



# Xenolith Cave



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**Advanced experience & equipment needed**

Xenolith Cave is for the more adventurous, experienced, and well prepared caver. Rooms such as the “Large Intestine” and “Small Intestine” evoke the almost organic shape of these pristine volcanic passages. The cave’s name comes from the geologic term for the pieces of non-volcanic rocks found embedded in its walls.

## **Drive to Cave – Easy**

Take Highway 53 to the El Calderon turn off, and follow the well-maintained gravel road 0.3 miles to the trailhead.

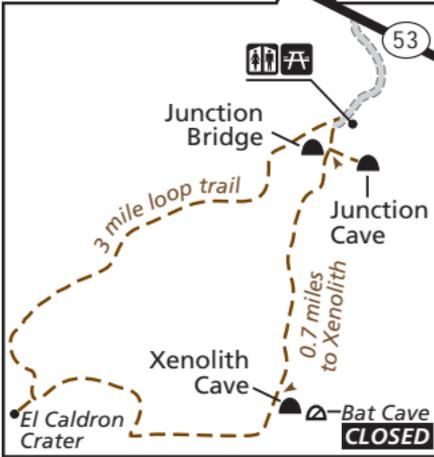
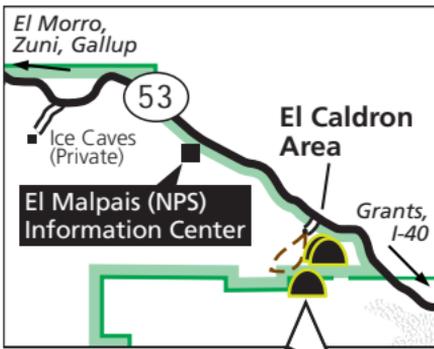
## **Hike to Cave – Easy**

The hike is 0.7 miles (one way) on a well-maintained trail. Signs indicate the route into the cave. Please note that Bat Cave, opposite the entrance to Xenolith, is closed year-round to protect important bat colonies.

## **Caving Difficulty – Extremely Difficult**

After the first 100 feet, a ten-foot climb and very tight crawlways are part of this caving adventure. This cave is for experienced cavers with appropriate equipment and physical conditioning. There is no trail in this cave, and scrambling over large, unstable boulders is common.

## Directions

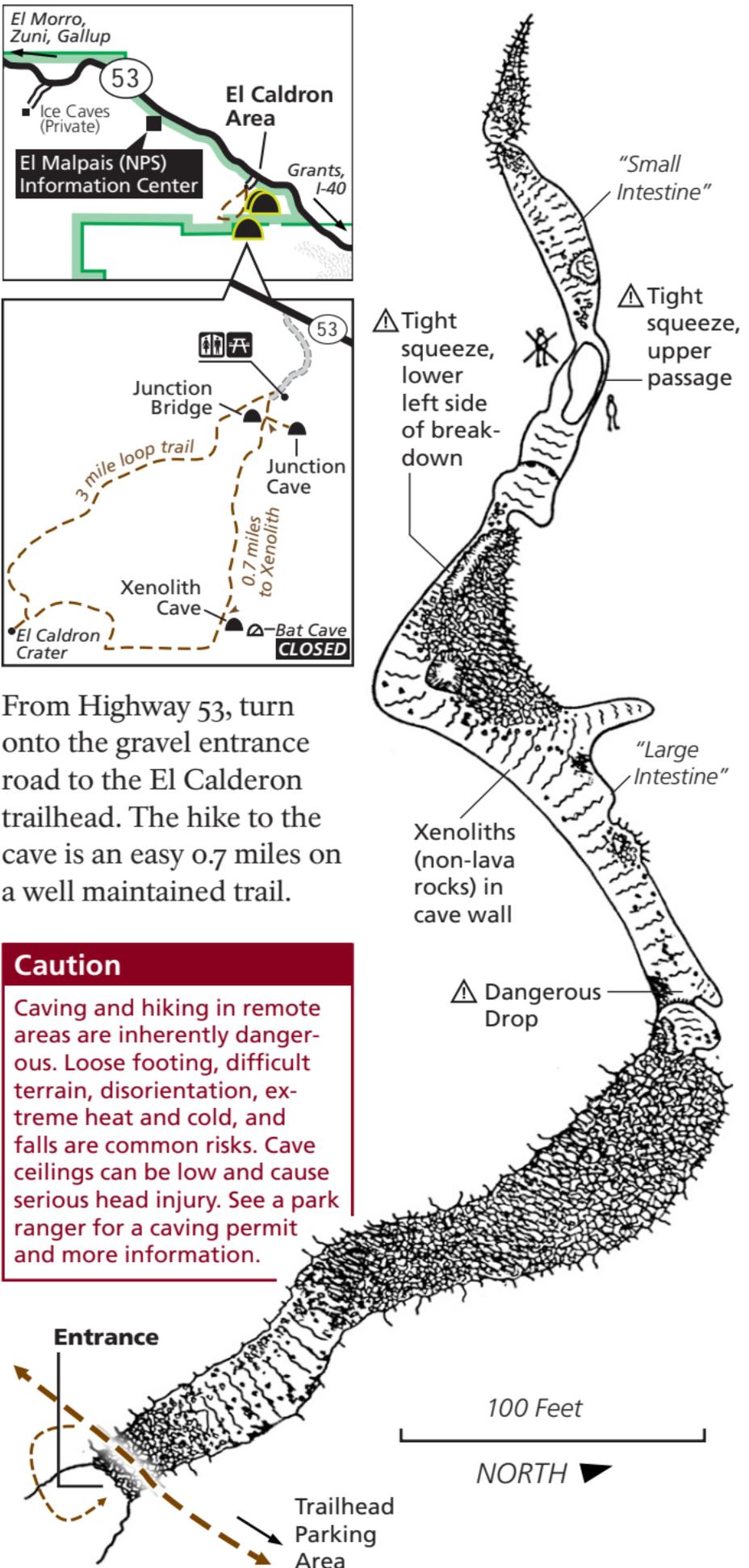


From Highway 53, turn onto the gravel entrance road to the El Calderon trailhead. The hike to the cave is an easy 0.7 miles on a well maintained trail.

## Caution

Caving and hiking in remote areas are inherently dangerous. Loose footing, difficult terrain, disorientation, extreme heat and cold, and falls are common risks. Cave ceilings can be low and cause serious head injury. See a park ranger for a caving permit and more information.

## Cave Map



For more information, visit [www.nps.gov/elma](http://www.nps.gov/elma) or contact:

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