

The IAT Spain Chapter and its Collaboration in the University Expert Course Guide Interpreters for the Geopark Project Volcanes de Calatrava (Ciudad Real)



The complete course lasts three months from January 28 to April 21, it has 150 hours, of which 132 hours are clases and 18 hours of guided work.

The objectives of the course are:

- Know, understand and interpret the territory of the Calatrava Volcanoes Geopark project. Ciudad Real interrelating the natural and cultural heritage.
- Use geographic information as a means for the description, analysis and interpretation of this territory.
- Generate sensitivity and interest in the existing problems in the use and exploitation of volcanic manifestations.
- Analyze and interpret the landscapes linked to volcanic manifestations through field work and knowledge direct from the territory.
- Be able to manage the information and knowledge of the content taught in the Course

- Be able to accompany and guide groups projecting the knowledge, skills and abilities acquired.
- Be able to plan a specific itinerary based on specific objectives.

On March 18th The IAT Spain Chapter will give a class base on how the IAT can join people and cultures through geoturism following the longest trail on Earth.

We are going to focus our class in the next topics

- What’s the appalachian geology
- The origin, mission and vision of the IAT

The Idea



The International Appalachian Trail began as an idea that popped into Dick Anderson's head in October, 1993. Dick, the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Conservation, traveled frequently to the neighboring Canadian provinces of New Brunswick and Quebec and knew the Appalachian Mountains didn't suddenly end at the US/Canadian border. Why, then, shouldn't a hiking trail continue following them into Canada? Over the next six months, Dick, with the help of Maine conservationists, Don Hudson, Cloe Chunn and Dick Davies, developed a plan to create just such a trail connecting Maine's Katahdin to Mont Carleton in New Brunswick and then on to Mount Jacques Cartier in Quebec's Gaspé Peninsula. On Earth Day, April 22, 1994, the proposal to build a hiking trail through the northern Appalachian Mountains was announced at a news conference in Portland, Maine, by Governor Joseph E. Brennan.

The Mission - "Thinking Beyond Borders"

The International Appalachian Trail (IAT) began as a commitment between the U.S. state of Maine and Provincial Canada to work together as neighbors to sustain a shared environment and celebrate the grandeur of a common landscape. In North America the trail connects elements of the Appalachian Mountains, crossing rivers, threading open spruce and fir forests, joining the people and cultures of Maine, Quebec, and Atlantic Canada. Since 2009, this mission has been embraced in Greenland and Iceland and across the arc of the North Atlantic to Europe and North Africa. The IAT now comprises 23 Chapters on three continents from Maine to Morocco. Progress to maintain and improve the trail experience continues in work with landowners, hikers, conservation organizations, and local, regional and national governments.



- The origin of the word Appalachia

Everyone knows the Appalachian trail that crosses the Atlantic coast of the US from south, but where does that name come from? The mountain range was named after the Appalachian Indians, but these Native Americans did not live in that area, they were in what today corresponds to the territory of Florida ... as we can see in the Carte de la Louisiane et du cours du Mississipi from 1718 and published by French geographer Guillaume de l'Isle, we have the "Apalaches" indians in the route that the Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto did in 1539–1542, the "Apalacha", "Apalachi" words on the 1715 Homann Map of North America and the West Indies, and the word "Apalaxy" in the 1732 Herman Moll Map of the West Indies, Florida, Mexico, and the Caribbean.



- How we are working in Spain



- Natural, historical and cultural heritage
- What the IAT can offer to the villages through which it passes
- How can we help with the economic, tourist and rural development
- Development of sustainable and accessible activities
- Commitment with the Sustainable Development Goals

The IAT Spain Chapter has been supporting this Geopark Project Volcanes de Calatrava from the beginning and will continue with the marking of the route and carrying out activities in the villages as soon as the pandemic allows us. We have already held three “Appalachian days” [One-day meetings where the IAT is explained and the tourist potential of the town is shown to the locals and participants] and we have the support of the towns, accommodations and business in the area.