



# pocket card Israel

Israel covers an area of ~23,000 km<sup>2</sup> at the east side of the Mediterranean Sea. The karstic units in the area consist mostly of limestone and dolomite, as well as salt and some gypsum. Caves appear also in other rocks such as: basalt, chalk, lacustrine marl deposits, flint and sandstone. The climate gradient change between dry Mediterranean in northern Israel to arid and hyper arid in the south. Due to the climatic difference, the variety of the rock types, and the rich history of the area, Israel has a rich variety of caves. It includes, in addition to the common limestone caves, prehistoric remains associated with the origin of mankind, vadose streams in salt rock, hypogenic maze caves, volcanic pit-craters and caves, and long piping steams.

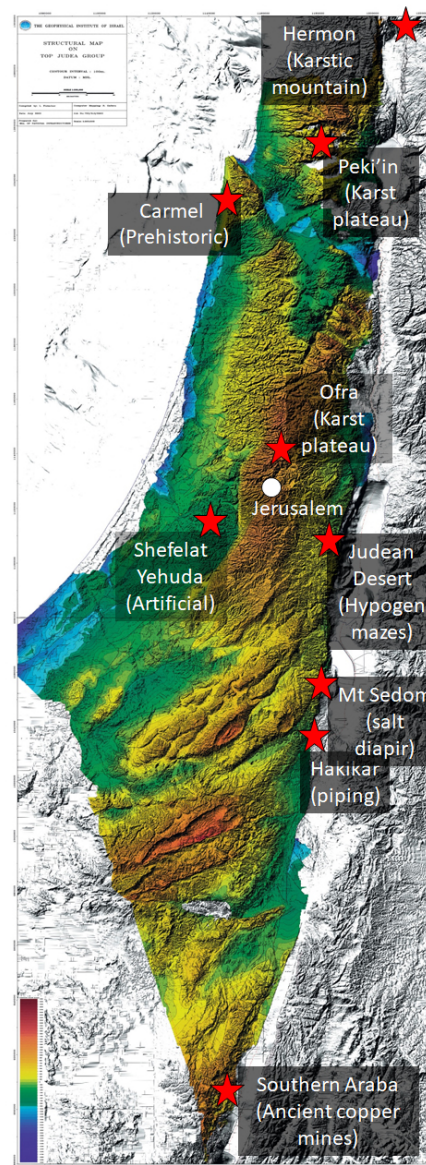
**Caves total :** ~2500 limestone caves, ~200 salt caves, ~50 marl piping caves.

**Marine caves total:** ~10

**Artificial caves total:** ~3070 (~70 ancient copper mines in sandstone)

**Number of speleologists:** ~100

**Speleological groups and organizations:** 3



Most important caves			
Name	Length [m]	Depth [m]	Rock type
Malham	~10000	135	salt
Chariton	~4000	15.5	limestone
Ayyalon	2700	31	limestone
'Arak Na'asane	2238	61	limestone
Sedom	1799	85	salt



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