

# Caves and Karst in the U.S. National Park Service

## Nationwide

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



### Photographs from your National Parks!

Timpanogos Cave NM features three alpine caves with abundant delicate formations in an array of colors.

Lava Beds NM is studying perennial ice in its lava tube systems in order to assess the effects of climate change, how continued decline impacts cave ecology, and whether ice contains climatic data or dateable materials.

Painted Cave, in Channel Island National Park, is thought to be the largest sea cave in the world with a 160' high entrance and a length over 1,000 feet.

Most caves at Craters of the Moon National Monument are lava tubes but deep rift caves also occur and may contain ice formations.

Fitton (Beauty) Cave, the longest cave in Arkansas is one of more than 360 documented caves at Buffalo National River.

The calcite crystals for which Jewel Cave was named create a backdrop for dripstone formations in the world's second-longest cave.

This millipede is only one of three new genera and 15 new species of invertebrates discovered in the caves within Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument.

As the world's 4th longest known cave at 212km, Wind Cave is known for its maze-like passages and boxwork speleothems.

Suzy's Cave, in Isle Royal National Park, was carved out by wave action from ancient Lake Huron, 40-60 feet higher than the current lake level.

Though less known for their karst resources, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal NHP is home to *Myotis sodalis*, more commonly known as the Indiana Bat.

Sea caves provide habitat for several species in Acadia National Park. The genetic diversity of sea anemones is being studied in Anemone Cave.

In Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, caves and rock shelters in the conglomerate cliffs were used by the Mogollon people in the 13th century to build dwellings.

Panther Cave is just one of the limestone shelters boaters can access in Amistad National Recreation Area to see 4,000 year old rock art.

The cave resources at Sequoia and Kings Canyon NPs alone would warrant National Park status. Formed in marble, the more than 260 known caves are home to unique biological and geological resources.

The caves at Oregon Caves National Monument are formed in a marble outcrop located in the Siskiyou Range.

Lechuguilla Cave was dissolved by extremely aggressive sulfuric acid. This unique chemical environment resulted in strange, yet beautiful formations such as these 5 meter long gypsum chandeliers.

Weathering and erosion have carved caves and shelters out of the Navajo Sandstone in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

Great Basin NP's endemic pseudoscorpion, *Microreopsis grandis*, eating an ant in Lehman Cave. Bio-inventories have discovered nine cave endemic species in the park.

Amazing ice formations in Whispering Cave, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

Sinkhole in Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.

People have been an important part of the Mammoth Cave story for the last 4000 years -- from prehistoric explorers to Nineteenth Century miners and tourists to modern visitors and researchers.

Rampart Cave in Grand Canyon National Park preserved one of the thickest and least disturbed deposits of sloth dung in the world, dating to at least 11,200 years old.

Although Yosemite National Park is mostly made up of granitic rocks, small outcroppings of marble contain complex caves with underground streams.

The entrance of Dinty Moore Cave, one of over 250 lava caves within El Malpais National Monument.

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### Cave and Karst Program

Contact Information for this Program:

**DALE L. PATE**  
Cave & Karst Program Coordinator  
Geologic Resources Division

phone: 303-969-2635  
fax: 303-987-6792  
Email: [dale\\_pate@nps.gov](mailto:dale_pate@nps.gov)

Mail:  
P.O. Box 25287  
Denver, Colorado 80225  
Visit or Courier:  
7333 W. Jefferson Ave.  
Suite 450  
Lakeview, Colorado 80235