

Chihuahua, Mexico – Home Of Small Dogs And Giant Crystals



The Naica Mine in Chihuahua, Mexico, is home to the Cave of Swords, an extraordinary collection of large selenite (gypsum) crystals in a huge chamber about 70 m in diameter and 120 m below the surface.

The mine produces lead, zinc, copper, silver and gold and is one of the most productive mines in Chihuahua. In recent years the care of the environment by the present mining company has given the mine a national level of prominence.

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Fortunately this attitude amongst the miners also protected the Cave of Swords for nearly a century. It is very hot in the mine which and has a huge underground well of 52°C hot water. The air of the mine is cooled down by a ventilation system to about 40°C, but the humidity is about 100%.

The Cave of Swords, found in 1910, is named after the crystals, which resemble swords. It is famous among geoscientists and cavern is equipped with paths, light and ventilation. The newest discovery is the Cave of the Crystals, even more spectacular than the Cave of Swords.

At a depth of 300 m first a spherical chamber of 8 m diameters filled with selenite crystals

was found. The tunnel was rerouted, but soon after a second, even bigger chamber with several 8 m long and 2 m in diameter big selenite crystals was found. It was closed by a brick wall and an iron gate to protect the crystals.

For more information about the caves log onto <http://giantcrystals.strahlen.org/america/naica.htm>

Text source : www.showcaves.com Photos forwarded by PESA member Aaron Burt. ■

