

Hebrew University researchers map Israel's deepest cave

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A new record for Israel: Vladimir Buslov and Yuri Lisovic from the Hebrew University's Cave Research Unit stand 187 meters below ground at the bottom of Israel's deepest cave. Credit: Boaz Langford, Hebrew University Cave Research Unit

Researchers from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem have discovered the deepest cave in Israel. Located near Israel's border with Lebanon, the cave was recently mapped by researchers from the Cave Research Unit in the Hebrew University's Department of Geography: Vladimir Buslov,

Yuri Lisovic, and Boaz Langford.

Reaching a depth of 187 meters below ground, the cave is 30 meters deeper than the previous record-holder, which was mapped 30 years ago. At 157 meters, the previous cave has been considered Israel's deepest since spelunkers from the Cave Research Center plumbed its depths on Mount Meron in 1984.

Directed by Prof. Amos Frumkin, the Cave Research Center studies the [caves](#) and karst of Israel, and serves as the country's national speleological (cave-exploring) organization. For more than 40 the Cave Research Unit has been finding and investigating caves all over Israel.

Prof. Frumkin said: "This particular cave is an interesting surprise, and our most significant find in recent decades. Discoveries like this give us an idea of the depth of the natural underground system that provides our groundwater, and allows us to better understand what's happening even further down. We have made serious progress in the study of caves and we look forward to further interesting discoveries soon." Prof. Frumkin is available for interviews.

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There's life down there! Researchers discovered this striped salamander at an intermediate level as they climbed down to the bottom. Credit: Boaz Langford, Hebrew University Cave Research Unit

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Provided by Hebrew University of Jerusalem

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