



The Ice Cave

Located in part of Bandera's collapsed lava tube, the temperature in this cave never gets above 31 Degrees F. As rain water and snow melt seep into the cave, the ice floor thickens. The floor of the ice is approximately 20 feet deep. Depending on summer rainfall, the cave floor may accumulate water until the prevailing temperatures drop well below 30 Degrees F. At this time, usually during December or January, the water from summer rainfall will freeze adding new layers of ice to the floor. The deepest ice is the oldest and dates back to 1100 AD. The green tint is caused by an Arctic algae.

The back wall was formed in the early days when ancient Indians and early settlers mined the ice. In 1946, ice removal was stopped at which time the ice wall was nearly 12 feet high. Since then, the ice floor has risen relative to the back wall. The rate of ice accumulation varies with annual precipitation. The cause of the original formation of ice is uncertain. However, its perpetuation is due to a combination of existing conditions that make a natural ice box: 20 feet of ice in a well insulated cave shaped to trap frigid air. The Ice Cave was known to the Pueblo Indians as the Winter Lake.



Bandera Volcano

Bandera Volcano rose up in violent fury some 10,000 years ago. It is one of the finest examples of an erupted volcano in the country, and also one of the most accessible. Bandera Crater is the largest volcanic cinder cone in the region. There were two stages of the eruption: first the cinder cone developed, then a massive lava flow broke out the side. The molten lava reached temperatures above 2000 degrees Fahrenheit. Bandera's lava flow is nearly 23 miles long. At the end of the eruption, the lava suddenly fell back down the main vent making the bottom of the cone deeper than the outside lava flow. This crater is nearly 1400 feet wide at the top and roughly 800 deep. The elevation at the look out point is 8122. The elevation at the rim is 8372. Over time, erosion and gravity take their toll on the crater and it is slowly filling up as cinders and rocks fall down into it. This makes for a very fragile environment.

For Information
Call 1-888-ICECAVE
www.icecaves.com



New Mexico's Land of Fire and Ice

For a real experience in contrast, visit the Ice Cave and Bandera Volcano, "The Land of Fire and Ice." Situated on the Continental Divide you walk through the twisted, old-growth Juniper, Douglas Fir, and Ponderosa Pine trees, over the ancient lava trail to the Ice Cave. Here the natural layers of ice glisten blue-green in the reflected rays of sunlight. Another trail winds around the side of the Bandera Volcano to view one of the best examples of a volcanic eruption in the country.

Located in the heart of El Malpais, the historic Ice Cave Trading Post has ancient artifacts on display. Most of these were found in the lava, and some date back 1200 years. The trading post also deals in jewelry, pottery, rugs and other art of local Indian tribes. The Ice Cave, as well as volcanic Bandera crater, are spectacular sights near the old-time trading post.

The Ice Cave and Bandera trails are wide and cinder paved. From the arial view below, you can see that both the trails begin and end at the Trading Post.

The trail to Bandera Volcano is about half a mile long and takes 40 minutes to make a round trip. There is a gradual climb along the trail that gains 150 feet in elevation. This occurs mostly during the middle third of the trail. You return to the Trading Post by the same trail.

The trail to the Ice Cave is 400 yards long, and takes about 20 minutes to make a round trip. You descend 70 steps to the viewing platform in the cave. Here you stand just above the ice floor and across from the ice wall. You will be just under the edge of the lave tube, and no flashlights are required. The temperature never goes above 31 degrees at this point. Return to the Trading Post by the same trail you take to the Ice Cave.



