

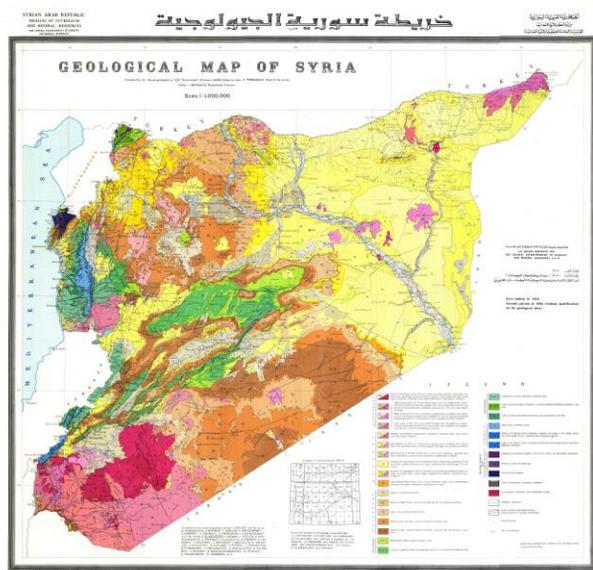


# pocket card Syria

In the country the following morphological areas can be distinguished, in relation to the climatic and orographic characteristics. The western sector is characterized by the large limestone chains of the Jurassic-Cretaceous age, which runs for about 300 km parallel to the Mediterranean (Mt. Hermon, Antilibano, Jebel Ansairiya). To the east of the above mentioned chains (to the north with Turkey), a huge subarid limestone area with continental climatic features extends, while to the south of Palmyra the climate is desert with sedimentary outcrops of arenaceous and clayey nature. Finally, in the north-east of the country, in the desert environment, the relief is characterized by plateaus with evaporitic outcrops of the Miocene, (Calandri, 1991). (Burdon & Safadi, 1964).

**Karst-hydrogeological note** In Syria there are four lithological-stratigraphical successions which have evolved into karstic aquifers.

They are the carbonate sediments of the Jurassic (1000 to 2400 metres), of the Middle Cretaceous (650 to 650 metres) and of the Tertiary (irregular distribution and thickness) as well as the highly-soluble evaporate beds of the marine-lagoonal Lower Fars (Middle Miocene). Post-Jurassic and post-Cretaceous emergences gave rise to paleokarst, while minor Miocene and Pliocene karsts are suspected. The main karstification, however, is of Quaternary age and must be connected with Pluvials. Concerning the aquifers, there is an upper "Carapace zone" which is dry, a central "Open karst Aquifer Zone" and an underlying "Unkarstified Carbonate Floor Zone" which is also dry. The water in the aquifer zone is frequently under pressure and will rise into or above the carapace zone



- Caves total :** no inventory
- Marine caves total:** no inventory
- Artificial caves total:** no inventory
- Speleological groups and organizations:** no data
- Number of speleologists:** no data

Most important caves	
Name	Length
Cafer Megara (Al Raqqa area, Euphrates)	7300 m
Joiat cave (Tartous area)	2600 m
Pigeon Magara (Al Raqqa area, Euphrates)	860 m
Grotta di Ratla (Area Al Raqqa)	500 m
Nugaret Douaiet (Jebel Ansairiya)	400 m



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