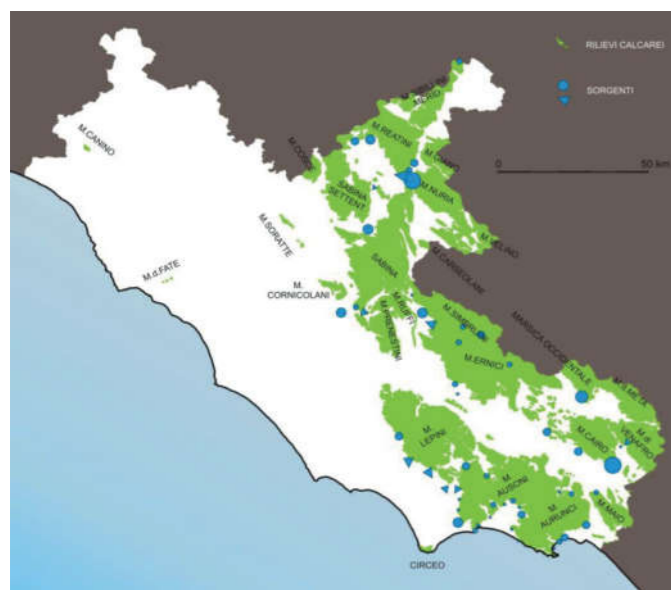




25% of the territory consists of carbonate rocks, for a total surface of 4300 km²: the conglomerates rocks extend over 100 km², while the overall extension of the travertines is 150 km². The total development of the 2162 caves included in the Regional Cave Registry exceeds 120 km.

Caves distribution



THE MAIN AREAS WITH SPELEOLOGICAL INTEREST

- Travertini del Fiume Fiora
- Monte Soratte
- Monti Reatini e Sabini
- Monti Simbruini e Monti Ernici
- Conglomerati di Montecoccioli
- Monti del Parco Nazionale e Monte Cairo
- Monti Lepini
- Monti Ausoni e Monti Aurunci
- Monte Circeo e Isole Ponziane

Groups belonging to the Speleological Federation of Lazio

- Associazione Speleologi Romani
- Associazione Speleologica Romana '86
- Circolo Speleologico Romano
- Gruppo Grotte Castelli Romani
- Gruppo Speleo Archeologico Vespertilio
- Gruppo Speleologico CAI Colferro Ipogei Monti Lepini
- Gruppo Speleologico CAI Roma
- Gruppo Speleologico Ciociaro CAI Frosinone
- Gruppo Speleologico F. Ermini le Talpe CAI Rieti
- Gruppo Speleologico Guidonia Montecelio
- Gruppo Speleologico Sabino
- Gruppo Speleologico Urri
- Shaka Zulu Club Subiaco
- Speleo Club Roma

The longest caves (> 2500 meters)

Grotta di Cittareale	4000 m
Grotta di Pastena	3700 m
Grotta degli Urli	3620 m
Abisso di Monte Vermicano	3500 m
Grotta del Formale	2920 m

The deepest caves (> 250 meters)

Ouso di Passo Pratiglio	- 840 m
Ouso della Rava Bianca	- 710 m
Grotta degli Urli	- 610 m
Inghiottitoio di Campo di Caccia	- 610 m
Abisso Consolini	- 555 m

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KARST WATERS

The large karst aquifers contain vital water resources for the region. Sources of the most abundant in Italy drain the limestone massifs: Peschiera (18 m³ / s) at the foot of M. Nuria and Acqua Marcia (5.4 m³ / s) at the base of M. Simbruini feed the aqueducts of the capital. The karstic waters are normally of excellent quality (drinkable without the need for special treatments). However, on the edge of the most western chains, the waters mix with the gases, and the deep hydrothermal waters rise along significant faults.



KARSTIC FORMS

Most of the caves are formed by wells set on fractures, alternating narrow

tunnels which develop in a meander form. The large karst aquifers contain vital water. Within the Apennines, the most typical surface forms are the karstic fields. They are the remains of ancient hydrographic networks broken by the uplift of the mountain ranges. Today they are closed water basins, inside which rain water

infiltrates through dolines and "lapiaz". Deposits of gypsum or particular forms of corrosion testify the presence of sulphurous water in some caves.

The Pozzo del Merro (M. Cornicolani), explored with the Remote Operated Vehicle up to 392m depth, is the second deepest flooded cave in the world.

