



# Top Ten Karst Features Around the World

Karst comes in a variety of shapes and sizes, but here are 10 of the most interesting karst features around the world

# Our World Tour:



12% of the world's surface is karst



# Longest Cave System



- Mammoth Cave, Kentucky USA.

- 580 km of connected passages

the same distance as  
Hamilton to Montreal!

# Largest Single Cave



- Son Doong Cave, Vietnam
- 80m x 80m around (roughly the size of Jackson Square)
- 4.5 km long
- Just recently beat Deer Cave in Malaysia for the title of World's Largest Cave



# Most Luminous Cave



- Waitomo Glow Worm Cave, New Zealand
- Insect larva (arachnocampa luminosa), create light through bioluminescence

# Most Visited Cave



- Postojna Cave, Solvenia
- Over 31 million visitors in the past 185 years

# Largest Sinkhole



- Xiaozhai Tiankeng, China
- 625 m long, 535 m wide, 662 m deep
  - (The CN Tower is 553 m high)

# Largest Underwater Sinkhole



- Great Blue Hole, Belize.
- 300 m wide, 125 m deep



# Most Mysterious Sinkholes

- Sarisarinama, Venezuela
- 350 m wide  
350 m deep



[http://skywalker.cochise.edu/wellerr/students/sky-island/project\\_files/image011.jpg](http://skywalker.cochise.edu/wellerr/students/sky-island/project_files/image011.jpg)



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[http://www.laastrefuge.co.uk/images/html/whatsnew/sinkhole/image\\_data/sinkhole7.jpg](http://www.laastrefuge.co.uk/images/html/whatsnew/sinkhole/image_data/sinkhole7.jpg)



Located at the top of Sarisarinama Tepui, nobody knows how these sinkholes formed.

They may not even be the result of karst action... but they're still cool!

# Largest Karst Area



Nullarbor Plain, Australia

- 270 000 km<sup>2</sup>

the same as the entire country of New Zealand!



# Longest Underground River



- The Son River, Phong Nha - Ke Bang, Vietnam and Laos
- Runs underground for 20 km



# Most 'Educational' Cave



Dongzhong Primary  
School, located  
inside a cave

Guizhou, China





Some Other Photos  
for your  
Consideration...



# The Burren, Ireland



# Stone Pavement at the Burren





# The Globe, Assynt Scotland





# Scenic Cave, Collingwood Ontario

Ontario is home to many caves and karst areas. Find out more at [cancaver.ca](http://cancaver.ca)



# Jeita Grotto, Lebanon







# Sierra Gorda, Mexico





# Phong Nha Cave, Vietnam



One of the longest  
caves in the  
world

7729 m long  
(almost 8 km)

Over 250 million  
years old



The following Karst Towers form  
after millions of years of dissolution.

More limestone is gone than remains



# Phi Phi Island, Thailand





# Tsingy Karst, Madagascar



# Cone Towers, China





# Karst Tower, Yangshuo China

# Stone Forest, Yunnan, China





- For another slide show of karst around the world see:

<http://members.shaw.ca/karst.almighty/default.htm>