

Karst Landforms

A Handiwork of God

Shilin (石林) National Park

located in Yi Autonomous County, Yunnan, China

- Also known as Stone Forest (石 = stone / 林 = forest)
- Listed as a UNESCO World Natural Heritage site in 2007
- About 56 miles from Kunming, the capital city of Yunnan Province
- Considered by some to be the First Wonder of the World
- Unique KARST landforms spread over ~155 sq. miles



Size of this preview: 800 × 450 pixels. Other resolutions: 320 × 180 pixels | 640 × 360 pixels | 1,024 × 576 pixels | 1,280 × 720 pixels | 3,328 × 1,872 pixels

[Original file](#) (3,328 × 1,872 pixels, file size: 4.52 MB, MIME type: image/jpeg); [ZoomViewer](#)

 [Open in Media Viewer](#)



Karst

- Karst is an area of land made up of limestone
- As rainwater seeps into limestone rock, limestone slowly erodes
- Karst landscapes can be worn away from the top or dissolved from a weak point inside the rock

What is Limestone

(Geology.com)

- Limestone is a sedimentary rock composed primarily of calcite, a calcium carbonate mineral (CaCO_3).
- Usually a biological sedimentary rock, forming from the accumulation of shell, coral, algal, fecal, and other organic debris.
- Can be formed by chemical sedimentary processes, such as the precipitation of calcium carbonate from lake or ocean water.

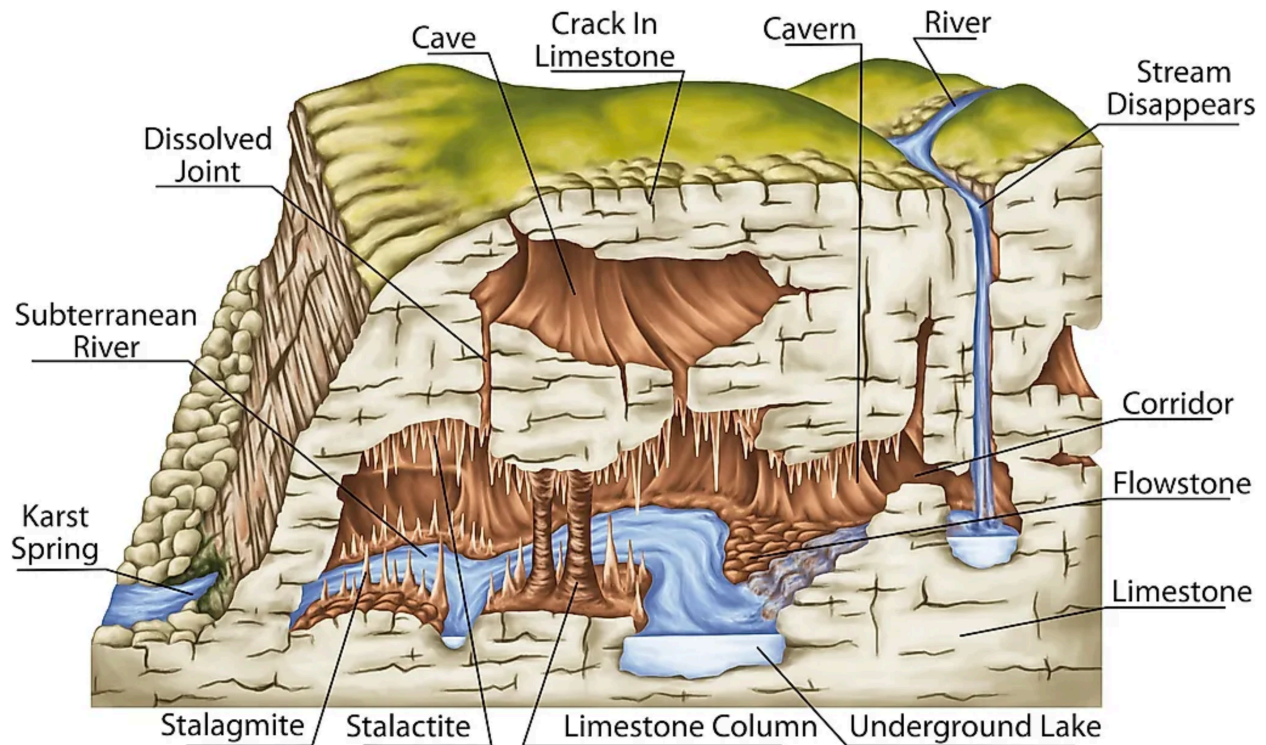


A Limestone-Forming Environment: An underwater view of a coral reef system from the Kerama Islands in the East China Sea southwest of Okinawa. Here the entire seafloor is covered by a wide variety of corals which produce calcium carbonate skeletons. A United States Geological Survey image by Curt Storlazzi.

