



HOW TO GET CAVE TOUR TICKETS

Cave tours sell out quickly. In order to plan ahead and participate in the tour of your choice, we strongly urge you to make reservations. For all cave tours, you can make reservations through Mistix Corporation no earlier than 56 days before and no later than one hour before you wish to tour the cave. Make reservations by calling 1-800-365-2267 or mail your reservation with a personal check or money order to MISTIX Customer Service, P.O. Box 85705, San Diego, CA 92138-5705. You can also make reservations in person at the park Visitor Center. In addition to the regular National Park Service fee for ranger-led activities, Mistix charges a \$1.00 fee for each ticket sold. Groups of 40 or more people may be eligible for a discount on certain programs.

In an attempt to accommodate some visitors unaware of the cave tour reservation system, a limited number of cave tour tickets are sold only on the day of the tour at the park Visitor Center. If you intend to visit the cave without obtaining a reservation, we strongly urge early morning arrival, and we remind you that you may wait hours before the cave tour of your choice is available. Reservations are not needed for the Discovery Tour. Therefore, when the Discovery Tour is offered, you can always see the cave, even without advance planning.

Safety Tips:

In planning a cave trip, consider your physical limitations realistically. Park rangers do not recommend most cave trips for visitors who fear heights or close places and/or cannot climb steps. In addition, plan your caving attire so that you'll be safe and comfortable. Hard-packed dirt trails can be somewhat rough and uneven and may be wet and slippery. On most cave tours, you'll encounter numerous stairs and some steep inclines. Therefore, durable footwear suitable for walking is essential. Furthermore, year-round cave temperatures in interior passageways fluctuate from the mid-50's to the low 60's (in degrees Fahrenheit). Often, you'll feel a breeze, (sometimes a strong one!) near entrances. In most areas of the cave, you'll be most comfortable if you wear long pants and take a sweater or jacket with you.



PLANNING YOUR VISIT TO MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK

In 1941, Mammoth Cave and the land above it was established as a national park. Today, with visitors coming by the millions, Mammoth ranks as one of the most popular national parks in the nation. Increasingly, visitors are discovering that Mammoth Cave National Park is really two national parks in one -- one above ground, and one below ground! The solitude and beauty of the park's eighty square miles of rugged hillsides, thirty miles of meandering rivers, and seventy miles of trails offer countless opportunities for hiking, fishing, boating, canoeing, and nature exploration. Spring wildflowers grow in profusion at Mammoth Cave and fall colors offer a tremendous splash of beauty. In the winter, with leaves gone from the trees, ridges, valleys and bluffs hidden by summertime greenery re-appear, adding interest to hiking and driving in the park. Even when "business is hopping" at the Visitor Center, the place where cave trips begin, you can enjoy quiet walks in majestic woods, within minutes of all the people. Surface features of the park hint at the existence of caves underground, and trails lead to landscape formations only found in cave country. The Cedar Sink Trail for example, only five miles from the Visitor Center, leads to a spectacular example of a sinkhole, created when ground collapsed as caves formed below. Closer to the Visitor Center, other trails lead to River Styx Spring and Echo River Spring, where water that's carved Mammoth Cave emerges from underground and enters the Green River.

When you arrive at Mammoth Cave National Park, follow signs to the Visitor Center. There, you can pick up a park newspaper and look at the schedule of ranger-led activities, get a park map, learn about trails, watch the park film, take a look at the exhibits and publications, talk to a ranger to plan your visit, and pick up your reserved cave tour tickets or purchase tickets to visit the cave. Rangers lead activities in the cave and on the surface. Cave trips are offered every day of the year except Christmas, and surface programs are offered every day in the summer and on weekends in the spring and fall. See the reverse side of this brochure for a listing and description of ranger-led activities offered from May 23 - September 7, 1992.

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK

May 23 - September 7, 1992



With 335 known miles of cave passageways, Mammoth Cave ranks as the longest cave in the world. Mammoth Cave National Park was established in 1941. In 1981, the park was designated a World Heritage Site, and in 1990 became the core area of an International Biosphere Reserve. The park merits this extra protection and special status for its spectacular features on the surface and in the cave.

Mammoth Cave National Park is located ninety miles north of Nashville, TN and ninety miles south of Louisville, KY. Traveling south, leave Interstate 65 at Cave City, exit 53. Follow the signs nine miles to the park Visitor Center. Traveling north, leave Interstate 65 at Park City, exit 48. Follow the signs eight miles to the park Visitor Center.

Funded and distributed by Cave City Convention and Tourist Commission. For more information, write Cave City Convention Center, P.O. Box 518, Cave City, KY 42127 or phone 1-800-346-8908 or 502-773-3131.

