

# HIGHLIGHTS

Rupestrian Heritage sites and features, represent a fascinating category of human ingenuity, where natural rock formations were transformed into dwellings, religious spaces, and artistic expressions. These sites span thousands of years and offer unique insights into ancient construction techniques, cultural practices, and environmental adaptations.

The rock-hewn architecture involves carving directly into natural formations to create spaces such as caves, tunnels, and chambers. This "negative building" technique—where material is removed rather than added—has been employed across various civilizations and time periods.

Studying these ancient feats of engineering offers invaluable empirical insights into how such structures endure environmental stresses, geological shifts, and the passage of time. By analyzing their design principles, material resilience, and adaptive construction techniques, it is possible to uncover critical data to refine predictive models for modern rock engineering projects.

This interdisciplinary approach not only bridges historical knowledge with contemporary science but also enhances our ability to ensure the durability, safety, and sustainability of today's infrastructure in an era of climate change and urbanization.



## GET IN TOUCH

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To participate in the conference, please visit:  
[www.scrhs.org](http://www.scrhs.org)

Organized by:



In collaboration with:



Commission for Engineering Geology for the Sustainable Conservation of ancient monuments and archaeological sites



Commission on Mechanics of Ancient Rock Structures MARS



Technical Committee 301 on Preservation of Historic Sites



ندوة العلا الدولية في الحفاظ  
المستدام لمواقع التراث الصخري

AlUla International Symposium on Sustainable  
Conservation of Rupestrian Heritage Sites

25TH - 27TH NOVEMBER 2025

ALULA, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

# THE SYMPOSIUM

## THEMES

The Symposium is organized in sessions showing case studies from different part of the world, sharing experience in rock-art and rupestrian heritage conservation, under various climatic and hazardous contexts.

1. General Themes: Key notes for conservation of rock-art and any other types of rupestrian heritage affected by geohazards (e.g. rock mass characterization, remote sensing applications; monitoring; climate change; weathering; advanced modelling; innovative geophysics; and more).
2. Case studies: Detailed investigations on various sites affected by rapid and slow onset geohazards (e.g. rock slope instabilities, heavy rainfall, wind erosion, weathering, water table rising and more) and related conservation strategies.

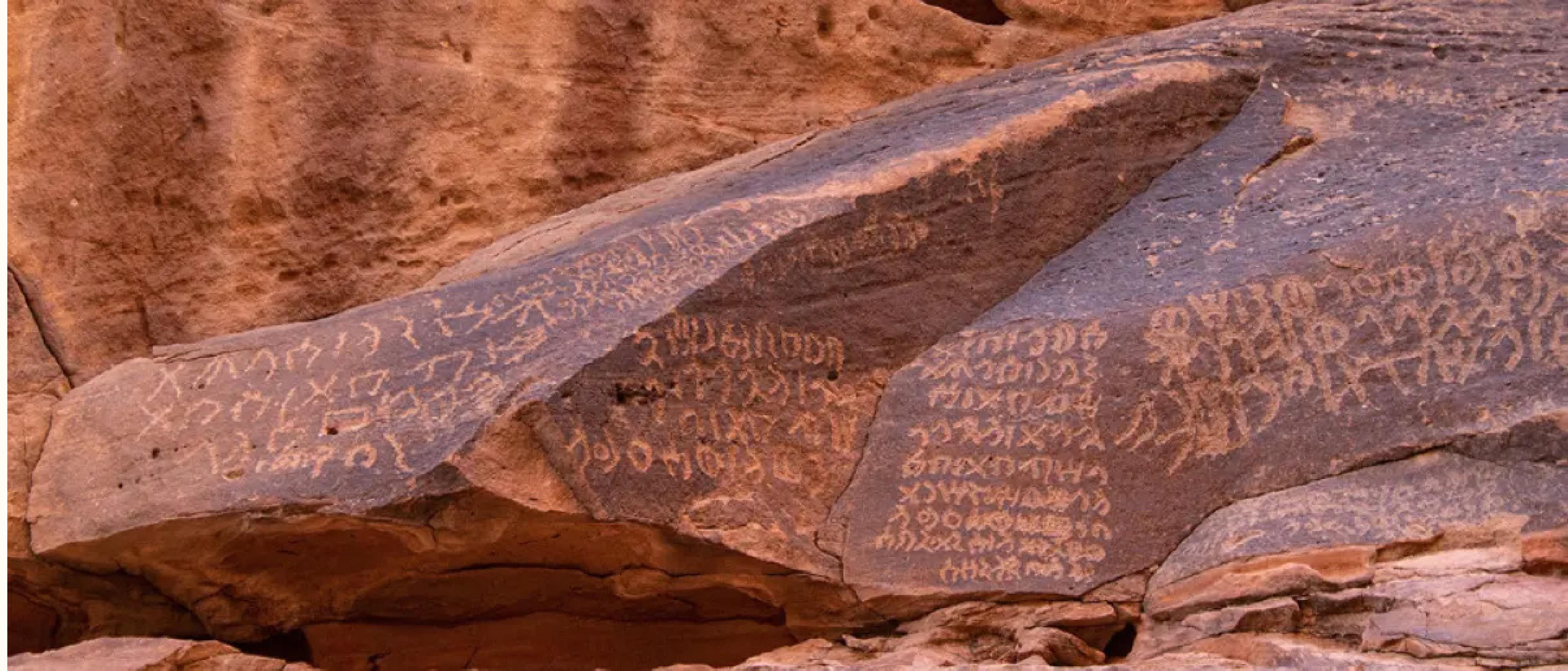
## SESSIONS

The Symposium sessions will cover the innovation and advances in science and technology on mitigating the impacts of geohazards and environmental threats in rock-art and rupestrian sites. The sessions will highlight the existing diversity in management and preservation approaches under various type of geohazards, different Countries and variety of cultures.

**Plenary Sessions:** Keynotes will convene speakers with marked experience in rock mass characterization, geohazards, climate change and weathering; satellite applications, monitoring and advanced modelling in geosciences; latest geophysical investigation; innovative conservation projects; etc., to share it with the participants.

**Thematic Sessions:** Researchers, conservators and site managers will present Case Studies on mitigation measures that are subject to different types of geohazards. Focus will be on the application of traditional knowledge in mitigation.

Posters Session will be available during the symposium.



## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

The Symposium is mainly addressed, but not exclusively, to expert of rock mechanics, engineering geology and geosciences in general, as well as to Conservators and Managers of UNESCO World Heritage Sites and of Monuments and Sites affected by geohazards. The participation will be limited where priority is given by the Organizing Committee to candidates presenting and submitting case studies on rock-art and rupestrian site conservation, affected by geohazards and geo-environmental threats.

## GRANTS

Grants will be provided for about 20 participants, including 10 key experts that will be selected by the scientific committee, covering local expenses (accommodation, meals, local transportation, etc.), excluding international transportation to and from AlUla (Saudi Arabia).

Grants priority will be given to conservators, managers, or the key experts who deliver a presentation and submit a full paper.

## HOW TO APPLY

Applicants shall register and upload the listed documents at the conference website (<https://www.scrhs.org>) by 30 September 2025, also requesting the grant and declaring the availability to submit the full paper by 30 January 2026:

1. CV (max 1 page)
2. List of publications
3. Abstract (only for potential speakers)

NO REGISTRATION FEES WILL BE APPLIED

There are no participation limitations for conservators, managers, or experts who fully cover their own mission expenses. However, if the maximum number of participants is reached, priority will be given to those delivering a presentation and submitting a full paper.

Publication guidelines will be provided to authors during the applying process.