How Karst Forms

(WorldAtlas.com)

How Karst Forms

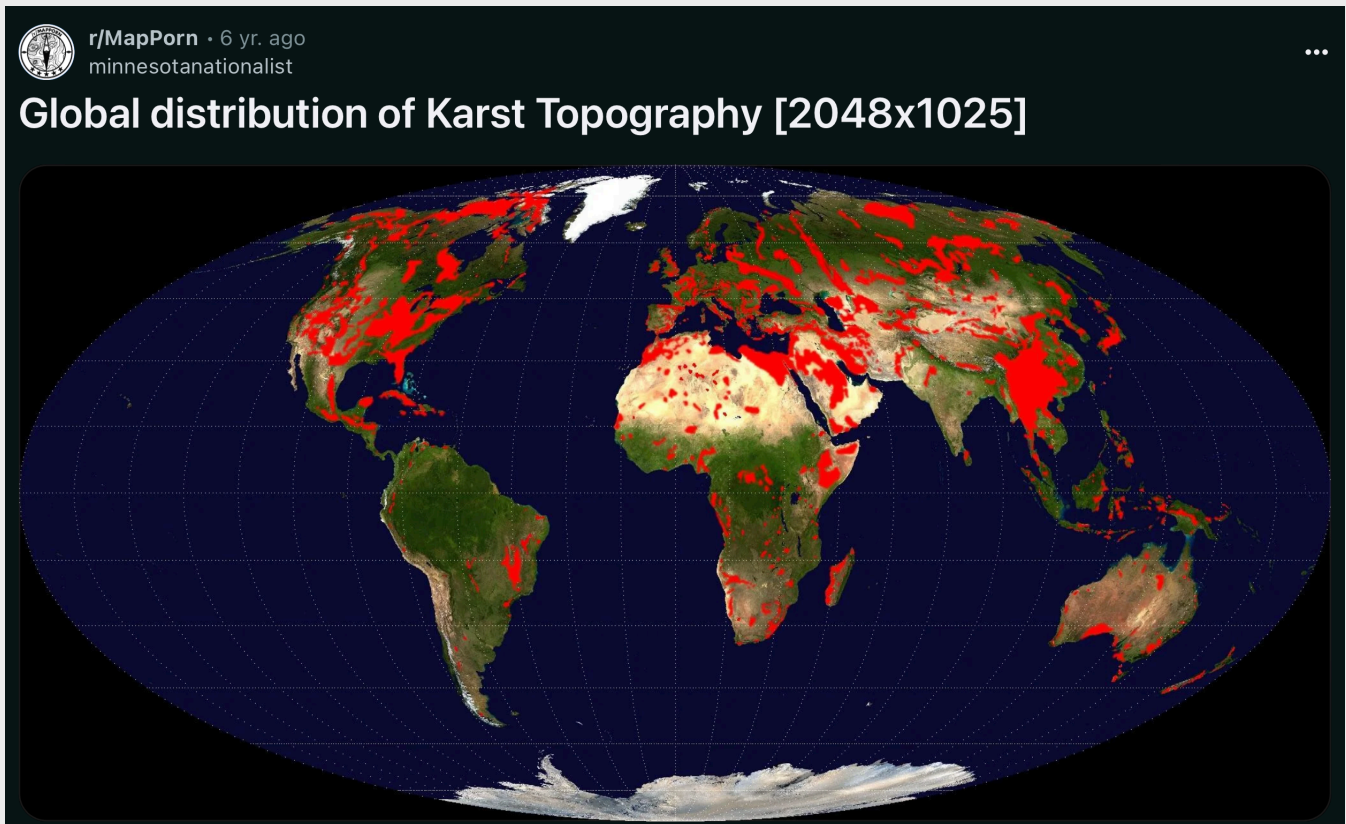


Different types of karst landforms.

