



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, Slovenia
- 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



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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 km²

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



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>