



# pocket card Albania

Albania has an area of 28,748 km<sup>2</sup>, the 25% circa of the whole country's area is karstic. There are 26 different massifs scattered along the country and their extension is included between 34 Km<sup>2</sup> of the Kremenara massif (Ionian area) and 1.162 Km<sup>2</sup> of the Albanian Alps.

The karst types in Albania are mainly:

- High mountain karst;
- Mediterranean karst;

There are also two principal evaporitic massifs, developed into Permian-Triassic evaporites (areas of Korab and Dumre). The smaller area is Kravaja developed into Messinian evaporites. The earliest known information about the caves in the country is found on a map of the Karaburun peninsula of the 14th century, where two caves are marked. Data on Albanian caves can be found on topographic military maps of Austria, Germany and Italy of the first half of the 20th century. Early caves information is also present in notes of studies by traveler scientists from several European countries. Among them, there are:

- Franz Nopcsa reports, in his numerous geographical and geological studies on the Albanian Alps, 8 caves are listed (Early '900s);
- Franco Cardini, between 1930 and 1939, he made important prehistoric discoveries in about 60 caves in the south of the country;
- Hubert Kessler (Hungarian) conducted cave research on Mount Mali me Gropa (1958);
- American Jack Baer visited several caves in the country (1976).

Gëzim Uruçi founded the Speleological Association of Shkodër in 1971, later he established the National Speleo-Alpine Center of Albania in Shkodra (1991). Shortly after he also founded the Albanian Speleological Association. However, the ASS is not a member of the UIS and its activity has been suspended for several years. Since the mid of '90s several foreign's speleological campaigns have been taking place with the aid of local speleologists and Albanian Speleological Society.

**Caves total : ~ 2000**

**Marine caves total: 7**

**Artificial caves total: no data**

**Number of speleologists: 10**

**Speleological groups and organizations: 1**

Most important caves	
Name	Length
Shpella Zeze (Hekurave)	>6300 m
Shpella Shtares (Nikaj-Mërtur)	>5000 m
Puci Cave, Albanian Alps (Shkodra)	>5000 m
Depth	
Shpella BB-30 (Maja e Bridashit )	610 m
Shpella Ru (Mali Radoima)	580 m

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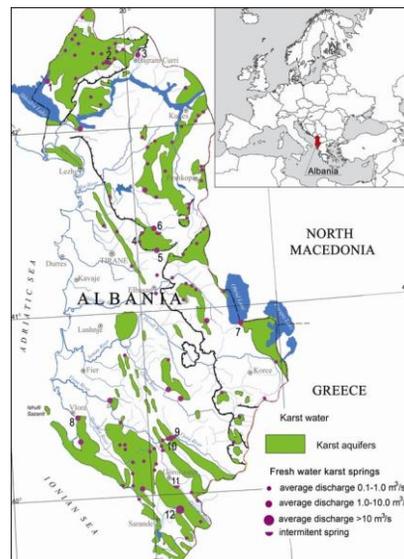


Image by Efitimi et al. (2019). Numbers in the map mark the position of the most important karstic springs: 1) Syri Sheganit; 2) Gurra Flohte; 3) Vrella Shoshanit; 4) Sellita; 5) St. Maria; 6) Uji Bardhe; 7) Ohrid lake; 8) Uji Flohte; 9) Black Eye; 10) Kroj Isake; 11) Viroi; 12) Syri i kaltër.