- Interestingly, this diagram does not show certain features that you will see later in this presentation

Where can we find Karst

(WorldAtlas.com)



- This presentation presents some of the spectacular Karst landforms found in the South China Karst

South China Karst



Shilin (石林) National Park

- Shilin is part of a larger karst called South China Karst, covering 3 provinces: Guangxi, Guizhou and Yunnan
- It is called Stone Forest because the limestone rocks stood tall like towering trees

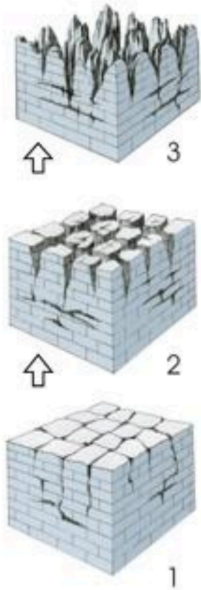


“Scientific” explanation

- The area was a shallow Yunnan-Guizhou Sea about 270 million years ago
- Extensive deposits of sandstone overlain by limestone (*during the carboniferous period of the Paleozoic era*)
- Region was uplifted when the Eurasian plate collided with the Indian plate (*nearby Kunming is 6,332 ft. above sea level*)
- Wind and water erosion shaped them into today’s features

石林是怎样形成的？

石林是由众多高大的石灰岩石柱组成的。那么这些石柱又是怎样从最初完整的石灰岩中分离出来的呢？简单的说，是因为石灰岩受到力的挤压后，在垂直方向上产生了两组以上的裂隙（节理），将岩石分割成了网格状（图1）；以后水和生物等沿着这些裂隙往下溶蚀，随着裂隙的加深加宽，一个个石柱逐渐分离出来（图2）；再经构造抬升，将石柱出露于地表，组合在一起，就成了石林（图3）。



How was the Stone Forest Formed?

The Stone Forest is comprised of numerous high and gigantic pillars of carbonate rock. But, how were these pillars dissected from the entire chunks of original carbonate rock at the beginning? To put it simple, when the carbonate rock was compressed, two or more sets of cracks (joints) developed along the vertical gradient and incised the rock into lattice (Fig 1). Afterwards, water erosion and microorganism corrosion followed these cracks downward. Along with the constant widening and deepening of these cracks, the rock pillars are dissected one after another from the rock chunk (Fig 2). Subsequent tectonic uplift further exposed the rock pillars to the land surface. When numerous rock pillars were exposed and assembled together, a stone forest was formed (Fig 3).



www.stoneforest.com

AIG's Journey of Understanding


- In speaking to similar landforms in Madagascar, AIG said:
“Tsingy... a karst formation... dissolves easily... heavy rains and seeping water carved caves after the Flood... cave roofs caved in, leaving 200-foot-high spires.... rain further eroded and sharpened the limestone into these monstrous teeth.”
- The weakness with this understanding is that the process of caverns being dissolved by weak carbonic acid (*found in ground water*) requires thousands/millions of years
- More recent research shows rapid cave formation was likely achieved by sulphuric acid, formed by the oxidation of hydrogen sulfide in hydrothermal water, as in the case of Guadalupe Mountains (*in southeastern New Mexico & west Texas*)

Canada / English

- Answers
- Store
- Events
- Media
- Kids
- Education
- Donate

Science

- What Is Science?
- Astronomy
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Environmental Science
- Fossils
- Genetics
- Geology**
- Human Body
- Mathematics
- Physics



[Home](#) [Answers](#) [Science](#) [Geology](#) [Caves](#) [Rapid Cave Formation by Sulfuric Acid Dissolution](#)

Rapid Cave Formation by Sulfuric Acid Dissolution

by [Michael J. Oard](#)
Also available in [Español](#)

Originally published in *Journal of Creation* 12, no 3 (December 1998): 279-280.

