



Aosta Valley's mountains consists mainly in crystalline rocks, not suitable for the cave formation. However we can find a lot of small areas with gypsum, limestone and marble with few small caves inside. There are also a lot of interesting anthropized shelters and tectonic caves.



MOST IMPORTANT CAVES	Municipality	Development (m)	Depth (m)
Trou des Romains	Courmayeur	1050	60
Grotta del Lago Cian	Torgnon	200	47
Gran Borna	La Thuile	176	45
Borna di Rompailly	Brusson	124	30
Trou du Diable	Valgrisanche	120	9

GROUPS ACTIVE (CONTINUOUSLY) IN THE AOSTA VALLEY'S AREA
Gruppo Speleologico Biellese C.A.I.
Gruppo Speleologico Piemontese C.A.I. UGET
Speleo Club C.A.I. Sanremo
Speleo C.A.I. Valle d'Aosta

CAVE CADASTRE	
Management aspects	
Region of reference	Aosta Valley
Regional Federation of reference	A.G.S.P.
Relations with local authorities (region / cities / etc.)	very few
Use of GIS system (Geographic Information System)	Quantum GIS
Existence of WebGIS	NO
Details	
N° of caves in cadastran	96
N° of caves survey	89
N° of caves with morphometric data (length, depth, etc...)	89
Cave cadastre form	YES
N° of incomplete form	2
Datum for entrance coordinates	UTM WGS84
Special cadastre's data (marine/threatened/turistic/etc.)	NO
Reliability of caves data:	NO
Computerization of data	
Computerized cadastre forms software	YES
N° di schede catastali informatizzate	Excel
Existence of computerised surveys	89
Digital format raster or vector	YES
N° of computerised surveys	Raster
Photos of entries	89
Photos of interiors	few
Coordinate degli ingressi rilevate con GPS	few
	63
Special data	
Bibliographical data:	YES
Geological data:	few
Hydrogeological data:	NO
Biological data:	SI
Archaeological data:	few
Other data:	explorative



Geological openings of Truc de Saint Hélène

KARST WATERS

The Aosta Valley is surrounded north and west by massive glaciers, so it has plentiful of water. Thousands of streams flow downwards to the main river of the Vallée, the Dora Baltea.

These streams are often diverted to hydroelectric facilities and water pipes, used both as drinking water and for irrigation. Very rare are instead the active karst systems.

Among them, the most important is that of the Truc de Sainte Helene (high Rhêmes Valley) supplying water to a series of a dozen sources with an overall flow of about 1 mc/s. Also interesting is the "Petosan - Mont du Parc/ Pré San Didier" system, whose vadose system is well known, but there is lack of information about the springs.

THE "TROU DES ROMAINS"

Trou des romaines is a cavity known since ancient times. The Salassi, the first inhabitants of the Valley, were mineral hunters and had skills on the metals processing, in fact they discovered and first started to exploit the "treasure" inside the "Borgne de la Fée" (the ancient name for this cave). But little is known about which minerals could be found in there. Cited minerals are: galena, gold, copper, sulphur, lead, pyrite, baryte, green idocrase, sphalerite, and quartz. When the Romans attacked the Salassi to get control of alpine passes, a fundamental action for the war with the Gauls, the cavity was already well known and the minerals extraction could have already modified the original appearance of the cave, in fact in the following times, the name of the cavity was changed into Laberinto. The cavity is currently a maze of natural and artificial galleries strongly intersected and overlapped, in fact the name Laberinto literally meant "Maze".



Trou Des Romains - Engraved data



Alpe Valmeriana: Cave of three vents