

World's largest crystal discovered in Mexican cave



The Cueva de los Cristales contains crystals of gypsum up to 36 feet long

Hidden deep beneath the surface of the Earth is one of the greatest natural marvels on the planet: a giant crystal cave packed with crystals up to 36 feet long and weighing 55 tons.

By Richard Alleyne, Science

Correspondent
Buried a thousand feet below Naica mountain in the Chihuahuan Desert of Mexico, the cave was discovered by two miners excavating a new tunnel for a commercial lead and silver mine.

Known as Mexico's Cueva de los Cristales (Cave of Crystals) it contains some of the world's largest known natural crystals—translucent beams of gypsum as long as 36 feet and softer than human nails.

The crystals thrived in the

cave's extremely rare and stable natural environment. Temperatures hovered consistently around a steamy 136 degrees Fahrenheit (58 degrees Celsius), and the cave was filled with mineral-rich water that drove the crystals' growth.

However, if a human was exposed to the scorching temperatures of the cavern, it could kill him after just 15 minutes of exposure.

The cave's deadly heat comes from the depths of the Earth. Naica sits on a set of fault lines. A magma chamber a mile-and-a-half down warms the water that flows throughout the mountain.

Modern-day mining operations exposed the natural wonder by pumping water out of the 30-by-90-foot cave, which was found in 2000 near the town of Delicias.

Naica is one of the most productive lead mines in the world, and a huge supplier of the world's silver as well.

Now the mining company has been asked to preserve the caves.

"There is no other place on the planet," said geologist Juan Manuel Garcia-Ruiz.

"Where the mineral world reveals itself in such beauty. It's the Sistine Chapel of crystals."

The story will appear in the November issue of the National Geographic Magazine.

The stunning crystal pillars are made from the same common mineral as drywall, which is called gypsum.

The largest crystal found at Naica is 500,000 years old.

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The excavation at Khirbat en-Nahas, where scientists believe they may have uncovered King Solomon's Mine.

King Solomon's Mines 'discovered'

by Richard Alleyne

A copper mine found in the Middle East could be the site of the mythical King Solomon's mines, scientists believe.

The archeologists have excavated an ancient copper production centre during a dig in southern Jordan and after carbon dating found that it matches the time when the legendary King Solomon is said to have run a vast empire in the Middle East.

An industrial copper slag mound is being excavated at an ancient fortress known as Khirbat en-Nahas, which means "ruins of copper" in Arabic.

The building and layers above it date to the mid-9th century BC, while the slag deposits below the building date to the 10th century.

Even though King Solomon is mentioned in the Bible there is little physical evidence of his reign of the United Kingdom of Israel and Judah. However he was said to be born in 1,000BC and died in 931BC.

As the dominant force in the area at the time, he would have been

responsible for any major industrial works, especially if it was on the edge of his empire.

Led by Thomas Levy of the University of San Diego, and reported in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, the team believes the excavations back up the accounts in the Bible.

"We can't believe everything ancient writings tell us," Levy said. "But this research represents a confluence between the archaeological and scientific data and the Bible."

Future research at Khirbat en-Nahas, Levy said, will focus on who actually controlled the copper industry there - Kings David and Solomon or perhaps regional Edomite leaders (who had not been written about in the biblical texts) - and also on the environmental impacts of all the ancient smelting.

King Solomon's Mines entered popular culture in Victorian times when the writer adventurer Sir H Rider Haggard wrote a novel by the same name about the search for ancient excavations.

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Frenchman delays train after getting arm stuck in toilet

A Frenchman caused a two-hour train delay when his arm was sucked into a toilet as he tried to retrieve his dropped mobile phone.

The 26-year-old passenger's arm became trapped up to the shoulder by the powerful suction flushing system on board the packed high-speed TGV train from Paris to La Rochelle.

Firefighters took more than an hour to free the man, before lifting him from the train on a stretcher with the entire toilet still stuck to his arm.

A fire spokesman said: "He was cut free from the toilet on the platform and apart from suffering bruising and smelling a bit, he suffered no other injuries."

