The cave was formed by the erosive action of the Green River groundwater, which has slowly been cutting its way through the limestone in the subsoil. For millions of years, the river has been digging through layers forming five levels with large rooms and narrow steps.





About 5,000 years ago, the indigenous Americans extracted gypsum from these caves. During the British-American War of 1812, the American colonists took out the saltpeter that they needed as a component of gunpowder.

On the deepest floor, about 110 meters below the surface, another underground river called Eco runs through it. Cave-dwelling animals live there like mollusks, spiders, crayfish, and several species of blind albino fish that don't have eyes. It is believed that thousands of animal species have not been discovered yet.

