

Abruzzo karst areas occupy more than 35% of the regional territory and are mainly composed of limestone rocks (pure limestone, limestone-dolomite and marly limestone).

The most important morphocharistic units are made up of imposing mountain massifs that majestically rise in the Apennine direction. Although the superficial karst is very developed, local lithological and structural conditions have not allowed, as a rule, the establishment of particularly deep and extensive hypogean form. Caves with greatest extensions are principally located on Carseolani Mounts; Luppa Cave (2020 m); Great Cave of the Beers (1875 m); Pietrasecca Ovito (1370 m). On the Majella, are located the Cavallone Cave (1250 m) and the Lupa Cave (1800 m).



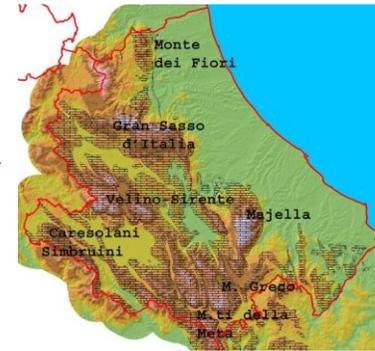
Lupa Cave

Big Cave of the Beers



Karst waters

In Abruzzo there are some of the largest hydrogeological systems of Italy. Springs, that surround the basal margins of the great carbonate massifs, are numerous and very abundant. Due to intense fracturing of the absorption zones, the network of underground water circulation is normally dispersive. The major springs of this type are the Pescara (Sirente), the Verde (Majella) and the Tirino (Gran Sasso). It should also be remembered that the largest spring in Italy, the Peschiera, in Lazio, is largely powered by the Velino Massif in Abruzzo. rare underground drainage collectors are rare; the most important of the region is surely represented by the resurgence of the Stiffe cave. The karstic waters of the hydrogeological tunnels are those of Ovito, Pietrasecca, Imele and Luppa.



Pietrasecca Ovito



Caves Cadastre

N° of caves in cadastre	600
N° of artificial cavity in cadaster	35
N° of tourist caves	6

Main area of interest for caving

Gran Sasso d'Italia
Majella
Morrone
Velino Sirente
Greco Mount
Simbruini Mounts
Carseolani Mounts
Meta Mounts

Deepest caves (>100 meters)

Andrea Pietrolungo Abyss	370 m
Luppa Cave	178 m
Great Cave of the Beers	119 m

Most extensive caves (>1000 meters)

Luppa Cave	2020 m
Big Cave of the Beers	1875 m
Lupa cave	1800 m
Pietrasecca Ovito	1370 m
Cavallone Cave	1254 m

Caving groups:

Speleo Club Chieti
Centro Speleologico Majella
APS Majella
Gruppo Grotte e Forre CAI L'Aquila
Gruppo Speleologico Aquilano
Gruppo Grotte CAI Arsita
Gruppo Esplorazione Speleologica "A Pietrolungo" CAI Pescara
Gruppo Grotte e Forre CAI Teramo
Speleo Club Teramo
Museo di Speleologia "V. Rivera"



Cavallone Cave