

# *Bellamar Caves set to be proposed as World Heritage Site*

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The impressive geological formation known as Bellamar Caves in the western city of Matanzas will be proposed as World Heritage Site.

The over 20 km caves, declared a National Monument, were accidentally found in 1861 and are considered Cuba's oldest tourist attraction. The magical fascination that lures local and foreign visitors astonished by its special Carsic formations every year was taken into account to include them on the list of Cuban World Heritage Site proposals, as well as its marine fossils dating back to over 25 000 years and its naturally whimsical underground crystalized formations.

The exceptionally beautiful El gato jíbaro and El jarrito galleries, which were chosen as Cuban candidates to the prestigious world titles, are part of a perfectly preserved section of the cave system to which the public has had no access. The registration of the site on the list is the first step toward the candidacy.

Matanzas has also registered another site on the list, the Pharmaceutical Museum, considered the only well-preserved late 19th century French pharmacy in the world.



**Radio Habana Cuba**