

GLASSBLOWING AT HOWE CAVERNS

By Alexandra Shea

Howe Caverns is known for its tours of one of the only mineral caves in the world, but the excitement no longer ends there. Howe Caverns now brings the fiery art of glassblowing to the Capital District. Intrigued by the opportunity to create my own one-of-a-kind work of glass art, I visited Howe Glassworks Studio for a hands-on glassblowing workshop.

I was completely unfamiliar with glassblowing but was assured that didn't matter. The studio offers a multitude of workshops, year-round. From bowls and vases to unique decorative pieces and ornaments, you can choose from a multitude of creations and breathe it to life with the help of a professional instructor. I opted for a ruffle-edged bowl.

Using a stainless-steel pipe as my instrument, I heated the end of the pipe to 2,300 degrees (F), the same temperature as the lava in an active volcano. Next, I dipped the

pipe into glowing, liquefied glass. Then I added colors and continued to heat the piece in the volcano-like furnace. Then, using gravity and rotation, the ball of molten glass opened up to become a beautiful ruffle-edged bowl. After letting it cool for 12 hours, I took it home on the train! ○

To learn more about glassblowing at Howe Caverns, go to NewYorkByRail.com/Howe-Glassworks-Glassblowing-at-Howe-Caverns.



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Howe Caverns provides ground transportation from ALB or SDY if you stay at the Howe Caverns Motel. Howecaverns.com

ALEXANDRA SHEA

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