the Andes along one of its most iconic and geologically informative sections. The field trip traverses the southern Central Andes, where the highest peak in the Americas—Cerro Aconcagua (6,967 m a.s.l.)—rises as a striking witness to complex orogenic processes. Participants will examine the tectonic evolution from the Mesozoic to the Quaternary, focusing on key exposures that record the transition from the southwestern margin of Gondwana to the development of the Andean orogenic system. The transect spans a complete cross-section of the orogen, including the Andean foothills, Precordillera, Frontal Cordillera, Principal Cordillera, and Coastal Cordillera.This route highlights the interplay between inherited crustal structures and ongoing tectonic processes, including the influence of pre-Andean basement architecture and the present-day flat-slab subduction. The Aconcagua transect provides an integrative framework to discuss non-collisional orogenesis and Andean geodynamics in a globally significant convergent margin setting.



Important dates

June 30, 2025	Release of the First Circular. Calling for Topics
October 31, 2025	Deadline for proposing session topics and conveners
January 1, 2026	Release of the Second Circular and topics. Opening for abstract submission. Opening for early bird registration
April 30, 2026	Deadline for abstract submission. Deadline for early bird registration
September 20, 2026	Release of the Third Circular and Conference Program
October 17, 2026	Opening of the 7th International Conference of Palaeogeography

Topics and conveners

The specific format of the abstracts and presentations will be introduced in the Second Circular.
The Organizing Committee will invite some scholars to give plenary talks and detailed information will be distributed in the Third Circular the Conference Program.

Contact information

Please send e-mail to Secretariat Office (ISP-secretariat@cup.edu.cn) for general issues, while for specific issues you may contact the following personals:
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Carlos ZAVALA: +542916453476, +8617685809103, icp.argentina2026@gmail.com
Address: Editorial office of Journal of Paleogeography, China University of Petroleum (Beijing), No. 20 Xueyuan Road, Haidian, Beijing 100083, China

Attachment: Session application form

Name		Title	
Nationality		Affiliation	
E-mail			
Session name			
Convenors (No more than 5 people)			
Session summary (No more than 200 words)			

Please submit to the conference secretariat (ISP-secretariat@cup.edu.cn) before the deadline (October 31, 2025).