



# A CLEAN CAVE IS A SOURCE OF HEALTHY DRINKING WATER

## Boško knows...



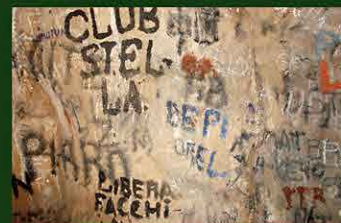
Caves are very sensitive to impacts caused by human influences. It only takes an incorrect move to break a delicate cave formation also called a "speleothem", which has been growing for a considerable part of the Earth's history; one single uncaredful step can cause an irreversible dirt smudge on a cave deposit's shiny surface. That is why we use conventionally accepted and marked routes when advancing over delicate surfaces.

Cave ornaments have their meaning only in a cave environment, that is why any breaking, removing and taking away of stalactites and stalagmites, helectites, crystals, cave pearls, anthodites or other formations is unacceptable. Cave animals are also very vulnerable. Most of them are very specialized, since they had to adapt to extreme conditions through their evolution. Therefore cave animals must not be disturbed or taken out of their natural environment.



Karst springs represent an important source of drinking water. Water is especially precious in the Karst region, because of its hard to reach supplies, great vulnerability and risk from pollution. Illegal dumping causes dangerous substances to wash into the groundwater and also seriously threatens Karst springs. We must not forget that even the most insignificant abyss, lost in the furthest Karst areas, does not lead to the center of the Earth, but they are linked to the springs. For this reason we should protect our caves and must not dump any wastes which could possibly pollute our drinking water.

We cavers are the ones who most evidently witness how polluted caves are. With clean-up campaigns we try to reverse the damage caused by ignorant dumping of waste materials into the Karst underground.



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