

MAMMOTH CAVE GUIDE

Mammoth Cave National Park • Volume II • 1996

Beyond the Boundaries

What happens on the sunlit surface at Mammoth Cave affects what happens in the sunless underworld. The groundwater basins that drain into Mammoth Cave are much larger than the park, extending out to Park City, Cave City and beyond. The water from these population centers, and from the vicinity of interstate and railroad corridors, flows directly to the Green River by way of the caves. Whatever the water carries when it disappears into the ground changes the cave and the cave's inhabitants on its way through.

The biological links are intricate and they extend below

the ground. The organic matter that washes in from the fertile surface is important food for creatures that never see the sun, just as human-caused contaminants are lethal to them. These caves have been called the most biologically diverse underground ecosystem known to man, supporting a rich fauna of blind, pale animals specially adapted to life in the darkness.

And the key to life below is the astonishingly varied life above. Mammoth Cave National Park's cave and karst terrains, and its many plateaus, bluffs, coves, valleys, streams, and rivers, provide many different kinds of homes for a huge array of creatures. This biological

kaleidoscope mingles 84 species of fish, 200 species of birds, 18 reptiles, 15 amphibians and a host of mammals including white-tailed deer, raccoon, opossum, coyote, gray squirrel, rabbit, woodchuck, muskrat, beaver, red fox and 7 kinds of bats. The Green River contains one of the most diverse mussel populations in the world, nine endangered species among them. Also two species of endangered bats make a home in the park, as does the Kentucky cave shrimp.

Like water, air from outside changes life within the park. Mammoth Cave's flora have been identified as particularly sensitive to gaseous air

pollution. The earth, too, is as influential as the air – old, abandoned oil and gas wells both inside and outside the park still present a potential threat to the underground.

Perhaps the greatest influence on the park comes from outside in the shape of you – our visitors. We welcome over 2,000,000 friends to the park every year and strive to give them an opportunity to share in Mammoth Cave National Park's wonder and diversity while at the same time preserving that wonder and diversity unchanged for those who come after.

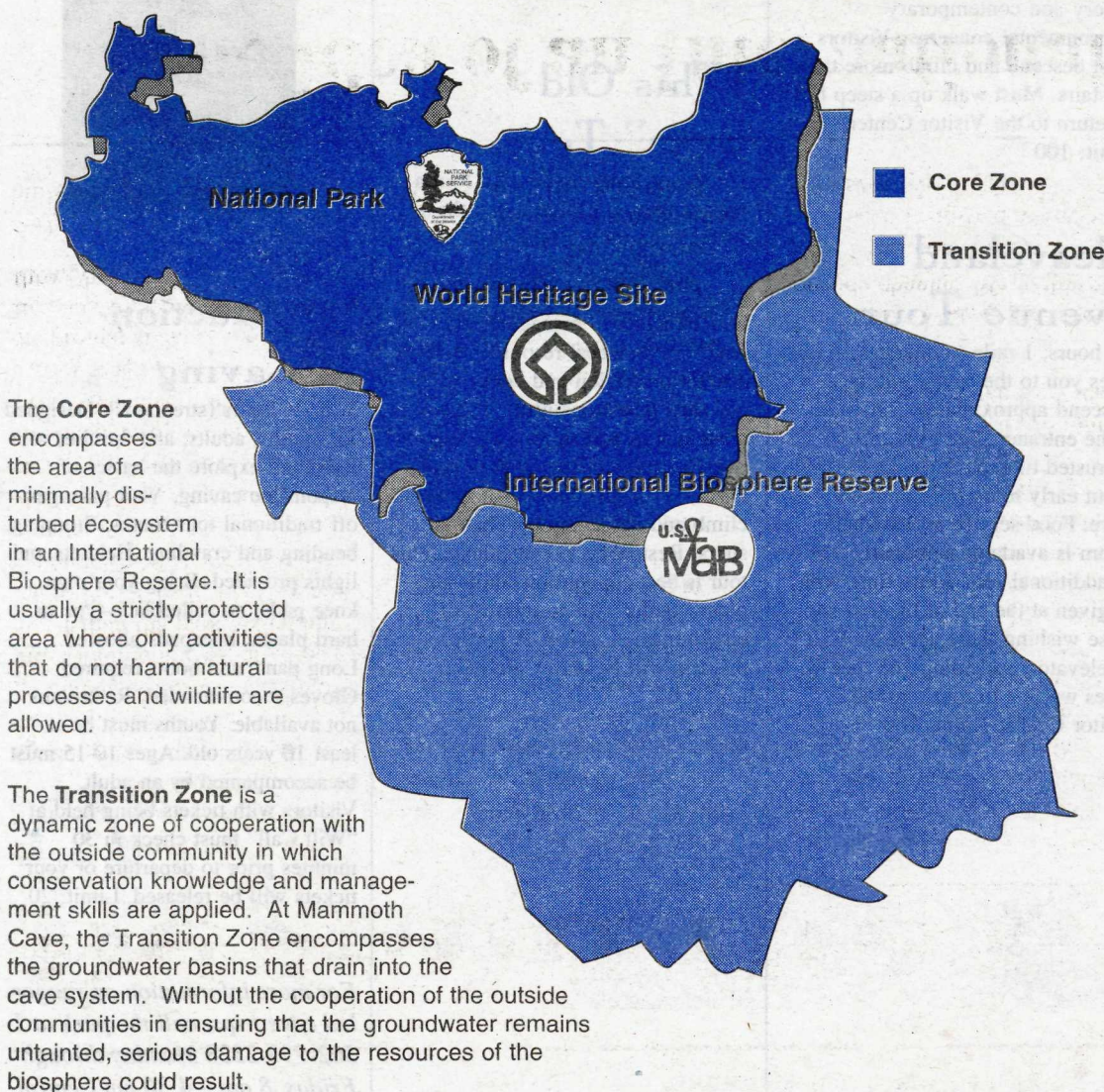
It's what a far-sighted Congress had in mind when it

