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Topographical Characteristics of Caves in Jeju

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1. Introduction

Jeju is an island formed by many streams of lava on the basis of Mt. Halla. A lot of lava caves in this lava area result from lava flown out from craters in the top of Mt.Halla or numerous parasitic volcanoes.

A wide-ranging lava region lies in the east and west slopes in Jeju. A basalt strata with adhesiveness and high fluidity is distributed in Pyoseon-ri. Thereby Jeju forms the world-famous lava cave region.

2. Topographical Characteristics of Caves

Lava caves in Juju are thought that they and various geographical features inside them had been formed over the cooling period for decades. There are large-scale caves such as Villemot Cave, Manjang Cave,, and Hyeopjae Cave, among them.

Lava columns in Manjang Cave, are 7.6m in height and take pride in the grand view. Lava stalagmites mean that the streams of lava drop from the ceiling and are formed like a tower.

Large stalagmites of 7.7m in height are developed in Villemot Cave. In particular, lava bridges are developed in Manjang Cave and Susan Cave. A natural bridge of 5m in width and 140m in length lies in Susan Cave. It was formed as follows: a double cave is formed, second lava flows into it, the surface is cooled, and then a small cave is formed inside the cave.

A small cave of 240m in length is

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developed in Socheon Cave. Young lava indicates a flowing type of lava and its flow has a young shape or wave shape. A silica column is to a column as silica stalactites are developed. Silica columns in 28m are developed in Villemot Cave. Silicious sinter is known to be formed by attachment of silicic acid being dissolved in gases. But its formation process has not been exactly known until now. Silicious sinter is developed in Manjan Cave and Villemot Cave.

Silica columns are mainly composed of quartz. In addition, stalactites and stalactites made from limestones are developed in Hyeopjae Cave. Namjimi Cave in Woljeong-ri discovered recently is also included in this category.