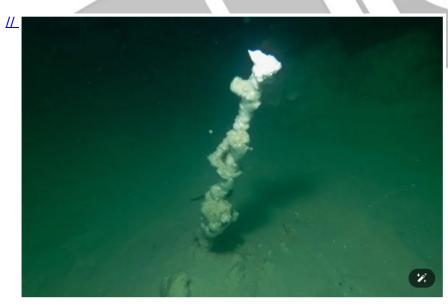


Salt Chimneys in the Dead Sea

Source: Forbes

Recently, researchers discovered unique **salt chimneys** on the **Dead Sea** floor, formed by highly **saline groundwater**.

- Salt chimney: These are vertical mineral structures formed by saline groundwater rising through the **Dead Sea**, crystallising salt upon contact.
 - These chimneys are created by the upward flow of hypersaline brine from aquifers, which crystallizes upon contact with the Dead Sea's water.
 - **Hypersaline brine** is highly concentrated saltwater, denser than freshwater, formed from dissolved minerals in groundwater, often leading to crystallisation.
 - The chimneys grow rapidly and are significant as early indicators of <u>sinkhole</u> risks, providing clues to areas prone to <u>karstification</u> and <u>ground collapse</u>.
- Dead Sea: It is a <u>salt lake</u> located between <u>Israel</u> and <u>Jordan</u>, bordered by the <u>Judean Hills</u> to
 the west and the <u>Transjordanian Plateau</u> to the east, at 430 meters below sea level, making it
 the <u>lowest point</u> on Earth.
 - It is **one of the saltiest bodies of water,** with unique therapeutic properties. Its water level drops annually due to minimal inflow and high evaporation.
 - Historically, the <u>Jordan River</u> was its primary water <u>source</u>, but today, the Dead Sea is mainly fed by <u>sulfur springs</u> and wastewater.



An individual salt chimney at a depth of roughly 30 meters. UFZ

Read More: World's Longest Salt Cave

