



CAVES, THE PEARLS OF THE UNDERGROUND

Boško has learned...



A cave is a natural earth hollow or passage large enough for a human to enter, which mainly forms in our regions as a result of geological processes and most frequently occurs as a result of the action of water reacting with a limestone rock.

Water, rich with carbon dioxide (CO₂), seeps through cracks and faults in a limestone rock, which in return dissolves the limestone. Dissolved carbonates precipitate into Karst caves, where it deposits and forms into various cave formations or speleothems. If a speleothem hangs from the ceiling, we call it a stalactite and if it rises from the ground, we call it a stalagmite. When they meet and join, they form a column. There are a number of other cave formations and ornaments such as straws, curtains, shelfstones, helectites...

Caves are our priceless natural treasures since it took millions of years for them to form and hundreds of thousands of years for the speleothems to form within them.



Karst caves are also known for their unique animal life or fauna. Animals which spend a lifetime underground, have adapted to such conditions and would not be able to survive in any other different environment, are the authentic cave dwellers or troglodionts. They are mostly blind; therefore other senses have developed instead of their sight. Most true cave dwellers are small, tiny invertebrates. The only vertebrate in the Dinar Karst, which lives in caves, is the olm or proteus.

The scientific study of caves and its environment is called speleology.

The longest cave in Slovenia is the Postojna cave – 20,570 m

The deepest cave in Slovenia is Čehi 2 – 1,502 m

There are over 10,000 registered caves in Slovenia.



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