



Man Discovers Massive Cave in Vietnam Jungle After 17 Years

Description

Sơn Đoòng Cave, located in Vietnam's Quảng Bình province, remained hidden for millions of years until its accidental discovery in the early 1990s. This remarkable cave is now known as the largest cave in the world, drawing attention to its immense size and unique features.

In December 1990, local explorer Hoàng Khanh sought refuge from a storm when he stumbled upon the cave's entrance. He described a cold breeze and thick fog emerging from the opening, resembling a "dragon's breath." Although intrigued, he did not enter, concerned about the dangers inside. This encounter remained vivid in his memory for years.

Khanh later met Howard Limbert, a member of the British-Vietnam Caving Expedition Team, who encouraged him to help locate the cave again. However, an initial search in 2007 failed due to the challenging jungle terrain. In 2008, Khanh returned alone and successfully marked the cave's entrance, allowing others to revisit it.

The expedition team entered the cave in 2009, accompanied by Khanh and scientists from the Hanoi University of Science. They discovered that Sơn Đoòng has a volume of approximately 38.4 million cubic meters, making it the largest known cave globally. The cave measures nearly 9 kilometres in length and sections can be as wide as 198 metres.

This extraordinary site contains fascinating formations, such as the towering "Hope and Vision" stalagmite, which reaches around 70 metres tall. Much of the surrounding park remains unexplored, leaving the potential for further discoveries.

Vocabulary List:

1. **accidental** //,æk.sɪ'dɛn.təl// (adjective): not planned; happening suddenly and by chance
2. **refuge** //ˈrɛf.juːdʒ// (noun): a safe place to stay or hide
3. **stumbled** //ˈstʌm.bəld// (verb): found something by accident while moving
4. **terrain** //tə'reɪn// (noun): the type and shape of land in an area
5. **expedition** //,ɛk.spə'dɪʃ.ən// (noun): a trip made to explore or study
6. **stalagmite** //ˈstæləɡmaɪt// (noun): a tall mineral column rising from cave floor

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. When was Sơn Đoòng Cave discovered?

- Option: Early 1980s
- Option: Early 1990s
- Option: Early 2000s
- Option: Early 2005s

2. Who discovered Sơn Đoòng Cave?

- Option: Howard Limbert
- Option: Huỳnh Khanh
- Option: A British explorer
- Option: Scientists from Hanoi University

3. What did Huỳnh Khanh describe as emerging from the cave's entrance?

- Option: Smoke
- Option: Cold breeze and thick fog
- Option: Lava
- Option: Bright light

4. In which year did the expedition team enter the cave?

- Option: 2007
- Option: 2008
- Option: 2009
- Option: 2010

5. What is the volume of Sơn Đoòng Cave?

- Option: 28.4 million cubic meters
- Option: 38.4 million cubic meters
- Option: 48.4 million cubic meters
- Option: 58.4 million cubic meters

6. How long is Sơn Đoòng Cave?

- Option: 5 kilometres
- Option: 9 kilometres
- Option: 12 kilometres
- Option: 15 kilometres



True-False

7. Sơn Động Cave was discovered in the 1980s.
8. H? Khanh initially entered the cave after discovering it.
9. The cave has a stalagmite known as 'Hope and Vision'.
10. Sơn Động Cave is the second largest cave in the world.
11. The cave is located in Vietnam's Quảng Bình province.
12. The surrounding park area of Sơn Động has been fully explored.

Gap-Fill

13. Sơn Động Cave is known as the largest cave in the world, with a volume of approximately _____ million cubic meters.
14. The cave measures nearly _____ kilometres in length.
15. The towering stalagmite, 'Hope and Vision', reaches around _____ metres tall.
16. H? Khanh sought refuge from a storm in _____ when he discovered the cave.
17. The initial search for the cave in _____ failed due to challenging terrain.
18. The entrance to Sơn Động Cave was successfully marked by H? Khanh in _____ .

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Early 1990s 2. H? Khanh 3. Cold breeze and thick fog 4. 2009 5. 38.4 million cubic meters
6. 9 kilometres

True-False: 7. False 8. False 9. True 10. False 11. True 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. 38.4 14. 9 15. 70 16. December 1990 17. 2007 18. 2008

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL4



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