

# Speleology in Calabria 2018



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



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

**Overall.** 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 less vast and widely dispersed in the territory.

## Main speleological interest areas

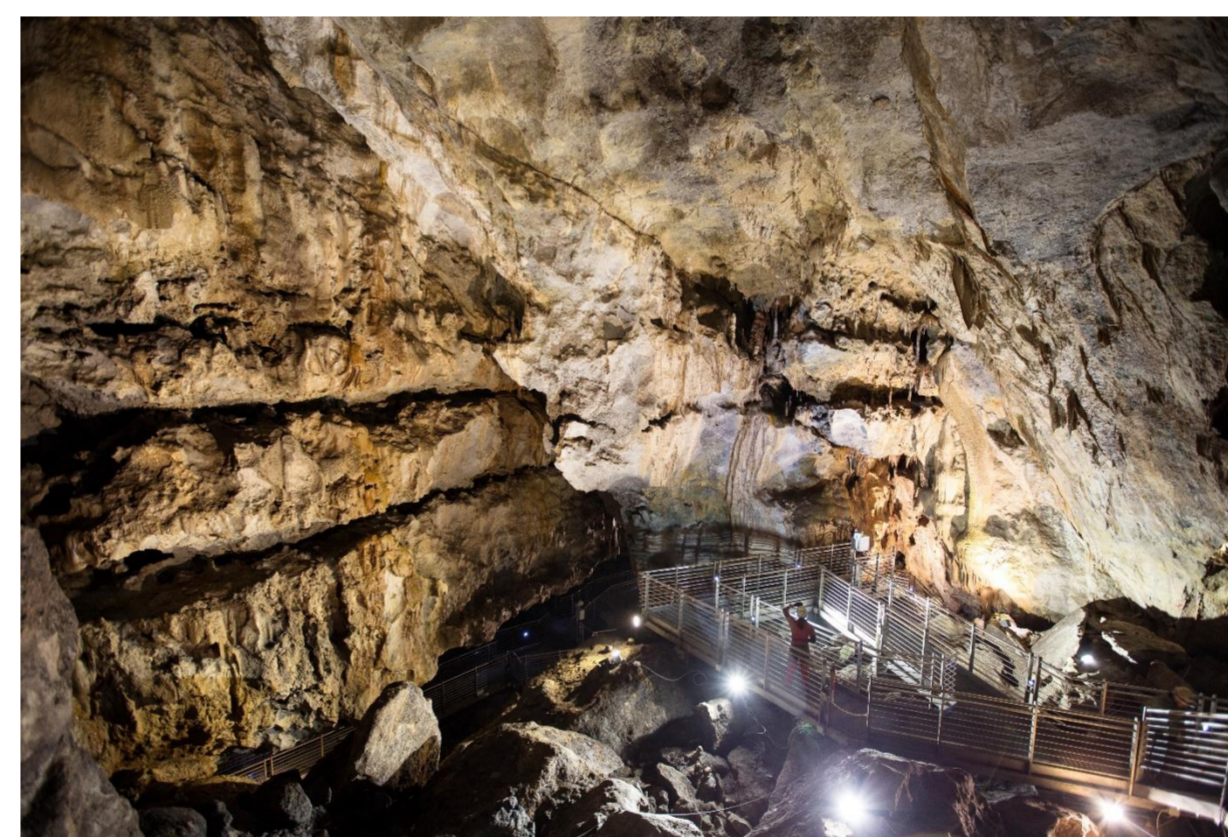
Pollino and Orsomarso massif
Crotone inland district
Cosenza range
Lamezia district
Locri district



Entrance of the Grotta dell'Eremita (Canolo - RC)



Palaeolithic engraving within Grotta del Romito (Papasidero - CS)



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



Edited by



Grotta di Serra del Gufo (Cerchiara di Calabria - CS)

## Calabrian caves cadastre

No. of registered caves	425
No. of touristic caves	3
No. of archaeological caves	47
No. of sea caves	38
No. of underwater caves	1

**The most important speleological sites.** 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).

Registered speleological groups in the 2018: 9  
Registered speleologists in the 2018: about 90

The longest caves (> 2000 meters)	meters
Speleological complex "Le Grave" (Verzino e Castelsilano - KR)	4886
Speleological complex "Grotte di Sant'Angelo" (Cassano allo Ionio - CS)	3649
Grotta dello Scoglio (Cassano allo Ionio - CS)	2325

The deepest caves (> 100 meters)	meters
Abisso del Bifurto (Cerchiara di Calabria - CS)	- 671
Grotta di Serra del Gufo (Cerchiara di Calabria - CS)	156
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