



MAMMOTH CAVE - MARKAGUNT PLATEAU



Rating: Easy Caving

Length: 1+ hours

Gear: Standard Caving Gear (Headlamps, helmet)

Maps: ASAY BENCH, UT

Season: Spring, Summer, Fall

Waypoints:

Trailhead	12S 359742mE 4159178mN N37° 34' 08" W112° 35' 18"
Main Entrance	12S 359757mE 4159102mN N37° 34' 06" W112° 35' 17"
Entrance/Exit 1	12S 359698mE 4159040mN N37° 34' 04" W112° 35' 19"
Entrance/Exit 2	12S 359829mE 4159192mN N37° 34' 09" W112° 35' 14"
Entrance/Exit 3	12S 359857mE 4159217mN N37° 34' 10" W112° 35' 13"

Hype

Mammoth Cave is likely the longest lava tube in Utah. The cave boasts over 2100 feet of passages, with 5 entrances and several different chambers. This is a lovely family friendly adventure. Most of the passages are large enough to easily move through with a little stooping, though some are small enough to require a bit of crawling. Bring a few headlamps and a helmet and make a day of it. Pit toilet and picnic tables at the trailhead make this a popular gathering spot for groups.

Note: The largest chamber is home to several species of bats. To protect the Townsend's big-eared bats that hibernate here during the winter, that section of the cave is gated and closed between September 30th and late May each year when the bats leave. When closed, there are still other sections that are open and worth visiting.

Tags: cave, family friendly, access: 2wd

Trailhead

From the north end of Cedar Breaks National Monument, at the junction of SR-143 and SR-148, go right (east) toward Panguitch on SR-143 for 9.6 miles to FH 050 on the right. FH 050 is paved and connects SR-143 on the north with SR-14 on the south. Follow this road for 9.3 miles. At 9.3 miles a sign for Mammoth Cave marks a side road on the left.

- Turn off pavement and reset your odometer. (12S 357831mE 4160054mN / N37° 34' 36" W112° 36' 36")
- 1.4 miles - Turn Left (12S 358921mE 4158502mN / N37° 33' 46" W112° 35' 51")
- 2.1 miles - Turn right. (12S 359317mE 4159545mN / N37° 34' 20" W112° 35' 35")
- 2.45 miles - Trailhead (12S 359742mE 4159177mN / N37° 34' 08" W112° 35' 18")

Route

From the trailhead, follow the wide, worn trail south. It reaches the main entrance to the cave just a few hundred feet from the parking area. The main entrance is a large collapsed area that is easy to climb in and out of.

Once in the entrance, the tunnel heading south is a good introduction. This tunnel bends enough that for a section, you cannot see light from either entrance. If you continue, a little crawling and you can pop-out not too far south from the main entrance.

The largest chamber heads the opposite direction from the main entrance. This chamber is closed seasonally, and the longest of the chambers at Mammoth.

Another section of tunnel also leaves from the main entrance and heads back north but is smaller than the main chamber and exits out a small hole close to the main chamber exit.

An incredibly fun place to spend a day!