declared that Mammoth Cave, and all national parks, should be set aside “... to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

If the park were contained, cut off from the outside like a museum exhibit under glass, that mandate might be simple. But it's not. It has taken, and will take, the cooperation of everyone – locally, nationally, and globally – to make it so.

The Idea of an International Biosphere Reserve

The World Takes Notice



Mammoth Cave National Park was authorized by Congress in 1926 and established July 1, 1941, to protect and preserve the natural environment within its boundaries. It is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

On October 27, 1981, Mammoth Cave National Park joined the ranks of renowned places like Australia's Great Barrier Reef, Egypt's Pyramids of Giza, Nepal's Kathmandu Valley, and India's Taj Mahal Historic Park. The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated Mammoth Cave National Park as a World Heritage Site for its exceptional natural features, its habitat for threatened and endangered species, and its association with events and persons of world historic and archeological significance.

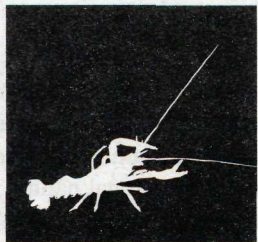
Mammoth Cave National Park, unlike many sites on the list, is known for its natural heritage as well as its cultural heritage. Mammoth Cave is the most extensive cave system in the world, with more than 345 surveyed miles of cave passageways. Pre-Columbian Native Americans explored further into Mammoth Cave than any other cave in the world – over three miles distant from any probable point of entry.

On February 7, 1990, Mammoth Cave National Park again gained prestigious international status when UNESCO designated the Mammoth Cave area as a unit of the International Network of Biosphere Reserves to assess the effects of human manipulations upon the area. Biosphere reserves are unique natural environments where conservation and sustained use of the natural resources are combined. They represent specific types of ecosystems such as deserts, semi-deserts, tropical grasslands, and temperate deciduous woodlands. These special areas are targets for research, monitoring, and education. Cooperation among government policy makers, scientists, and local citizens is of primary importance to the system to ensure the conservation of the regional culture, its environments, and resources.

Mammoth Cave National Park has become a key area for international research on karst hydrology and cave ecosystems. The biosphere reserve, which includes the watershed area south of the park known as the sinkhole plain, encompasses 60,000 acres. The lack of surface drainage combined with enclosed valleys, sinkholes, and caves make this Biosphere Reserve one of the world's classic karst areas.