RANGER-LED ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

May 23 - June 12, 1992

Mini-Talks 10:00 AM, 12:15 PM, 2:00 PM
Heritage Trail Walk 3:00 PM (Fridays only)
Sunshine and Shadows Walk 10:30 AM (weekends only)
Discovery Tour Offered intermittently; inquire at Visitor Center.
Historic Tour 10:00 AM, 11:45 AM, 12:45 PM, 2:45 PM, 3:15 PM
Frozen Niagara Tour 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM, 12 Noon, 1:30 PM, 2:30 PM
Travertine Tour 10:00 AM, 4:30 PM
Gothic Tour 9:00 AM
Tour for the Disabled 10:30 AM, 1:00 PM
Half Day Tour 12:30 PM
Wild Cave Tour 10:00 AM (weekends only)
Trog Tour 10:00 AM, 1:30 PM (weekends only)
Violet City Lantern Tour 1:30 PM (weekends only)
Evening Program Location and time change; inquire at Visitor Center.



June 13 - August 23 plus August 29, 30, Sept. 5 & 6, 1992

Mini-Talks 9:30 AM, 10:45 AM, 12 Noon, 2:00 PM
Heritage Trail Walk 3:45 PM
Sunshine and Shadows Walk 9:15 AM
Discovery Tour Offered between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM; hours may be extended.
Historic Tour 8:00 AM, 9:00 AM, (9:30 AM on Sat. & Sun. only), 10:00 AM, 11:30 AM, 12 Noon, 12:30 PM, 1:00 PM, 2:00 PM, 3:00 PM
Frozen Niagara Tour 9:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 10:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 1:30 PM, 2:30 PM, 3:30 PM, 4:00 PM, 4:50 PM
Travertine Tour 8:00 AM, 12 Noon, 5:30 PM
Tour for the Disabled 10:00 AM, 2:35 PM
Echo River Tour 8:20 AM, 10:30 AM, 2:15 PM
Half Day Tour 10:15 AM, 11:15 AM, 12:15 PM
Wild Cave Tour 10:00 AM
Explorer Tour 9:00 AM
Trog Tour 9:30 AM
Violet City Lantern Tour 12:20 PM
Great Onyx Tour 9:30 AM
Headquarters Campfire Program 7:30 PM (Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays)
Amphitheater Program 8:30 PM (Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays)

Mammoth Cave National Park is in the Central Time Zone. If you're arriving from northern or eastern Kentucky, you'll gain an hour coming to Mammoth Cave.

Weekdays only August 24 - September 7, 1992

Mini-Talks 9:40 AM, 1:10 PM, 2:15 PM
Heritage Trail Walk 3:45 PM
Sunshine and Shadows Walk 9:15 AM
Discovery Tour Offered intermittently; inquire at Visitor Center.
Historic Tour 10:00 AM, 11:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 1:30 PM, 3:00 PM, 3:50 PM
Frozen Niagara Tour 9:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 2:30 PM
Travertine Tour 12 Noon, 5:30 PM
Gothic Tour 9:30 AM
Tour for the Disabled 11:30 AM
Echo River Tour 10:30 AM, 2:15 PM
Half Day Tour 12:15 PM
Wild Cave Tour 10:00 AM
Trog Tour 2:00 PM
Evening Program Location and time change; inquire at Visitor Center.



REMEMBER:
Get reservations for cave tours by calling 1-800-365-2267.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS:

Mini-Talks

10 min. While you're waiting for another program to begin, join the ranger for a short talk or demonstration near the Visitor Center. Program topics vary and will be announced at the Visitor Center. No fee. No reservations.

Sunshine and Shadows Walk

1-1/2 to 2 hrs., approx. 1-1/2 miles. Explore the wonders of Mammoth Cave National Park above ground. Meet at the Visitor Center flagpole. No fee. No reservations. (moderate)

Heritage Trail Walk

1 hr., 3/4 mile. Enjoy a leisurely stroll along a level trail noted for its large trees, a beautiful overlook, and The Old Guides Cemetery. Meet at the Visitor Center flagpole. No fee. No reservations. (easy)

Evening programs

approx. 30 minutes. Rangers present slide programs or campfire talks at Headquarters Campground Amphitheater and the Headquarters Campground Campfire Circle. Subjects and locations posted at the Visitor Center and the Headquarters Campground entrance station.

Historic Tour

2 hrs., 2 miles. Visit famous cave passages and learn about the cave's rich human history. View artifacts left by native Americans, discover ruins of mining operations, and see evidence of early visitors, explorers and workers in Mammoth Cave. Must descend and climb one stairway with over 60 steps and must climb over 90 steps on a steel tower. If you fear heights or close places and/or cannot climb steps, do not take this tour. Restrooms available. Adults: \$3.50, Under 16: \$1.75, Under 6: free. (moderately strenuous)

Frozen Niagara Tour

2 hrs., 3/4 miles. Ride a bus to the cave entrance, explore huge pits and domes and view decorative dripstone formations, including stalactites and stalagmites. Must descend approximately 300 steps down a steel tower. If you fear heights or close places and/or cannot climb steps, do not take this tour. Most of this tour seen on Half Day Tour, and sections seen on Travertine Tour. Adults: \$4.00, Under 16: \$2.00, Under 6: free. (moderately strenuous)

