

Kungur Ice Cave, national Park of Russia, the unique monument of Nature

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In Russia Kungur Ice Cave occupies a place of particular importance. None of caves has such rich history and world fame as the cave in the bowels of Ledianaya (Ice) Mountain. A cave system is developed in the vicinity of Kungur town of the Ural, where the deposits of Permian age are widely developed, so it is considered as a classical example of gypsum karst type development.

Kungur Ice Cave is famous for its beauty, especially for splendid ice crystal decorations and sculptures. Since 18th century cave is object of investigations and tourism.

Kungur cave is characterized by specific microclimate: near entrance parts of the cave are cold, inner parts are warm. Cold zone is characterized by progressive increase of perennially frozen deposits, whereas inner parts are characterized by progressive increase of perennially frozen deposits whereas inner parts are characterized by progressive karst process.

V.S. Lukin has explained that temperature regime in Kungur cave is connected with the existence of two temperature anomalies at the ends of air circulation system: negative in near entrance grottoes and positive in ponores at the surface of Ledianaya Mt. The history of utilization of the cave has showed that natural system of the cave is very fragile, it is necessary to apprehend any construction works by complex study of the Cave. Closing entrance of the Cave by ice or by rock, colmatation vertical joints and tubes at the surface of Mt. by soil would be resulted in decrease of cold zone and disappearance of the wonder of the cave.

Kungur Cave and Ledianaya Mt have received the Status of national Park. The protection of the cave and preservation of the beauty of the cave for future generations is the task of premier importance.