



THE ŠKOCJAN CAVES:

- The most beautiful caves in the world.
- The Pearl of Slovenia.
- Not suitable for mass visiting.

POSITION:

- In the karst region.
- Dripstone formations: stalactites and stalagmites.
- In the South-western part of Slovenia.

INTERESTING INFORMATION:

- Animals in the cave: several types of bats, world famous proteus (olm or salamander), underground bugs and shrimps.
- 26 waterfalls
- The largest known Canyon in the subterranean world.
- A lot of speleologists.



THE ŠKOCJAN CAVES

THE RIVER REKA:

- It springs from under the mountain Snežnik.
- It flows about 55km on the surface.
- It reaches the area of Karst which is the limestone surface.
- The water dissolves the limestone and causes erosion.
- In this way it shapes the underground caves.
- First it flows on the surface and then disappears underground.

FACTS:

- Age: a few million years
- Length: 6200m
- Depth: 223m
- The highest point at 435m and the lowest at 212m.
- They were mentioned in 1819 for the first time.
- There are more than 7,000 halls of different sizes in the cave system.



VOCABULARY:

Proteus - an amphibian. It lives in underground Dinaric Karst. It is an endemite.

Limestone - is a sedimentary rock and it is easily dissolved in water.

Karst (Kras) - a region in Slovenia with limestone and karst relief.

Stalactites - the formations in the caves that grow out of the ceiling.

Stalagmites - the formations in the caves that grow out of the floor.

Speleologists - people who explore caves with special equipment.