

Redmond Caves

- Trip Length: less than a mile
- Trip Time: 30-60 Minutes
- Best time to visit: year round
- Difficulty rating: 1
- Views: 3
- Wilderness experience: 2
- Recommended activities: Afternoon stop
- Best for: Walkers, hikers, families (see note below)
- Restroom: No
- Permit: none
- Make sure you have a flashlight or headlamp!



Driving Directions from Bend:

Travel Time: 25 minutes

Head north on Highway 97 towards Redmond and take Exit 124 towards the Redmond Airport. Take a right at the stop light at the end of the off ramp. Follow SE Airport Way for one mile to the Redmond Caves parking area on the left.

Trail Description:

The Redmond Caves are a series of five caves hidden in plain site near the Redmond Fairgrounds and the Redmond Airport. They are tucked away on a small parcel of land with a small parking area off SE Airport Way. A stop to explore the caves won't take you very long and might make a good side trip as you pass through Redmond to or from another adventure. The caves are, however, an interesting example of the volcanic history that has formed the landscape around us. Check out the Bureau of Land Management site for a good history of the caves.

From the parking area, with you map in hand (or check out the map posted on site), head out into the sage brush. The closest cave to the parking area is Cave #4, to your right. The cave opening is nice and large, although we found it challenging to watch our step and watch not to hit our heard at the same time. As you wander into the cave, in about 100 yards, the cave branches in two directions. Both ways will lead you to a dead end in about 100 feet.

After checking out Cave #4, Cave #3 is the next logical place to head. This cave was the most interesting to us as it allows you to enter in one place and exit at another. Entering at the Cave #3 entrance, much like Cave #4, there is a spit in the tunnel just a little ways in. Head left and explore that side before it leads you to another dead end. Back at the split, heading right, you will catch a glimpse of the light at the end of

the tunnel. Make your way towards the light and back up to the surface over a small, but manageable, rock scramble.

Once out of Cave #3, the entrance to Cave #1 is directly to your right. This cave is the most cavernous of the bunch and thus the brightest. As with the first two, this cave splits a few hundred feet in but both directions end very abruptly.

Of the five cave on this site we choose to explore the three described above. The map does show two additional caves if you want to check those out too.

*Note of caution: Because of their in town access these caves receive a lot of abuse. We discovered lots of broken glass and also some vulgar graffiti within the caves.