



#SpeleoMedit



## pocket card Israel

Israel covers an area of ~23,000 km<sup>2</sup> at the east side of the Mediterranean Sea. The karstic units in the area consist mostly of limestone and dolomite, as well as salt and some gypsum. Caves appear also in other rocks such as: basalt, chalk, lacustrine marl deposits, flint and sandstone. The climate gradient change between dry Mediterranean in northern Israel to arid and hyper arid in the south.

Due to the climatic difference, the variety of the rock types, and the rich history of the area, Israel has a rich variety of caves. It includes, in addition to the common limestone caves, prehistoric remains associated with the origin of mankind, vadose streams in salt rock, hypogenic maze caves, volcanic pit-craters and caves, and long piping steams.

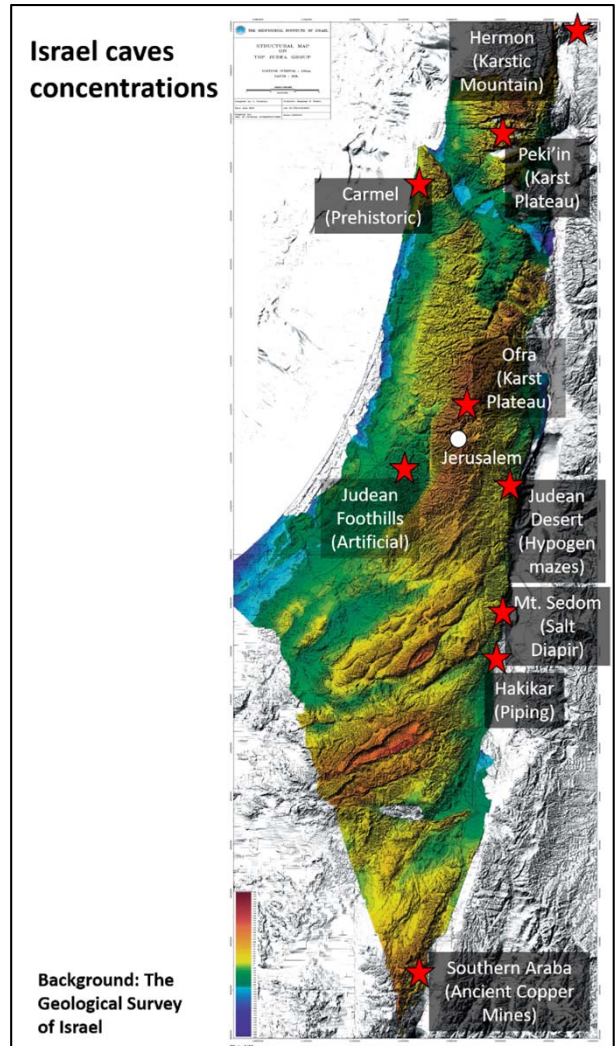
**Caves total :** It is hard to say, because every week some new caves are discovered in Israel. The estimated number of the known caves is: ~2500 limestone caves, ~200 salt caves, ~ 100 marl piping caves.

**Marine caves total:** ~10

**Artificial caves total:** ~3070 (~70 ancient copper mines in sandstone)

**Number of speleologists:** ~100

**Speleological groups and organizations:** 3



### Most important caves

Name	Length [m]	Depth [m]	Rock type
Malham	10005	126	salt
Chariton	4205	15.5	limestone
Ayyalon	2700	31	limestone
Colonel	2500	102.5	salt
'Arak Na'asane	2238	61	limestone

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Malham cave  
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