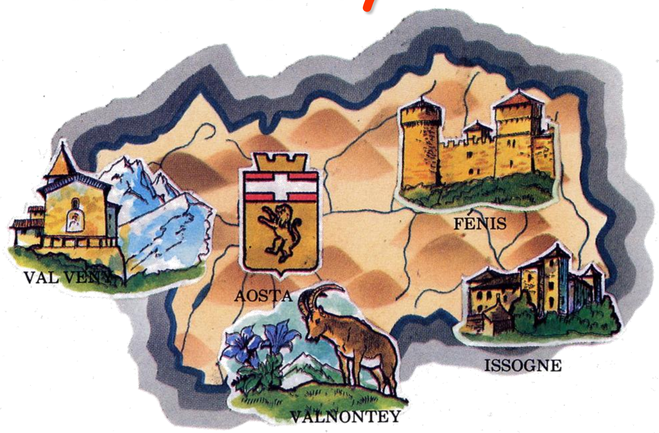
Aosta Valley's mountains consists mainly in crystalline rocks, not suitable for the cave formation. However we can find a lot of small areas with gypsum, limestone and marble with few small caves inside. There are also a lot of interesting anthropized shelters and tectonic caves.

Aosta Valley



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 strems 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 m^3/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.

Diaclase of Truc de Saint Hélène

Alpe Valmeriana:
Grotta delle Tre Bocche

Trou des Romains: engraved date

MOST IMPORTANT CAVES	Municipality	Lenght (meters)	Depth (meters)
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

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".

CAVE CADASTRE	
Management Aspects:	
Region	**Valle d'Aosta**
Regional federation	**A.G.S.P.**
Collaboration with local actors (region/province/etc.)	**FEW**
Use of GIS systems (Geographic Information System)	**Quantum GIS**
Creation of a WebGIS	**NO**
Details:	
Number of caves	**96**
Number of caves with survey	**89**
Number of caves with morphometric data (lenght/depth, etc.)	**89**
Cave cadastre form	**YES**
Number of incomplete forms	**2**
Datum for entrance coordinates	**UTM WGS84**
Special cadastres (marine/threatened/turistic/etc.)	**NO**
Relyability of caves data:	**NO**
Computerization of data	
Computerized cadastre forms	**YES**
Software	**Excel**
Number of computerized cadastre forms	**89**
Computerized surveys	**YES**
Surveys digital format	**Raster**
Number of computerized surveys	**89**
Entrances photos	**FEW**
Inside photos	**FEW**
Coordinates taken with GPS	**63**
Special data:	
Bibliographic data:	**YES**
Geologic data:	**FEW**
Hydrological data:	**NO**
Biological data:	**YES**
Archaeological data:	**FEW**
Other data:	**explorative**

GROUPS ACTIVE IN THE 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

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