

Visitor Center

Welcome to Oregon Caves National Monument! You will meet your guide outside the Visitor Center doors. Have your tickets ready!



Elijah Davidson Marker

Elijah Davidson is credited by many for discovering the cave in 1874 when he chased his dog Bruno into the cave.



Carbide Entrance

This is where Elijah Davidson entered the Caves after Bruno. Imagine how dark it must have been with only matches to light your way!



Cave Entrance

The Caves were made a National Monument on July 12th, 1909 by the signature of President Taft.



Watson's Grotto

The Caves were made as carbonic acid rich water dissolved away the cracks in the marble and made cavities that eroded into a cave.



Petrified Gardens

Water + carbon dioxide + calcite (rock) = stalactites. When carbon dioxide leaves the solution, water drips and the calcite stays behind.



Tree Root

This is one of the deepest Douglas Fir tree roots in the world. Unfortunately, the tree associated with this root was cut down in the 1970s.



Bridge over the River Styx

The water here is continuing to create new caverns as it carves its way through the first half of the Caves.



Belly of the Whale

The early explorers thought this looked like the rib cage of a whale. The long crack in the ceiling is a joint that runs the length of the Caves.



Hanging Rock

Watch out for this hanging rock! This is a bevel, where the stream was at one point in time.



Connecting Tunnel

The connecting tunnel was constructed in 1937 by the Civilian Conservation Corps to give people easier access to other parts of the cave.



Dry Room

This room is dry because a layer of argillite is found above the room which prevents the growth of formations by acting as a barrier to water.



Imagination Room

Some of the several unique formations in this room are known as moonmilk. It is formed by bacteria eating organic material and then depositing calcite on the walls.



110 Exit

This opening was later found by Elijah in 1877. This opening produces a twilight zone (allows a small amount of light in the cave, almost like twilight) which is an excellent place for hibernating bats and insects to seek refuge.