Viewing Platform - Never Goes Above 31° F

Ice Cave and Bandera Volcano Hours of Operation

March - October 9:00 - 5:00

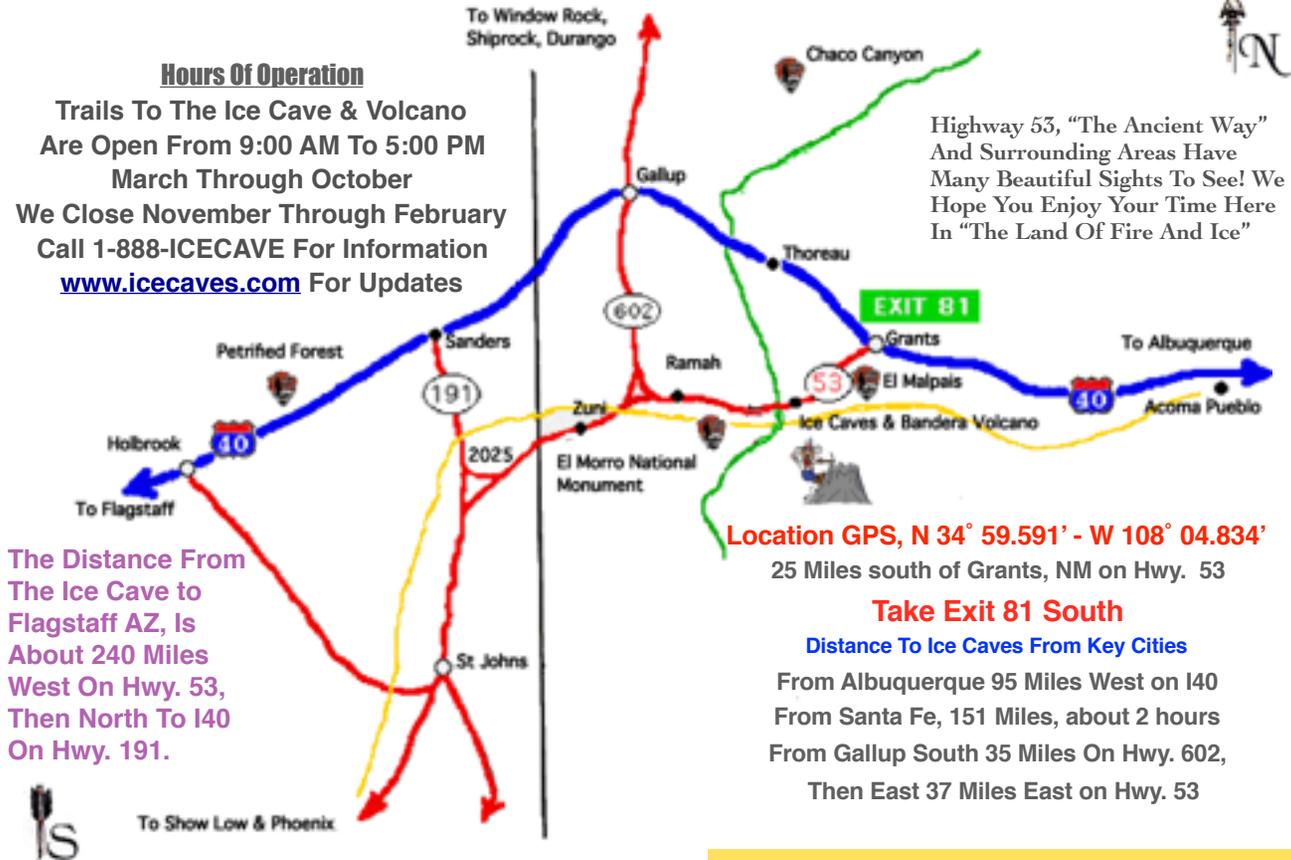
To have time for a full tour of the Ice Cave and Volcano Please arrive 1 hour before closing which is 5:00 pm

**Hours May Be Subject To Change
Call for current weather conditions**

1-888-ICECAVE for additional information

Check www.icecaves.com for updates

For Their Own Safety, Pet Animals Are Not Allowed On Trails



To Show Low & Phoenix

ADMISSION RATES

Teens & Adults \$12.00 - Children 6-12 \$6.00

Seniors 65+, Military, AAA, = \$1.00 Off Discount

Rates may be subject to change. Call toll free 1-888-ICECAVE for current rates.



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