A spokesman for French rail operator SNCF added: "The train was two hours late at its destination on Sunday afternoon due to an unlikely accident, and we apologise to passengers for the unavoidable delay."

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Lee Joo-hee

The Korea Herald/ANN

Song Ji-young, a 27-year-old office worker, has only one thing on her mind after a gruelling day at work.

Taking off to a trendy street in Apgujeong, Song enters her haven—a shop where she can get her nails done.

Professional nail care business was first introduced in Seoul in the late 1990s and began rapidly booming recently. It has now become one of the fastest spreading industries across the country.

"Good evening," familiar artists call out in unison as Song enters the door of her favourite nail care shop Bennett. It is among more than five nail care salons lined up on the same street opposite the Galleria Department Store.

She finds her nail technician and sits down, clunks her hands forward and immediately starts chatting away about how her boss has been giving her a hard time. The artist smiles and nods, quickly moving her hands to tend to Song's chipped nails.

This is indeed a world that very few straight men would

understand.

Koreans, known for their dexterity, already occupy a large portion of the nail care industry overseas, especially in the US\$8 billion won US market.

Love thy nails

In Korea, the nail care industry amounts to more than 300 billion won (\$225 million) annually, according to the Korean Nail Association.

The manicure begins by sterilising Song's nails with a wet cotton ball, followed by grinding the tips for a uniform shape. Then the cuticles are removed with a thin, wooden cuticle pusher and a clipper.

As a special service for Song, who is a regular, the nail artist brings out a steaming white towel, wipes Song's hands, and begins massaging them with a fruity hand lotion.

Song already feels better about her work and starts think-

ing about what colour to choose from the shelf, where almost a hundred nail polishes are lined up by shade.

Chae Song-hwa, 30, is also an avid nail care patron, getting her nails done at least every two weeks.

"I come to get my nails done, say about once every two weeks. I would also come when I have a special event coming up, like a blind date," she said.

"It just makes my every day mundane life prettier." Chae, who has been a regular at Nail Gallery nearby her house in eastern Seoul, added she prefers lighter colours that don't clash with her attire as a manager of an insurance company.

Although I feel at times that I may be spending a little too much, it is definitely worth it," she said. The first ever nail care shop opened in Apgujeong in 1996. Before that, the only nail care women got here was the makeshift service given at hair salons.

Now, many nail care stores are more than just manicure and pedicure salons, but also offer body massages and waxing, along with other beauty care programmes.

TV GUIDE

ETV	
A.M.	03.00 Telemarketing
06.00	Prime Time Morning
06.45	Debrief
06.55	Lanka Business Online
07.01	Chanel News Asia
10.00	Telemarketing
10.30	Chanel News Asia
11.00	Telemarketing
11.30	Chanel News Asia
Noon	08.55 Lanka Business Online
12.00	YA TV
P.M.	09.01 The Bold & The Beautiful
09.45	Debrief
12.30	Telemarketing
01.00	VH1
02.00	Religious Program
02.30	Chanel News Asia

ITN	
A.M.	03.00 Peyen Peya Puwath
04.30	Station Opening
04.35	Pirith Deshanaya
04.42	Jayamangala Gatha
04.46	Davase Siltuvilli
05.00	Thakshilawa
06.00	ITN Puwath
06.15	Davase Palithara
06.55	Jeevithaya Jayaganna
07.00	Hathveni Peya
08.00	Peyen Peya Puwath
08.05	Pahan Dora
08.30	Vaidya Sayanaya
09.00	Peyen Peya Puwath
09.05	Saimal Yaya
10.00	Peyen Peya Puwath
10.05	Nimithera
11.00	Discussion
11.30	Quantum Tele Shopping
Noon	
12.00	Noon News Bulletin
P.M.	
12.30	Tele Drama
01.00	Tele Drama - Sinhala
01.30	Hedakara Hendewa
02.00	Peyen Peya Puwath
02.03	Hedakara Hendewa (cont'd.)
02.30	Thunveni Seenuwa



CHANNEL EYE

A.M.	01.00 En Thozhi En Kathail En
06.29	Station Opening
06.30	Talk for the Day
06.45	Classical Songs
07.00	Sampath Rekha
07.15	Development Lottery
07.30	Naledugallu Inru
08.00	Nirai Swarnagal
08.30	Kalai Wanakkam
09.30	Udaya Darshanam
11.00	Kanar Kanam Kalangal
11.30	Comedy Show (Tamil)
Noon	
12.00	Lunch Time Musical
P.M.	

