



NPS Photo

# Big Skylight Cave

## Caving Difficulty – Moderate

Big Skylight cave is primarily bouldering, with a steep climb to the cave entrance. Once inside, sensitive moss gardens and other delicate features require your care and protection. There is no trail in this cave, but the route is marked with reflective markers. Practice cave safety and only go as far as you feel comfortable. **A caving permit is required for entry.**

## White-Nose Syndrome

White-nose syndrome (WNS) is a disease that afflicts hibernating bats. It is spreading rapidly and can kill between 90-100 percent of the bats it affects. By following proper decontamination procedures, and not using any gear that has been inside a WNS cave, you help to reduce and slow the spread of WNS. When getting your cave permit, review the following steps with a ranger:

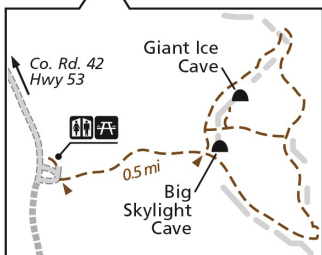
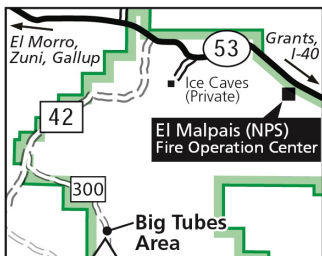
**Check:** Has any of your gear been inside any other cave?

**Clean:** Remove all debris from gear.

**Decontaminate:** Any gear that has been in a cave outside of El Malpais needs to be decontaminated. You will also need to walk through a shoe decontamination station, located at the trail head, both before and after your caving experience.

Ask a ranger or call (505) 876-2783 for more details.

## Directions



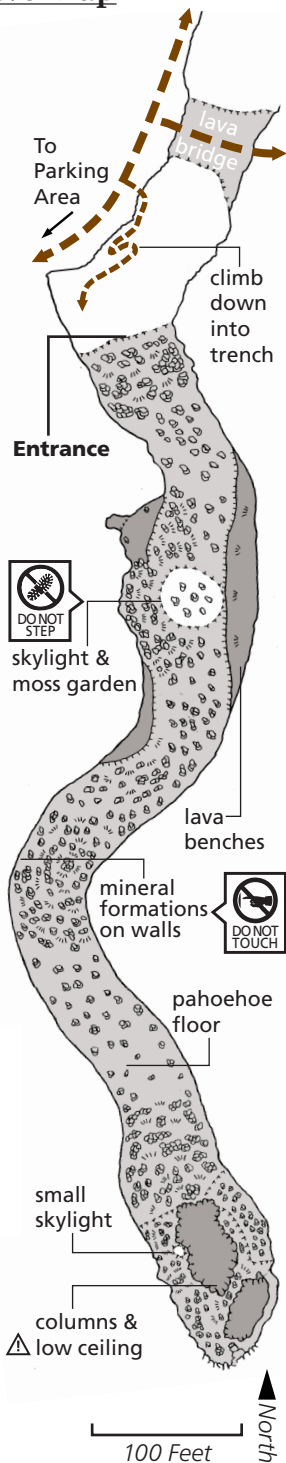
From Highway 53, take Cibola County Road 42 south to NPS Road 300 and follow the road to the Big Tubes parking area.

Hike the cairn trail a half mile to the flow trench. Look for a route down to the cave from the edge, just south of where the trail crosses a natural lava bridge over the trench.

### 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:

El Malpais National Monument  
Visitor Center  
1900 E. Sant Fe Ave  
Grants, NM 87020  
(505) 876-2783