

Israel caves declared World Heritage site

The UN cultural agency UNESCO has designated *Beit Guvrin-Maresha National Park* a World Heritage site. The network of 2,000-year-old man-made caves southwest of Jerusalem is the eighth such site in Israel

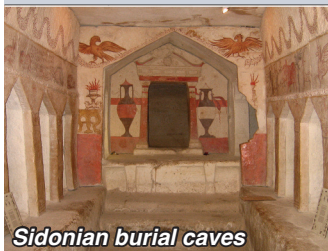


Bell caves: Some 800 pits, many linked by tunnels, are remains of man-made quarries

► **History:** Caves situated below ancient city of Maresha, dating from third century BC, and later, Roman-era town of Beit Guvrin

► **Size:** Roughly 2,000 caves carved from soft limestone, scattered over area of about 100 sq km. Most caves reach height of 15m

► **Use:** Quarries for building materials, workshops, living areas, storerooms, dovecotes and burial chambers



Sidonian burial caves