

entrance, but the height decreases towards the back. In addition there is much rubble on the floor as one moves towards the back of the gallery, and this chaos must be crossed in order to explore the farthest galleries of Chauvet Cave.

Many concretions are on the floors and hang from the ceiling. The graphic images of this gallery occur mostly on the eastern wall, as a series of panels.

Chamber of the Bear Hollows

This 50 metre wide gallery has a perfectly flat floor, attributed to an ancient lake which at times completely filled this chamber.

The ceiling has been sculpted by water into smoothed pockets and pendants, but is flat in one section where the roof has given way and fallen to the floor in large blocks.

The flat floor has hollows dug into the clay by cave bears, and some of the blocks on the floor are polished by their passage.

The bears and other animals that used these chambers navigated in the pitch black conditions by bumping into things and memorizing their paths, and by smell.

Cactus Gallery

Large stalagmitic mass with collapsed blocks.

enormous fragment of stalagmitic floor.

At the entrance to this gallery is the first figure discovered at the cave, a small red mammoth on a rock pendant.

Brunel Chamber

The modern entry is via a ten metre shaft into the vast and chaotic Brunel Chamber, which is strewn with fallen blocks, columns and rubble.

Entrance Chamber

This is the original entrance chamber, now sealed off from the outside. The floor is covered with scree.

Narrow, un-negotiable entry to the Brunel Chamber

Redrawn by Don Hitchcock
from "Chauvet Cave - The Art of Earliest Times"
Directed by Jean Clottes, translated by Paul G. Bahn
This book is essential reading for those interested
in Chauvet Cave

Original Legend:
Topography Y. Le Guillou and F. Maksud
Dedicated to François Rouzaud

Morel Chamber

Access to the Morel Chamber involves an uncomfortable crawl through a narrow passage. It contains evidence of cave bears and ibex, which could not have accessed this chamber by the present entrance. The chamber was originally connected to the outside by another entrance, since closed off.

