

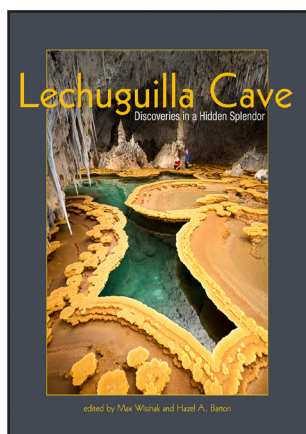
Max Wisshak and Hazel A. Barton (Editors)

Lechuguilla Cave – Discoveries in a hidden splendor

2022, speleo-photo editions (Friedeburg, Germany); ISBN: 978-3-9821714-2-5

Hardcover (22.5 x 30.5 cm; 9 x 12”), 59.90 Euro

<http://www.speleo-photo.de/>



Lechuguilla Cave – Discoveries in a Hidden Splendor is the product of cavers – cave explorers, scientists, engineers, surveyors, cartographers, conservationists, and rescuers. The striking fold-out map of Lechuguilla Cave in the chapter titled ‘Discoveries’ is alone almost worth the purchase of this book. And then there are the amazing photographs and wonderful text. The book is 240 pages, and while mostly photographs, the text is well-written, concise, and easy (enjoyable) to read. For those who have ventured into Lechuguilla Cave, this book takes you there again. For those of you who have not been in the cave, but hope to do that someday, this book is necessary in my opinion. And for those who have never been into Lechuguilla Cave and know they will never have that opportunity; this book will give you the virtuality.

The opening statements, two forewords, closing remarks, and the 13 chapters in-between are all brief but fulfilling. In the chapters, two to three pages of text introduce a selection of photographs that follow. Caving has evolved rapidly in the 36 years since the passages of Lechuguilla Cave – past the entrance drop – were discovered. Lechuguilla Cave has benefited from these changes, most importantly and specifically the preservation of the cave. That story comes out in this book. The editors and authors did an awesome job covering all caving aspects related to the cave.

Lechuguilla Cave – Discoveries in a Hidden Splendor is not only a great coffee table book, as a caver, it was relaxing just reading about what we do and why we do it. The title is appropriate. Lechuguilla Cave is among the top 10 longest caves in the world and each kilometer of passage of the more than 240 kilometers contains breathtaking scientific and aesthetic splendors for which few if any caves can compare.

Editor Max Wisshak is a Geoscientist at the Senckenberg Research Institute in Wilhelmshaven (Germany), and a passionate speleologist, cave photographer, and publisher, who runs his own publishing label ‘speleo-photo editions’. *Lechuguilla Cave* (2022) is his third premium coffee-table book on the subjects of caves and karst, following *Inside Mother Earth* (2008) and *New Zealand Karst* (2020).

Co-editor Hazel A. Barton is a Professor of Biology and Geoscience at the University of Akron (USA), specializing in cave microbiology, a subject field that ties in closely with her involvement in cave exploration.

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