

Paiute Cave

Paiute Cave is a lava tube located in the center of the Arizona Strip. It is noted for its stunning pictographs in red yellow and a mixture of reds and yellows. The glyphs retained their intensity of color because they are protected within the cave.

It is thought that the rock art is a mixture of Paiute (red and white figures near the entrance) and Anasazi (red and yellow glyphs). The red represents figures on the earth while the yellow represents the sky world. Some of the figures are done in the “Cave Valley” style that was prevalent for a time in the Virgin Anasazi area.

One possible interpretation of the glyphs is that the red figures represent people who have entered this world from an opening to the underworld (the lava tube). The red / yellow figures could represent people on the earth aspiring to ascend to the sky world. Alternately they could be ancestor spirits in the sky world.



Figure 1 – Paiute Cave



Figure 2 – Entering the Cave



Figure 3 – Figures at the Cave Entrance – Possibly Paiute



Figure 4 – Red and Yellow Pictographs inside the cave



Figure 5 – Concentric Circles – 7 Rings



Figure 6 – Rainbow in Red and Yellow



Figure 7 – Cave Valley Style anthros in various color patterns - White outlined with Red; Red with white head dress, ear bobs and a white article in his hand; Red outlined in Yellow with white dots over his head, white ear bobs and a white article in his hand; Yellow outlined with red; A serpent beginning in red turning into yellow.



Figure 7a – A close up view of the main anthros in Figure 7.



Figure 8 – A red anthro outlined in Yellow; a number of pure yellow anthros.



Figure 9 – A Yellow “spirit” being outlined with red; a red serpent outlined in yellow; a yellow “cross”.



Figure 10 – A red “cross” and a red and yellow figure.



Figure 11 – An anthro outlined in yellow; the figure itself appears to be the color of the gray rock.

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