



SISTERS COUNTRY TRAIL GUIDE



SKYLIGHT CAVE

Length: 900 feet
Elevation High: 4,300
Difficulty: Easy
Setting: Forest
Season: All

DESCRIPTION:

Skylight Cave is a lava tube which was created when molten lava flowing from a fissure cooled on the outside while molten lava continued to flow in the center leaving a hollow tube. To better visualize this, imagine a river freezing over hard on the surface, then the water flow is cutoff. The water left in the channel continues flowing downstream to the advancing front, leaving a sheet of ice with nothing under it.

The cave is entered by going down a ladder in an opening where the roof had collapsed. When you get to the bottom of the ladder you may go to the right or to the left (as you face the ladder). To the right the roof of the cave is low, but in a short distance the cave opens up to a fairly large room, with about a 25 foot ceiling. It is here that one can see how the cave got its name. There are some openings in the roof where light filters through allowing one to see the walls and floor of the cave quite well. The cave continues only a short distance from this area.

To the left of the ladder the cave has a gentle downhill slope. In this direction the cave has varying roof height, from about 6.5 ft - to 3ft, which means one should be very careful to avoid head injuries.

COMMENTS:

Visitors to the Skylight Cave should dress warm (cave temp 40 degrees), bring at least two reliable lights and exercise caution while exploring the cave as the lava surface is quite rough and could cause cuts abrasions. It is also recommended that you tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return.

DIRECTIONS & TRAIL ACCESS:

Skylight Cave may be reached from Hwy 20/126 by turning onto forest road 2061 (across from the Camp Sherman turnoff) and follow it about 5.5 miles to forest road 1028. Turn left on forest road 1028 and follow it about 1 mile to forest road 260. Turn left on forest road 260 and follow it about 1 miles where you'll find the entrance to the cave on the right side of the road. Watch for a very small road marker on the left indicating Road 266; the cave is near this road.



The
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