

Tales from the depths of Howe Caverns ...

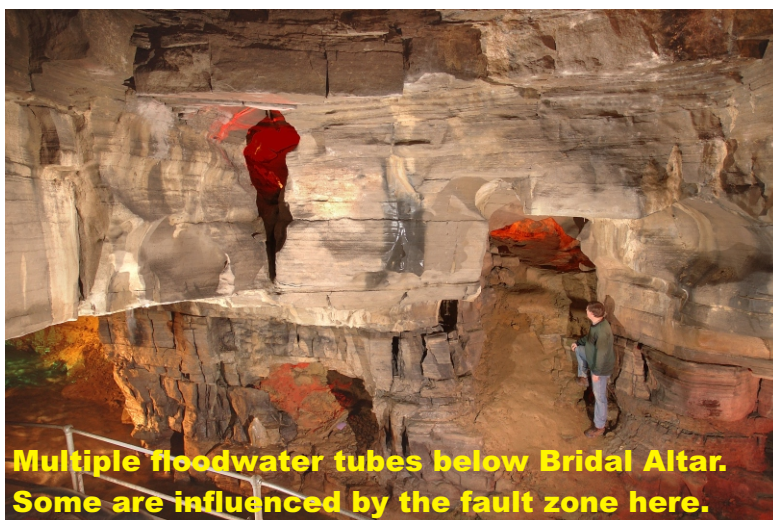
FLOODWATER TUBES



Floodwater tubes opposite Eternal Spring



Tube directly above fault plane



Multiple floodwater tubes below Bridal Altar. Some are influenced by the fault zone here.



Floodwater tube in lower Howe Caverns

Uncharted territory and natural treasures may lie only a crawl way away!!! Floodwater tubes in the bedrock walls of the cave could lead to beautiful, unexplored, parts of Howe Caverns! Take a real close look at the nearly round or elliptical tubes in the cave walls opposite the Eternal Spring, below the Bridal Altar, and elsewhere. While some are very small, others are large enough to crawl or walk into. Some are blocked by sediment. Floodwater overflow tubes form along partings in the bedrock called bedding planes, fractures, and faults that serve as entry points (i.e., planes of weakness that are preferentially soluble) for solutionally aggressive, high-energy, floodwaters. Tubular passages often form as water bypass routes around constrictions. This occurs when nearby cave passages are flooded and are under great hydrologic pressure. Most floodwater overflow tubes just make a loop and rejoin the main cave passage nearby or at some distance. **BUT, NOT ALL DO!! Some provide access ways that have led to amazing discoveries of passageways festooned with glistening formations and of unseen underground rivers that disappear into the dark mist of bygone ages. Some discoveries have been made by squeezing through tight tubes, while others have required removal of sediment fill - as in the Howe Caverns example on the other side of this flyer ...**