Travertine Tour

1-1/4 hr., 1/4 mile. Ride a bus to the cave entrance and view decorative dripstone formations, including stalactites and stalagmites. Must climb 18 steps; an additional 49 steps are optional. If you have been on the Frozen Niagara or Half Day Tour, you have seen this part of the cave. Recommended for those who cannot walk long distances. Adults: \$3.50, Under 16: \$1.75, Under 6: free. (easy)

Gothic Tour

2 hrs., 1-1/2 miles. The first half of this tour follows the Historic Tour route and leads past 19th century saltpeter mines. Must climb and descend two stairways -- one with over 60 steps and the other with about 40 steps. This trip features a side passageway noted for its "historic graffiti" and decorative flowstone formations, including stalactites, stalagmites, and columns. Adults: \$3.50, Under 16: \$1.75, Under 6: free. (moderate)

Tour for the Disabled

1-1/2 hr., 1/2 mile. Designed for physically impaired visitors unable to participate in other cave tours. Ride a van to the cave entrance and enter the cave via an elevator. Ride a cart through tubular passageways and see delicate gypsum minerals on cave walls. Two wheelchairs are available for visitors who have not brought their own. Restrooms not wheelchair accessible. Adults: \$4.50, Under 16: \$2.25, Under 6: free. NOTE: Golden Age and Golden Access passports do not qualify participants for a discount on this tour; discounts have been taken into consideration when establishing this tour rate.

Discovery Tour

1/2 hr. minimum, 3/4 mile. A short tour designed for those unable to participate in other activities and/or those interested in seeing the cave at your own pace. Visit one of the largest rooms in Mammoth Cave, explore large cave passageways, talk with park rangers, and learn about the ruins of saltpeter mining operations and the formation of Mammoth Cave. Must descend and climb one stairway with 60 steps. If you have been on the Historic, Echo River, Violet City Lantern and/or Gothic tours, you will have seen much, but not all of this route. Adults: \$1.50, Under 16: \$0.75, Under 6: free. (moderate)

Great Onyx Tour

2-1/2 hrs., 1 mile. This trip combines a bus tour with a cave tour and ties the past to the present. Use lanterns to explore this beautiful and varied cave which features everything from big passageways to many beautiful formations, including stalactites, stalagmites, helictites and soda straws. Do NOT bring flashlights. Adults \$6.00, Under 16: \$3.00, Under 6: free. (moderate)

Half Day Tour

4-1/2 hr., 4 miles. Ride a bus to the cave entrance and explore a variety of cave passages, including tubes and canyons. See delicate gypsum flowers and beautiful dripstone formations. This trip includes all of the Travertine Tour and most of the Frozen Niagara Tour, plus many more passages. Food available at Snowball Dining Room, about an hour into the trip. (Lunch cost not included in tour fee.) You may bring your own lunch. Must climb steep inclines and walk on several staircases. If you have walking, heart or respiratory difficulties and/or cannot climb steps, do not take this tour. Restrooms available. Adults: \$6.00, Under 16: \$3.00, Under 6: free. (very strenuous)

Wild Cave Tour

6 - 6-1/2 hrs., 5 miles. Crawl, climb and squeeze through small passages off traditional tour routes. Helmets and lights provided. Long pants and belts required. We strongly recommend that you bring kneepads. Food available at Snowball Dining Room. (Lunch cost not included in tour fee.) You may bring your own lunch. Restrooms available. Adults: \$25.00. Must be 16 yrs. or older to participate. (Be prepared to show proof of age.) (extremely strenuous)

Explorer Tour

3-1/2 hrs. Designed for youths 13 - 15 years old. Crawl, climb and crouch through historical side passageways. Helmets and lights provided. We strongly recommend that you bring kneepads. Long pants and belt required. Restrooms not available. \$3.00 (moderate)

Trog Tour

2-1/2 hrs. Designed just for children 8 - 12 yrs. old. Includes a short nature walk above-ground and a journey into cave passageways not seen on other tours. Be prepared for crawling. Helmets and lights provided. Long pants and belts required. Restrooms not available. Parents must accompany children for the first 15 minutes of the program and pick children up at the end of the program. \$4.00. (moderate)

Violet City Lantern Tour

3 hrs., 3 miles. A nostalgic tour into a section of the cave that is not electrically lit. The tour features saltpeter mining, prehistoric artifacts, historic tuberculosis hospital huts, and some of the largest rooms and passageways in the cave. The first half-mile follows the Historic Tour route. Do NOT bring flashlights. Hand-held lighting will be provided. Adults: \$5.00, Under 16: \$2.50, Under 6: free. (moderately strenuous)

Echo River Tour

3 hrs., 3 miles. This walking trip includes a ten minute boat ride on the Echo River. Steep hills, deep sand. This route includes the entire Historic Tour route, plus one extra mile. Restrooms available. May be cancelled when water is high. Children must be at least 6 years old. Adults: \$5.00, Under 16: \$2.50. (very strenuous)