

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



El Malpais National Monument



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Junction Cave, and the short section of lava tube outside the cave called Junction Bridge, are the best places for beginners to start their caving experience. Both walk-in sized entrances are easily found and close to the El Calderon parking area. For the more adventurous, there is a small side passage about midway through Junction Cave that features a long, low crawl to a small chamber.

Drive to Cave – Easy

A well-maintained gravel road runs 0.3 miles to the trailhead. The area is accessible year-round to most vehicles.

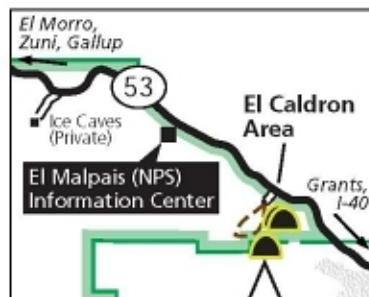
Hike to Cave – Easy

A well maintained gravel trail runs 200 feet from the El Calderon parking area to the cave.

Caving Difficulty – Moderate

There is a roughly worn but unimproved trail through parts of the cave. Scrambling over unstable boulders and gravel is common, and many rocks have been worn down to slick surfaces from many years of visitor use.

Directions



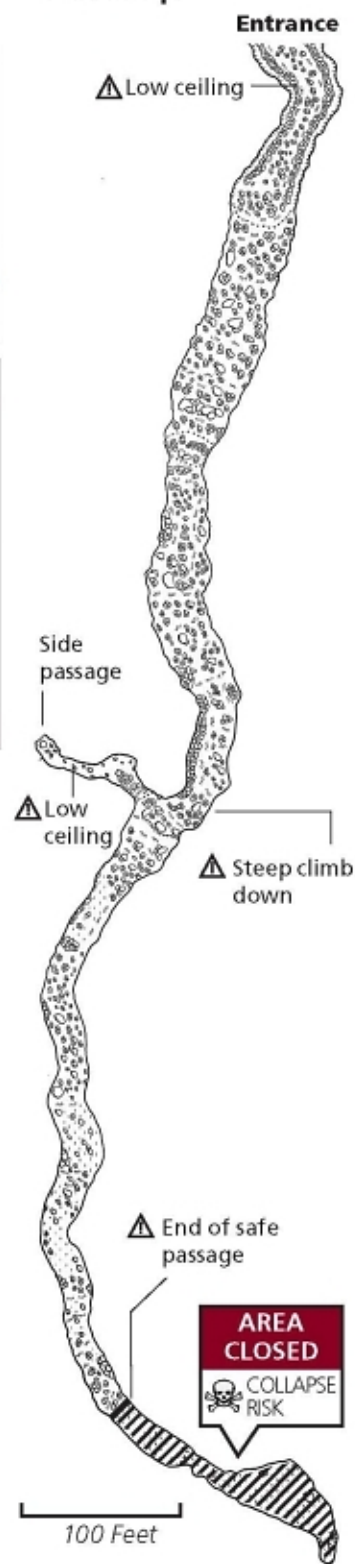
From Highway 53, turn onto the gravel entrance road at the El Calderon sign and proceed about 0.3 miles to the parking area. The short hike to the cave is made by signs.

Caution

Caving and hiking in remote areas are inherently dangerous. Loose footing, difficult terrain, disorientation, extreme heat and cold, and falls are common risks. Cave ceilings can be low and cause serious head injury. See a park ranger for a caving permit and more information.

For more information, visit www.nps.gov/elma or contact:

Cave Map



El Malpais National Monument
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