

Welcome to "Las Cuevas del Drach"

In this brochure you will find information about the cave and the visit. We recommend its reading before entering, thank you.

CUEVAS DRACH



FORMATION AND SCIENTIFIC DATA:

These caves develop within carbonate rocks of an age between 11 and 5.3 million years, formed during the upper Miocene period - when the Mediterranean Sea had a much warmer climate - by rests of coral reefs and shells from marine organisms accumulated on the seabed. Those fossils can be easily seen on the rocks and cliffs located next to the caves.

The rocks are of calcareous composition, formed by minerals such as Calcite or Aragonite (CaCO_3) which can be easily dissolved by the action of rainwater leaking through cracks or due to the porosity of the ground. These leaks are responsible for the formation of cavities in the ground and, as they increase in size, rooms and lakes form and subsequently they get covered with stalactites - which are formed on the roof as thin tubes and take the conical shape as



they grow, and stalagmites - which come out of the ground as a result of a stalactite dripping, sometimes coming together to form a column. The growth of these formations range from 0.2 to 1.6 mm. per year. Other formations visible during the visit are the paintings and tree-structure stalactites, formed due to the flow of water in the form of a film. The different colours on the walls or formations are due to minerals washed away by water while crossing the ground.

Cave temperature ranges between 17 and 21 degrees, and that of water between 18 and 19. Relative humidity is around 90% -95%, essential to sustain the growth of formations.

Inside the caves there are several lakes, the largest of them being Martel Lake, about 170 meters long and between 4 and 12 metres deep.

