



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 **sinkhole risks**, providing clues to areas prone to **karstification** and **ground collapse**.
- **Dead Sea:** It is a **salt lake** located between **Israel** and **Jordan**, bordered by the **Judean Hills** to the west and the **Transjordanian Plateau** to the east, at 430 meters below sea level, making it the **lowest point** 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 **Jordan River** was its primary water source, but today, the Dead Sea is mainly fed by **sulfur springs** and wastewater.

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

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