SIRASA TV

A.M.	04.00 Cartoon
04.00	Pirith & Jayamangala Gatha
04.30	Mahamaluwa
05.00	Bana
05.30	Cartoon
06.00	English Lesson
06.30	News First
07.00	Soorappappa
07.30	Pancha
08.00	Jeevithayata Eda Denna
10.30	Game Show
11.00	Diganthaya
Noon	
12.00	Lunch Time News
12.00	M.N.
12.15	Lunch Time TV
01.00	Nonawaruni Mahatarunni
01.30	Sundaral Adare

MTV	
A.M.	05.00 Inspector Gadget
05.25	Station Opening
05.30	Voice of America
06.30	News First
07.00	Good Morning Sri Lanka
08.00	Fox News
P.M.	
12.30	News First
12.45	VOA
01.15	Fly Tales
01.30	Fox News
04.30	Angela Anaconda

DERANA

A.M.	04.00 Dragon Tales
05.55	Station Opening
06.00	Cartoon
07.00	Derana Aruna
08.00	Suba Dawasak
08.30	Eka Dawasak Ude
11.00	Sihili Sulan Ralle
P.M.	
12.00	Ada Derana
12.15	Sinhala Songs
12.30	Sathulu Wila
01.30	Mix Songs



Seeds of Doubt



Bold & the Beautiful on ETV

SHAKTHI TV

A.M.	06.00 Breakfast News
06.15	Filler
06.30	Good Morning Sri Lanka
08.30	Kondattam
09.00	Piyarama Thozhi
10.00	Vasantham
10.30	Pukundha Veedu Porandha
11.00	Anandam
11.30	Kasturi
Noon	
12.00	Penmanikkaga
P.M.	
12.30	Pennagal Neram
01.00	Madya Seithigal

SWARNAVAHINI

A.M.	03.00 Labal Apple
06.00	Ehi Passiko
06.30	Mul Pittawa
07.00	Loka Sithiyama
07.30	Cartoons
08.00	Hello Sri Lanka
10.30	Maayavi
11.00	Mahajana Sewaya Pinisai
Noon	
12.00	Live @ 12
P.M.	
12.30	Palithara Gedara
01.00	Hada Rendu Peya
02.00	Diyavangi

ART TV

A.M.	06.30 World Business Today
07.00	The State of Business
07.15	Music +
07.30	Anderson Cooper 360
08.30	Inside Africa
09.00	World Sport
09.30	Quantum Tele Shopping
09.57	State of Business (3 min)
10.00	Telescreen Marketing
10.30	CNN Today
10.57	State of Business (3 min)
11.00	CNN Today
11.57	State of Business (3 min)
Noon	
12.00	Telescreen Marketing
P.M.	
12.30	CNN Today
12.57	State of Business (3 min)
01.00	Quantum Tele Shopping
01.30	Behind Closed Doors
01.57	State of Business (3 min)
02.00	Behind Closed Doors
02.30	Larry King Live
03.30	World News

RUPAVAHINI

A.M.	03.00 Station Opening
04.50	Homage to the Triple Gem & Karaniya Metta Sutta
05.00	G.C.E. (O/L) Exam Guide
05.55	Dina Asiriya
06.00	News
06.06	Srudasa
06.30	Palithara Sirashala
07.00	News
07.05	Aadaraneeya Yuvavanyaya
08.00	News
08.05	Nuga Sevana
09.00	News
09.05	Nuga Sevana - Cont'd.
10.00	News
10.05	Nuga Sevana - Cont'd.
11.00	News
11.05	Aluth Sri Lankawak
Noon	
12.00	Siri Siri Mal
P.M.	
12.30	News
01.00	Hiru Vyanaya
02.00	News
02.05	Tele Drama
02.30	A Documentary
03.00	News