Top Ten Karst Features Around the World

Karst comes in a variety of shapes and sizes, but here are 10 of the most interesting karst features around the world
12% of the world’s surface is karst
Longest Cave System

- Mammoth Cave, Kentucky USA.
- 580 km of connected passages
  the same distance as Hamilton to Montreal!
Largest Single Cave

- Son Doong Cave, Vietnam
- 80m x 80m around (roughly the size of Jackson Square)
- 4.5 km long
- Just recently beat Deer Cave in Malaysia for the title of World’s Largest Cave

Most Luminous Cave

- Waitomo Glow Worm Cave, New Zealand
- Insect larva (arachnocampa luminosa), create light through bioluminescence

http://www.jaunted.com/maps/Worlds-Best-Caves
Most Visited Cave

- **Postojna Cave, Slovenia**
- Over 31 million visitors in the past 185 years

http://www.slovenia.info/pictures%5Cycling%5C1%5C2006%5CPostojnska-jamaSTO_78189.jpg
Largest Sinkhole

- Xiaozhai Tiankeng, China
- 625 m long, 535 m wide, 662 m deep
- (The CN Tower is 553 m high)
Largest Underwater Sinkhole

- Great Blue Hole, Belize.
- 300 m wide, 125 m deep
Most Mysterious Sinkholes

- Sarisarinama, Venezuela
- 350 m wide
- 350 m deep

http://skywalker.cochise.edu/wellerr/students/sky-island/project_files/image011.jpg
http://www.lastrefuge.co.uk/images/html/whatsnew/sinkhole/image_data/sinkhole7.jpg
Located at the top of Sarisarinama Tepui, nobody knows how these sinkholes formed. They may not even be the result of karst action… but they’re still cool!
Largest Karst Area

Nullarbor Plain, Australia

• 270 000 km²

the same as the entire country of New Zealand!
Longest Underground River

- The Son River, Phong Nha - Ke Bang, Vietnam and Laos
- Runs underground for 20 km

http://files.myopera.com/vietnamtravelpro/blog/phong%20nha%20cave.jpeg
Most ‘Educational’ Cave

Dongzhong Primary School, located inside a cave

Guizhou, China
Some Other Photos for your Consideration…
The Burren, Ireland

http://www.burrenlearning.org/images/puzzle/Karst.jpg
Stone Pavement at the Burren

http://www.burrenlearning.org/images/puzzle/Pavement.jpg
The Globe, Assynt Scotland

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:The_Sphere,_Knockan.JPG
Scenic Cave, Collingwood Ontario

Ontario is home to many caves and karst areas. Find out more at cancaver.ca
Jeita Grotto, Lebanon

http://www.daylife.com/photo/0aPY2PUnhH5Hq
Sierra Gorda, Mexico

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e9/Karst_minerve.jpg
Phong Nha Cave, Vietnam

One of the longest caves in the world

7729 m long (almost 8 km)

Over 250 million years old

http://farm2.static.flickr.com/1430/601062710_e424e21fc4.jpg
The following Karst Towers form after millions of years of dissolution.

More limestone is gone then remains
Phi Phi Island, Thailand
Tsingy Karst, Madagascar
Cone Towers, China
Karst Tower, Yangshuo China

http://www.fotopedia.com/albums/ezz0ai9z4bY
Stone Forest, Yunnan, China
For another slide show of karst around the world see:
http://members.shaw.ca/karst.almighty/default.htm