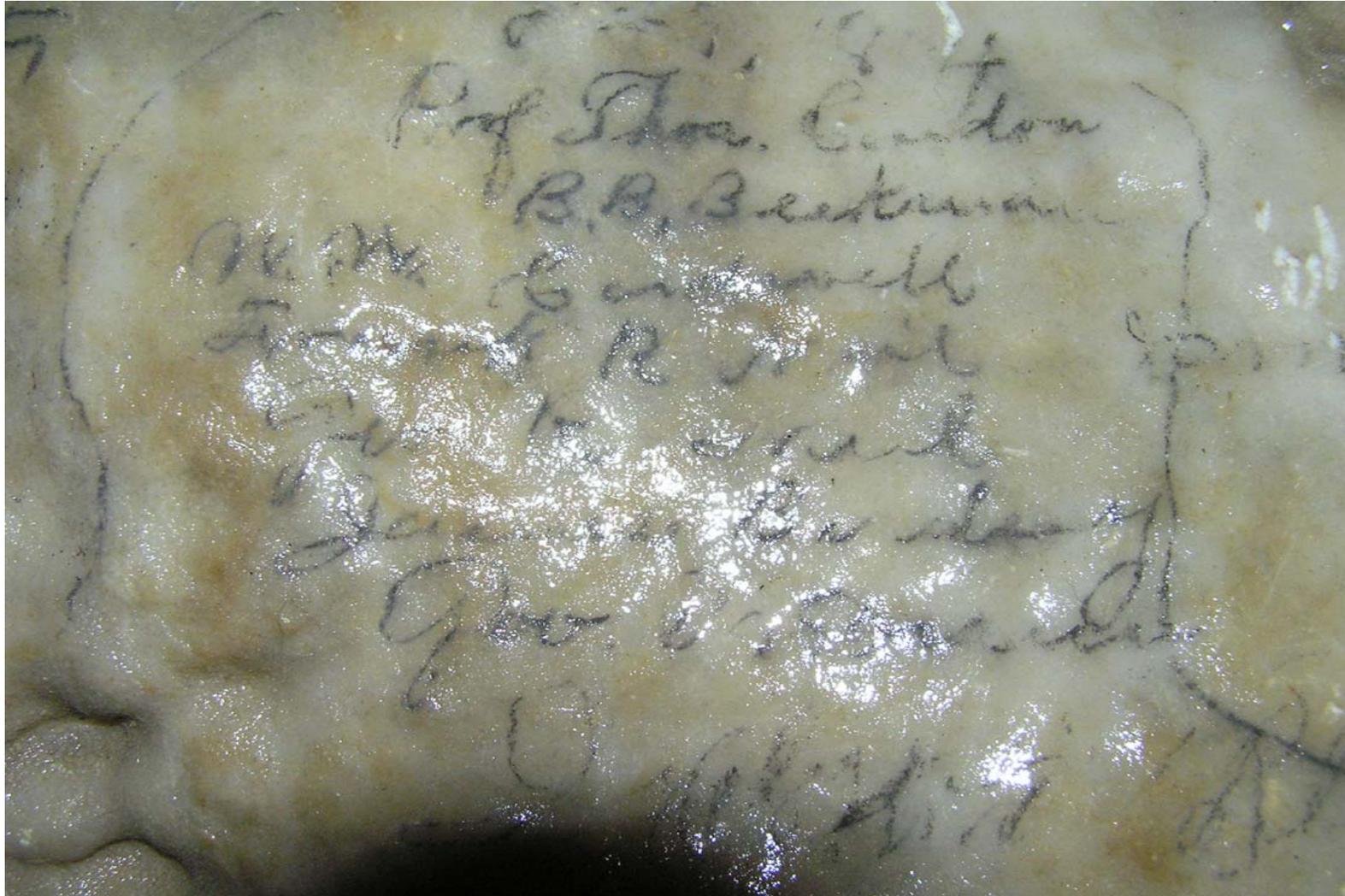
Banana Grove

These are formations called drapery. It took thousands of years of calcite covering the cave walls to make these beautiful formations.



Niagara Falls

In the late 1800s people wrote their names on the wall and took home souvenirs. The Forest Service tried to erase the signatures in 1917 but enough calcite formed over them by then that they could not be erased.



Spiral Staircase

You are looking up into an ancient waterfall where a stream used to pass through this opening. And when you look down you will see a spiral staircase that leads you down to the next area.



Grand Column

When water from a stalactite drips down quicker from the ceiling it builds up a stalagmite from underneath. If the two meet, it is called a column.



Miller's Chapel

This room was named after Joaquin Miller. He was a well-known writer in the 1900s and nicknamed, the “Poet of the Sierras.” He visited the cave in 1907, and in 1909 his article in Sunset Magazine helped publicize Oregon Caves.



Ghost Room

This is an igneous intrusion where magma flowed through a crack, cooled, and made this jetting rock. The intrusion acts as a dam for water. Notice there are formations towards the right of the intrusion, but we don't find any towards the left.



Paradise Lost

Paradise Lost is the most beautiful and wettest room of the Caves. It is filled with drapery. With the amount of water falling in this room you can imagine why it is so beautiful!



Angel Falls

Most plant materials contain fulvic acid and as the water flows through the plant debris in the forest floor some of this leaches out and is deposited on the cave wall. Fulvic acid illuminates when a blacklight shines on it and it luminesces a bluish color.



Souvenir Room

People in the early 1900's heavily vandalized this room and took home souvenirs. There are no complete stalactites left in the entire room!



Black Bear Bones

These 3,000 year old black bear bones have been left where they were found in 1998. They were disturbed by the trail in the 1930's. Now they are incased to protect them against further damage.



Clay Pocket

The clay pockets in this room were formed by the collapse of clay.



The New Growth

This part of the tunnel was blasted in 1933. Inside this man-made tunnel, you will see young formations because ample water flow and the nearness to a cave exit which increases air flow for evaporation causes these formations to grow much faster than those in the rest of the cave. These formations are growing at 1 inch every 100 years.



Exit Tunnel

This tunnel was blasted in 1930 by a private contractor hired to make an exit to the cave. They finished in February 1931 and opened it to the public.



Cave Exit

I hoped you enjoyed your tour today. The National Park Service strives to protect and preserve your cave for present and future generations.