South China Karst

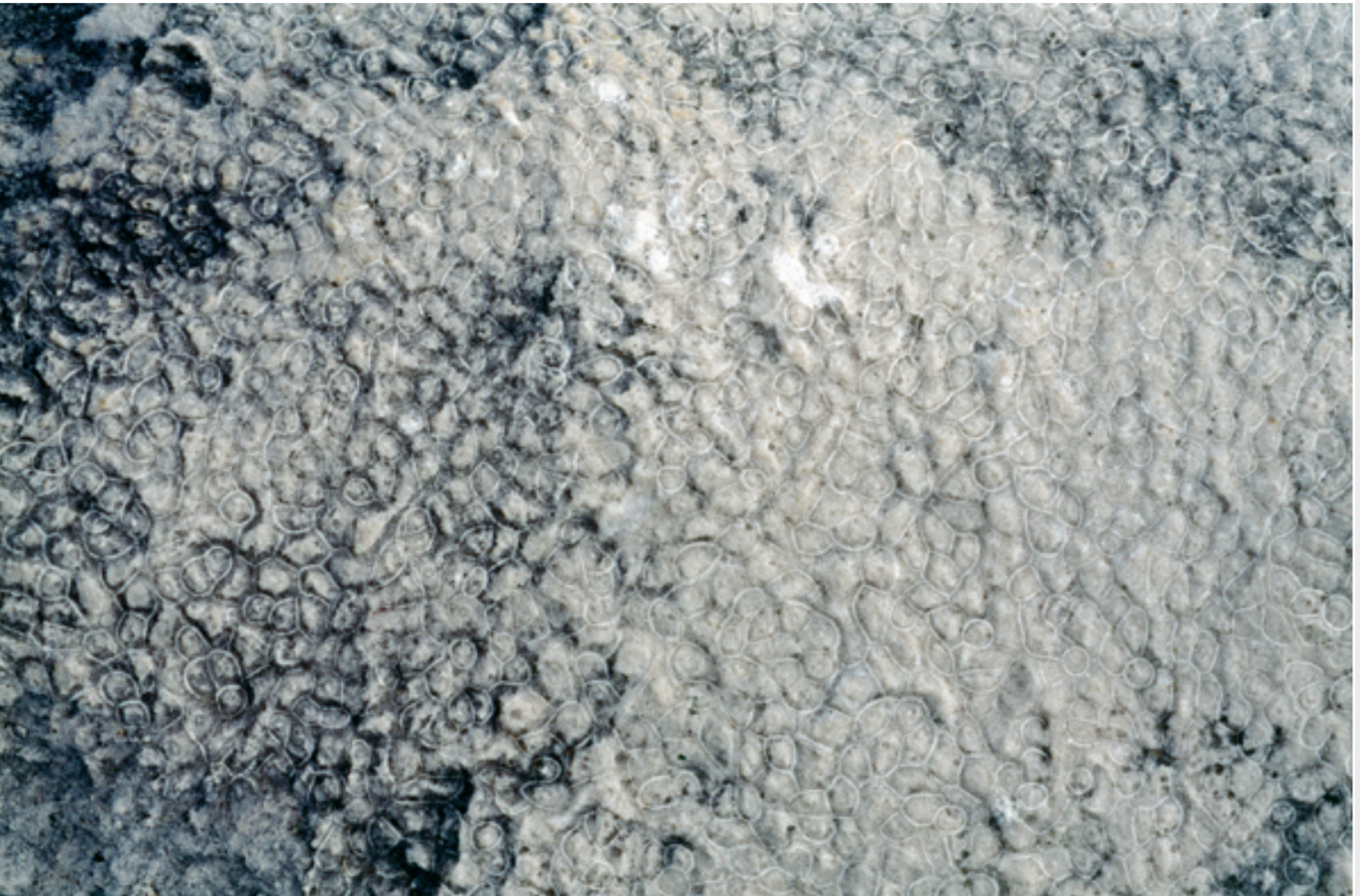
extracted from Shilin.com.cn

- Marine fossils are abundant in Stone Forest karst

Marine Life Contained in the Stone Forest



Marine Life Contained in the Stone Forest





古海印记



长在石林里的远古海洋生物化石

Karst

*Personal photo collection
of the South China Karst*

Karst

A creationist's conclusion

- Karst is formed by massive calcium deposits from corals and mollusks, etc., destroyed in the oceans during and after the flood. A testament of how rich the oceans were, at least in coral and mollusk populations, etc., before the global flood
- A testament that Noah's flood did cover all the high hills – limestone 'pillars' formed from marine organisms ended up in high-altitude Yunnan-Guizhou plateau (*nearby Kunming is 6,234 feet above sea level*)
- Stone Forest 'pillars' and karst mountains were formed rapidly because they were formed without layers or mixed with a variety of other rocks
- Rapid karst cave formations can now be explained by erosion caused by sulphuric acid, formed by the oxidation of hydrogen sulfide in hydrothermal water

Genesis 7:11 (NKJV) In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.