



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture



Forest  
Service

Pacific  
Southwest  
Region

# SUBWAY CAVE

## Self-guided Trail

Lassen National Forest

Hat Creek Ranger District



Subway Cave, Hat Creek Ranger District, Lassen National Forest. USDA Forest Service photo by Amber Marshall, July 13, 2023.

**GEOLOGY** - Less than 20,000 years ago the lava of the Hat Creek flow was discharged in large volumes from a series of north-south fissures (cracks in the earth). This river of lava located near the town of Old Station, crawled northward 16 miles, covering the floor of Hat Creek Valley. While the top crust cooled and hardened, rivers of red-hot lava insulated by newly formed rock above, continued to flow. Eventually, the lava drained away, leaving tube-like caves. The entrance to the cave was formed by a partial collapse of the cave's roof many years ago. Subway Cave is the largest accessible tube in the flow.

**LOCATION** - Subway Cave is located near the town of Old Station, 1/4 mile north of the junction of Highway 44 & 89 across from Cave Campground.

**TEMPERATURE** - Temperature inside the cave remains a cool 46°F year around. Be sure to take a jacket with you.

**SAFETY** - Rough floor, watch your step, low ceiling, sturdy shoes advised!

**SEASON OF USE** - Cave is open late May through October. Closed during the winter months.

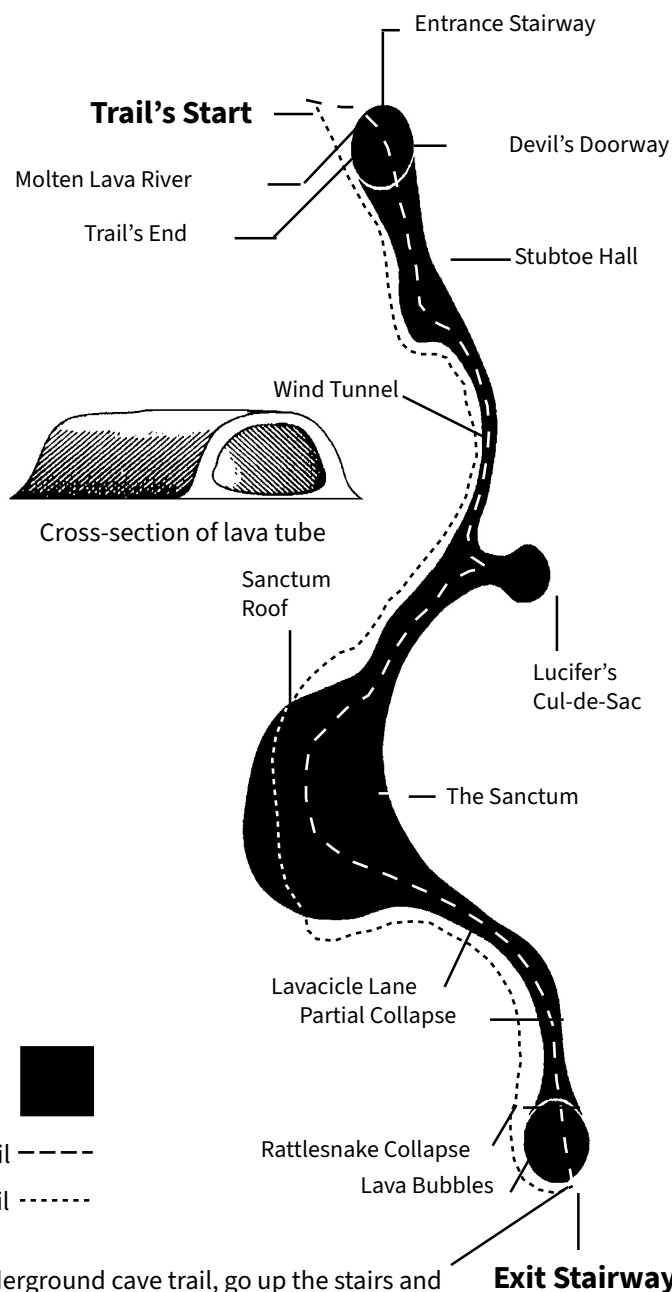
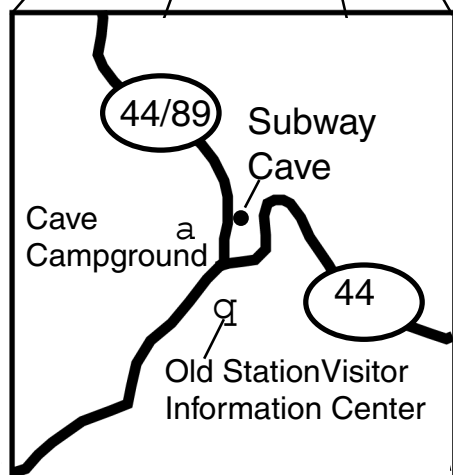
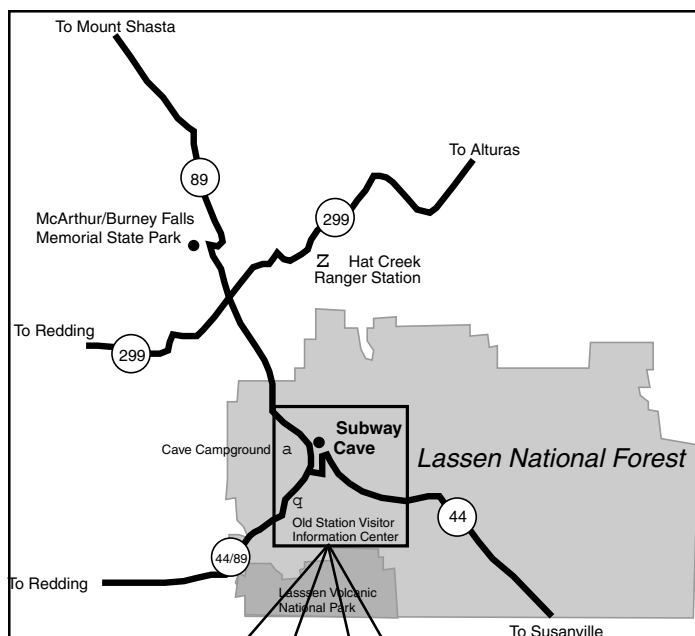
**VISIBILITY** - Visibility is zero. Take a dependable flashlight with you. There are self-guided trail signs inside.

**LENGTH** - 1,300 feet of winding lava tube. The total trail length is 1/3 mile.

**ROOF** - Thickness varies from 8 to 24 feet.

**HEIGHT** - Varies from 6 to 17 feet.

**INFORMATION** - Contact Hat Creek Ranger District, 43225 E. Hwy. 299, Fall River Mills, CA 96028, 530-336-5521 or stop by the Old Station Information Center, (located near Subway Cave) open April - December, hours vary.



## Subway Cave

Underground Cave Trail - - - - -

Above ground trail - - - - -

When you reach the end of the underground cave trail, go up the stairs and continue to your **right** on the above ground trail back to the start.