

Marengo Cave: One of Indiana's Most Beautiful Caves

Marengo Cave is a commercial cave located in northeastern Crawford County. The cave was discovered in 1883 by two children playing in a sinkhole. Their discovery was reported to the land owner who enlarged the entrance, built a stairway, and opened the cave to visitors soon afterward. The Crystal Palace Entrance was excavated in 1910 and the Dripstone Trail Entrance was opened in 1979. This part of the cave was designated a National Natural Landmark by the National Park Service in 1984.

The original discovery consisted of approximately 3,900 feet of passages, with later exploration in 1992 extending

the total length to 15,480 feet. Subsequent discovery connected the Old Town Spring Cavern for an additional 4,552 feet, bringing the total to 20,392 feet, or about 3.9 miles.

The management offers two tours at the present time, an easy 40-minute tour into the Crystal Palace, which features a large variety of dripstone, flowstone, and rimstone deposits nearly 1,000 feet long, and the Dripstone Trail, which covers about a mile in 70 minutes. Wild cave or “off trail” tours are available for explorers willing to crawl and get wet or muddy.

