Mining was one of the most important economic activities during the Roman period. The extraction would, in many occasions, subsidise the expenses of the Legions. The Romans intensively explored all occupied territories, adapting and developing new mining techniques specific to each local. In Portugal many are the examples of mining exploration, namely of gold and copper. The Valongo mining system is a paradigmatic example of gold extraction in this part of the Empire; being as well the most important work developed by the Association in an artificial cavity, with reference to the fields of Surveying and the application of special Speleological techniques in shale rock.

This paper has the purpose of presenting a brief resume about the mining techniques used by the Romans, especially in Valongo, a Roman site in the North of Portugal.