Captions for Press Kit Images

**Image 1:** Pierced deer tooth discovered from Denisova Cave in southern Siberia that yielded ancient human DNA © Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology

**Image 2:** Ancient DNA extraction lab © Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology

**Image 3:** Matthias Meyer at work in the clean laboratory at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology © Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology

**Image 4:** Elena Essel during working on the Pierced deer tooth discovered from Denisova Cave in the clean laboratory © Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology

**Image 5:** The Pierced deer tooth discovered from Denisova Cave before DNA extraction © Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology

**Image 6:** The Pierced deer tooth discovered from Denisova Cave after DNA extraction © Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology

**Image 7:** The Pierced deer tooth discovered from Denisova Cave after DNA extraction © Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology

**Image 8:** Robot for extraction, library preparation and capture © Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology

**Image 9:** Excavations in the South Chamber of Denisova Cave in 2019 © Sergey Zelensky.

**Image 10:** The entrance to Denisova Cave © Richard G. Roberts

**Image 11:** View from Denisova Cave of the Anui River Valley © Richard G. Roberts

**Image 12:** Artistic interpretation of the pendant. © Merlin Szymanski

**Image 13:** Top view on the pierced deer tooth discovered from Denisova Cave in southern Siberia © Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology

**Image 14:** Artistic interpretation of the pendant with dark DNA cordage © Myrthe Lucas

**Image 15:** Image of the 20,000-years-old pendant from Denisova cave produced by H. Temming

**Image 16:** The excavation in Bacho Kiro Cave in 2019: left the Niche 1 sector and the dark Layer I (indicated by a red arrow) containing the Initial Upper Paleolithic assemblage, right the Main sector. ©Tsenka Tsanova

**Image 17:** 2018 study season team in Bacho Kiro Cave (Bulgaria). ©Tsenka Tsanova

**Image 18:** Artistic interpretation of the Denisova pendants journey to the ancient DNA extraction. © Merlin Szymanski