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## *La imagen comentada*

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1) Amagjar, site of cave paintings with images of animals. 2) Image of a giraffe in the site of Amagjar. Credits: J. M. García Aguilar.

### The Sahara was not always a desert

During an expedition to Mauritania in November 2023, cave paintings were found in the northwestern sector of the country, near the villages of Chinguetti (Amagjar) and Atar (Segulil). In these paintings, several animals that would be unthinkable to observe in these areas today have been recognized, including a giraffe and a rhinoceros, along with a human figure with a bow. In the site of Amagjar, the scenes are found under a shelter of Paleozoic sandstone located on a spectacular flat-bottomed valley flanked by rocky walls almost 300 m high. The drawing of the giraffe measures approximately 31 x 22 cm and shows its anatomy in detail, despite its poor state of preservation.

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José Manuel García Aguilar  
Dpto. de Ecología y Geología. Universidad de Málaga  
Facultad de Ciencias. Campus Universitario de Teatinos. 29071-Málaga  
[jmg.aguilar@gmail.com](mailto:jmg.aguilar@gmail.com)