



04737 Fuller Road, East Jordan, MI 49727
(231) 536-3369 | www.miravenhill.org
info@miravenhill.org

Raven Hill Discovery Center is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation.

Mission: Raven Hill provides a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history & the arts.

Photo Journal: Cave bear skull

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The cave bear is now extinct, but existed at the same time as early man. They dwarf our modern black bear, but were similar in size to our largest modern polar bears. In fact, the picture below shows the size difference between our Michigan black bear and a cave bear. The smaller skull in the foreground is a modern black bear skull. Compared to the replica of the cave bear skull, the black bear looks very small. The cave bear was a species of bear that lived in Europe and Asia during the Pleistocene and became extinct about 24,000 years ago during the last big glacier. Both the word "cave" and the scientific name *spelaeus* are used because fossils of this species were mostly found in caves. Standing close to 3.5 meters (11.50 ft.) tall while rearing up, the cave bear had a very broad, domed skull with a steep forehead. Its stout body had long thighs, massive shins and in-turning feet, making it similar in skeletal structure to the brown bear. The cave bear skull is part of Raven Hill's Exploring Beyond Jurassic Park exhibit, which has indoor and outdoor components.

