



Calabria is a region rich in natural caves, more concentrated to the north where there are extensive outcrops of karsificable rocks and where, moreover, have always been directed the greatest researches and speleological explorations.

Caves distribution



Speleological complex "Le Grave"
(Verzino e Castelsilano - KR)



Grotta della Monaca
(Sant'Agata di Esaro - CS)



Palaeolithic engraving within Grotta del Romito (Papasidero - CS)

MAIN SPELEOLOGICAL INTEREST AREAS

- Massiccio del Pollino e Monti dell'Orsomarso
- Alto Crotonese
- Serre Cosentine
- Lametino
- Locride

9 Speleological club
90 Cavers about
(registered in 2018)

CAVES CADASTRE DATA

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| REGISTERED CAVES | 425 |
| N. OF TOURISTIC CAVES | 3 |
| N. OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL CAVES | 47 |
| N. OF SEA CAVES | 38 |
| N. OF UNDERWATER CAVES | 1 |

The longest caves (>2000 meters)

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|---|--------|
| Complesso sotterraneo "Le Grave" (Verzino e Castelsilano - KR) | 4886 m |
| Complesso sotterraneo "Grotte di Sant'Angelo" (Cassano All'Ionio - CS) | 3649 m |
| Grotta dello Scoglio (Cassano All'Ionio - CS) | 2325 m |

The deepest caves (> 100 meters)

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|---|---------|
| Abisso del Bifurto (Cerchiara di Calabria - CS) | - 671 m |
| Serra del Gufo (Cerchiara di Calabria - CS) | - 156 m |
| Complesso sotterraneo "Le Grave" (Verzino e Castelsilano - KR) | - 123 m |

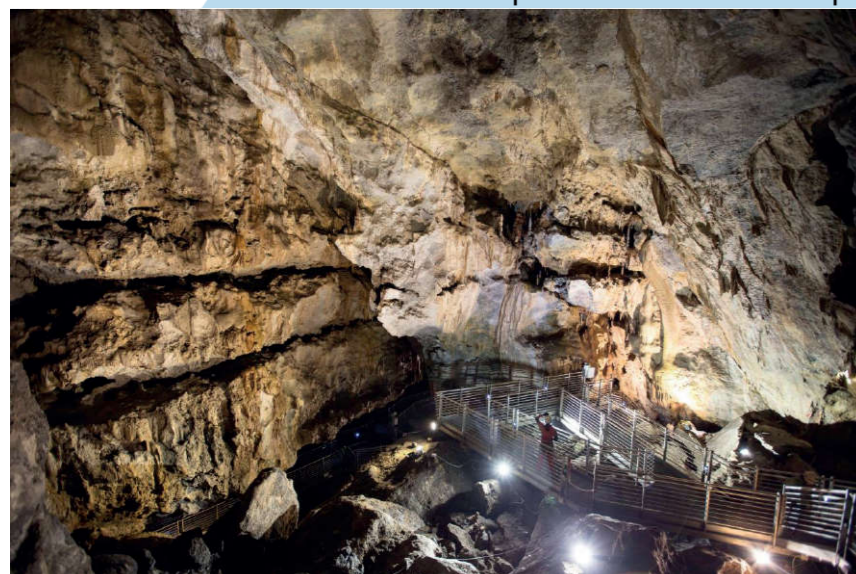
THE CAVES CADASTRE

Up until February 20, 2018 the regularly registered caves in Calabria are 425, mostly located in the central-northern sector of the region. The major karst areas are in the North, where there are remarkable carbonatic reliefs (massif of Pollino and Orsomarso mountains), as well as in the center, where there are important outcrops of chalky rocks (Crotone inland district). Elsewhere the karst phenomena are widely dispersed in the territory and less vast.

THE KARSTIK AREAS

The Calabrian territory is rich of caves and chasms very vast and deep. The longest known cavity is the complex "Le Grave", located in the Crotone inland district, measuring about 5 km (municipalities of Verzino and Castelsilano). The deepest one is Abisso del Bifurto (Cerchiara di Calabria), which reaches the altitude difference of -671 meters at the point of maximum depth. Other cavities are very important from the

archaeological point of view: among these we mention Grotta del Romito (Papasidero), containing various burials and artistic evidence dating back to the Palaeolithic, and "Grotta della Monaca" (Sant'Agata di Esaro), a cave that was used, at the end of the Neolithic, as a mine for the exploitation of iron and copper minerals. From the touristic point of view, the most important cave accessible by non-speleologists is the complex "Grotte di Sant'Angelo" (Cassano allo Ionio).



Touristic itinerary in the Speleological complex "Grotte di Sant'Angelo" (Cassano allo Ionio - CS)



Serra del Gufo cave (Cerchiara di Calabria - CS)



Entrance to the Hermit's Cave (Canolo - RC)