



Caving terms (less detailed)

Active cave / streamway: Cave passage with a flowing stream.

Aven: A vertical shaft as seen from below.

Bed: Horizontal band of limestone.

Boulder choke: Fallen rocks obscuring a passage.

Cavern: A very large cave chamber.

Duck: Place where the cave roof almost reaches a water surface.

Formations: Features such as stalactites and stalagmites formed by the deposition of calcite.

Pitch: A vertical shaft requiring a ladder or rope to descend.

Pothole: A vertical cave.

Shakehole: A surface depression resulting from the collapse of soil and rock underneath. May indicate the presence of a cave beneath.

Shaft: A vertical cave pitch. A shaft that opens to the ground surface is also called a pothole.

Sink / Swallow hole / Swallet: Where surface water enters the ground.

Stalactite: A long thin cave formation hanging from a cave roof; usually made from calcite.

Stalagmite: A cave formation growing upwards from the ground.

Straw: A thin hollow stalactite.

Squeeze: A short section of very constricted cave passage.

Sump: A flooded cave passage.

Traverse: Moving horizontally along a cave wall.