



#SpeleoMedit



pocket card Slovenia

Slovenia is acknowledged as the cradle of karst and cave exploration. About 47% of the country's surface is occupied by carbonate rocks, with the prevalence of Mesozoic limestones and dolomites. Karst aquifers are being crucial for water supply in Slovenia, providing more than 43% of drinking water. Among other distinct karst features, such as dolines, poljes, collapse dolines, karst plateaus, blind valleys, pocket valleys etc. numerous caves have been discovered in centuries of karst exploration. In fact, 13.659 karst caves have been registered up to date. Karst in Slovenia divides into three types, such as 1) Alpine karst, 2) Dinaric karst and 3) Pre-Alpine or Isolated karst. The Alpine karst comprises the mountainous areas of the Julian and Kamnik-Savinja Alps and the Karavanke Mountains in the northern and northwestern part of Slovenia. It has formed in limestones and dolomites, with the main faults following an east-west direction. Alpine karst has been affected by glaciation. Thus, glaciokarst features prevail on the surface, while karst plateaus reveal numerous entrances to deep shafts. In Slovenia seven shafts deeper than 1000 m have been discovered, with Čehi 2 with 1505 m being the deepest. Kanin and Rombon Mountain with other Alpine karst areas provide the potential for even deeper shafts. The Dinaric karst in the southern part of Slovenia divides into 1) high Dinaric karst, which mainly includes high karst plateaus (for example Trnovski gozd, Javorniki, Hrušica and Snežnik Mountains), and 2) low Dinaric karst, which mainly includes low karst plateaus and plains (for example Kras Plateau and Bela Krajina). The Dinaric karst was formed in various carbonate rocks of predominantly Mesozoic age, with characteristic faults in the northwest-southeast direction. Here, the most distinct caves and cave systems formed, such as Postojna Cave System, Škocjan Caves (UNESCO), Predjama Cave System etc. The Pre-Alpine or Isolated karst has formed in central Slovenia between the Alps and the Dinaric karst, where there are areas of smaller carbonate outcrops. Smaller caves are characteristic for this type of karst with Huda Luknja Cave System (2,8 km) and Cave Pekel (1,5 km) being the longest.

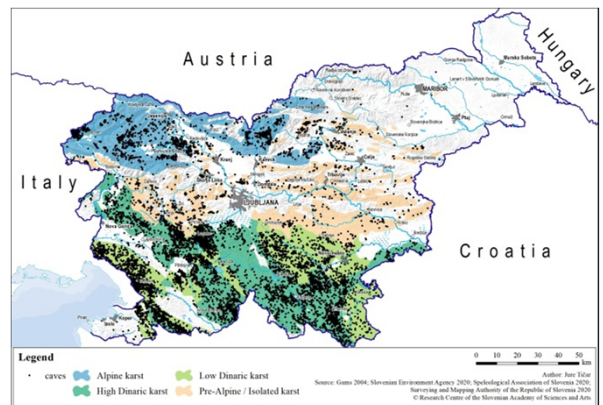
Caves total : 13.659

Marine caves total: 0

Artificial caves total: ~ 2000

Number of speleologists: ~ 1000

Speleological groups and organizations: ~ 50



Most important caves

Name	Length	Depth
Migovec Cave System	43,009 m	972 m
Postojna Cave System	24,120 m	115 m
Kačna jama	15181 m	280 m
Predjama Cave System	13877m	168 m
Rombon Cave System	12,307 m	1247 m



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