

Società Speleologica Italiana

The Società Speleologica Italiana is the only national organization whose role is essentially devoted to speleology in Italy. The first Società Speleologica Italiana was founded in 1903 at Bologna by M. Gortani, G. Trebbi and C. Alzona, and was re-founded after WWII at Pavia in 1951. Currently there are more than 3,500 individual members and about 180 affiliated groups. The Society represents Italian cavers and speleologists: in this capacity it organizes National Congresses and, within the International Union of Speleology, nominates the Italian delegates to International Congresses.



The Società Speleologica Italiana co-ordinates both the activity of Italian cavers abroad (establishing contacts with corresponding societies) and the activity of the foreign cavers in Italy. Foreign cavers are therefore kindly requested to contact the SSI when planning their visit to our country.

The head office of the SSI is in the Department for Geological Sciences of the Bologna University: Società Speleologica Italiana, Via Zamboni 67 - I-40126 BOLOGNA.

The office also hosts the "Centro di Documentazione Speleologica F. Anelli" (CIDS), which is the only thematic library on speleology that is open to the public in Italy.

It is one of the largest speleological libraries in the world, and the largest for ancient books on this subject. Every item is recorded on a personal computer and the library database with a retrieval program (author, title or keywords) is available to everyone.

The Società Speleologica Italiana is responsible for the maintenance of the Italian Cave Register, updated at a regional level by teams of local cavers, mostly coordinated by the regional speleological federations (where they exist). It is one of the most dynamic of the world, with over 36,000 catalogued caves representing a total development of over 2,500 km.

Great importance is given by the SSI to the teaching of speleology, at both popular and scientific levels. The related courses are delivered both at local and national level, using texts and visual aids produced by the SSI.

The Società Speleologica Italiana promotes and co-ordinates the drafting of statutes concerning the protection of caves and karst areas and the development of speleology. Presently, as a consequence of this activity, nearly all Italian Regions have approved statutes concerning speleology.

Publications

The Society publishes several periodicals and occasional books, among which are:

SPELEOLOGIA

Published twice a year with popular papers on explorations and scientific research.

GROTTE D'ITALIA

Published occasionally, presently used for the proceedings of the National congresses.

MEMORIE DELL'ISTITUTO ITALIANO DI SPELEOLOGIA

Published occasionally.

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SPELEOLOGY

Official journal of the International Union of Speleology, published on an irregular basis until 2004, at the moment published six-monthly.

UIS - CAVE DIVING MAGAZINE

Official Journal of the Commission for Cave Diving-UIS, published once a year.

OPERA IPOGEA

Published twice a year, regarding speleology in urban areas and in artificial caves.

For more information:

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