

# The Caves of Sagelva

The caves in Salangen are thousands of years old. The caves were created by the Sagelva river, eroding away the bedrock. This created diverse formations in the rock, and it is still changing to this day, as water continues to flow through. In these caves, we also find traces of iron ore, the very same that has been mined in Kiruna in Sweden for many generations.



*Iron ore, found in the caves*



*Sagelva river, flowing through the cave*



*Different rock formations formed by the flow of water*



## Chemical elements

The different types of rock that make up the ground in the caves, affect the qualities and components of the water. The high percentage of limestone in the bedrock reacts with the water, that would give slightly alkaline values. However, other substances in the caves, like the iron ore and different minerals gave the water slightly acid values. The water samples from the cave also show a much higher concentration of calcium and magnesium than water from other natural sources in the area. This makes sense, seeing how slightly acidic water has a better ability to erode rock containing calcium carbonate, the main component of limestone, and creating caves and rock formations like these we see here.