



Calpe 2025 Conference Programme

Gibraltar in the Second World War and in other global conflicts: *The importance of geography*

Thursday 18th September

09:00 Official Opening by Minister Professor John Cortes

09:30 Professor Geraldine Finlayson, Dr Stewart Finlayson, Professor Clive Finlayson, The Gibraltar National Museum, Gibraltar

Geographical Icons: Pillars of Herakles, Jbel Tarik and Strong as the Rock

11:00 Dr Francisco Jimenez Espejo, Andalusian Earth Sciences Institute, Spanish Research Council (IACT-CSIC), Armilla (Spain).

The first landing at Gibraltar: geographical and climatic forcing for the Islamic expansion in the Iberian Peninsula

12:00 Professor Clive Finlayson, Dr Stewart Finlayson, Professor Geraldine Finlayson, The Gibraltar National Museum, Gibraltar

The biggest tower ever built - the Gibraltar Crusade and the Battle for the Strait of Gibraltar

15:00 Colonel (Ret.) Jason R. Musteen, PhD, United States Military Academy - West Point, United States of America

War on the One Side and Pestilence on the Other

16:30 Professor Jason Dittmer, Dept. Geography, University College, London, United Kingdom

The rise and fall and rise and fall of Gibraltar as a strategic location

17:30 Mr Christian Wright, Wright Tech Ltd., Gibraltar

Breathing new life into the Rock: Re-imagining Gibraltar's WWII Tunnels for the 21st Century visitor

Friday 19th September

09:30 Dr Gareth Stockey, Independent Scholar, United Kingdom

Victims of Geography: solidarity and suffering in Gibraltar and the Campo de Gibraltar during the Spanish Civil War

11:00 Mr Nicholas Rankin and Professor Maggie Gee, Independent Authors, United Kingdom
"Defending the Rock" revisited

12:00 Dr Nicholas Marquez-Grant, Cranfield Forensic Institute, Cranfield University, United Kingdom

Forensic Archaeology and Anthropology in the search and recovery of WWI and WWII casualties

15:00 Professor Mina Weinstein Evron, School of Archaeology and Maritime Studies, Faculty of Humanities, University of Haifa, Israel

WWII at the other end of the Mediterranean: the initiation and contribution of the British Army Jewish Brigade

16:30 Professor Julio Ponce Alberca, Dept. Historia Contemporanea, Universidad de Sevilla, Spain

Gibraltar at the crossroads of WWII (1939-1945)

17:30 Professor Matthias Strohn, Head of the Historical Analysis Programme, Centre for Historical Analysis and Conflict Research and the University of Buckingham, United Kingdom

Operation Felix and beyond. The Axis powers and Gibraltar in the Second World War

Saturday 20th September

09:30 Mr Gianluca Giorgio Falzon, Dept. History, University of Malta, Malta

A Rock and an Island: A comparative study of fortress security in Gibraltar and Malta

11:00 Dr Chris Grocott, School of Business, University of Leicester, United Kingdom

Planning for Peace: Civilian Gibraltar in the Second World War

12:00 Mr Thomas J. Finlayson, Gibraltar Archivist (Ret.), Gibraltar

The evacuation: a life-changing experience

15:00 Professor Geoffrey Plank, Independent Scholar, United Kingdom

The Second World War, the Strait of Gibraltar, and decolonisation around the world

16:30 Professor Yasmin Khan, Faculty of History, University of Oxford, United Kingdom

Gibraltar as an imperial nexus in the Second World War: a social history