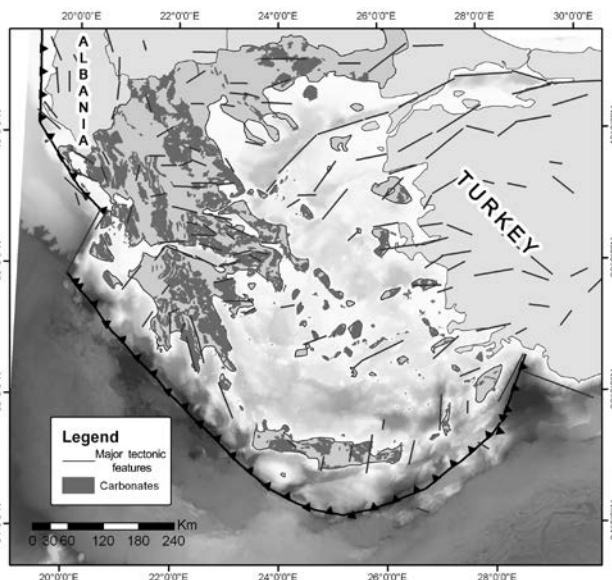




# pocket card Greece

Over 70% of Greece's territory consists of carbonate rocks (limestone, dolomite, and marble). This almost uniform geological composition of the bedrock, in combination with the very active tectonic regime and the climatic setting of the broader region of the east Mediterranean, favours cave development (Pennos and Lauritzen, 2013). In general, the northern and northeast part of the country consists of Paleozoic marbles and metamorphic rocks that are part of the old continental crust, and in the periphery of which the closing of the Tethys Sea took place during the Alpine orogenesis.



In contrast, the rest of the Greek mainland, as well as most of the islands (apart from those that belong to the Hellenic arc and demonstrate considerable volcanic activity), are mainly built up of Mesozoic limestones and igneous rock formations. The carboniferous sediments represent shallow and deep marine deposits from the Tethys Sea. The 2 known deepest caves in Greece are located in Lefka Ori mountain in Crete and the 2 known longest caves are located one in Peloponnese and one in Drama.

**Caves total :** >10000

**Marine caves total:** no data

**Artificial caves total:** no data

**Number of speleologists:** >500

**Speleological groups and organizations:** ~ 20

Most important caves	
Name	Length
Diros Cave Vlychada	> 10000 m
Aggitis Cave-Maaras	> 7000 m
Depth	
Gourgouthakas	1208 m
LOC21 Lion	1110 m
Tafkoura	860 m



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