We are discovering that the park's 52,830 acres do not encompass all the resources that inspired Congress in 1926 to authorize a new national park in Kentucky.

BETLOW

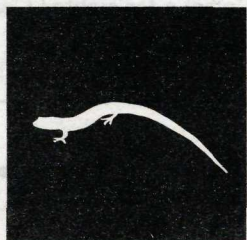


Historic Tour

2 hours, 2 miles (strenuous). Visit the cave passages and learn about the rich human history that made Mammoth Cave famous. View artifacts left by native Americans, discover ruins of mining operations, and see evidence of early visitors, explorers, and workers at Mammoth cave. Must descend and climb one stairway with more than 60 steps and must climb more than 130 steps on a steel tower. If you fear heights or close places and/or cannot climb steps, do not take this tour. Limit: 120

Frozen Niagara Tour

2 hours, ¾ mile (strenuous). Descend in search of the spectacular. Ride a bus to the entrance, explore huge pits and domes and view decorative dripstone formations, including stalactites and stalagmites. Must descend approximately 300 steps and navigate steep terrain. If you fear heights or close places and/or cannot climb steps, do not take this tour. The Travertine Tour route is included in this more strenuous tour. Restrooms not available. Limit: 120



Discovery Tour

½ hr. minimum, ¾ mile (moderate). Visit one of the largest rooms in Mammoth Cave, explore a large canyon passage, talk with park rangers and learn about 19th Century saltpeter mining operations and the geologic origins of Mammoth Cave. Must descend and climb one stairway with more than 60 steps. To get the full picture, hike the River Styx Spring Trail or the Green River Bluffs Trail in conjunction with this tour. Adults: \$2, Under 16: \$1, Under 6: free. **Unlimited availability during periods of high visitation.**

Travertine Tour

1-1½ hours, ¼ mile (easy). Ride a bus to the Frozen Niagara entrance and view some of the cave's finest geologic artistry, including stalactites, stalagmites, pits and domes. Must climb 18 steps; an additional 98 steps are optional. Designed for those who experience difficulty in walking, and those with infants and toddlers. Limit: 40

Gothic Tour

2 hours, 1½ miles (moderately strenuous). Visitors began touring the Mammoth Cave in 1816 to marvel at the wonders underground – and became themselves a part of the cave's fascinating history. Discover how early visitors saw the cave and how they left their mark on this "grand, gloomy and peculiar place." Must climb and descend two stairways- one with more than 60 steps and the other with about 40 steps. Restrooms are not available. Limit: 60

Great Onyx Tour

2¼ hours, 1 mile (moderately strenuous). Even before the creation of this national park, the private owners of Great Onyx Cave understood the need for stewardship. Join a Park Ranger on a visit to Flint Ridge and Great Onyx Cave and learn how past and present ways of treasuring these resources have come together. Must climb and descend 20 stairs and several hills. Use lanterns to explore this beautiful and varied cave which features stalactites, stalagmites, helictites, and "soda straw" stalactites. Limit: 40

Mammoth Passage Tour

1¼ hours, ¾ mile (moderate). Visit the large passage referred to by early cave explorers as "Main Cave," whose high vaulted ceilings and broad avenues gave birth to the cave called "Mammoth." Park Rangers discuss the cave's creation by water, the absence of what many people refer to as "typical" cave formations, the cave's cultural history and contemporary environmental concerns. Visitors must descend and climb more than 60 stairs. Must walk up a steep hill to return to the Visitor Center. Limit: 100

Cleaveland Avenue Tour

1¾ hours, 1 mile (moderate). A bus takes you to the cave's entrance. Descend approximately 220 stairs at the entrance. See gypsum-encrusted tube passages and learn about early tours in Mammoth Cave. Food service at Snowball Room is available seasonally (for an additional fee). Extra time will be given at the end of the tour for those wishing these services. Exit by elevator, ascending 267 feet to buses waiting to return to the Visitor Center. Limit: 100

Making of Mammoth Tour

2½ hours, 2½ miles (strenuous). Get back to basics – discover the geologic beginnings of Mammoth Cave and learn why it is unique throughout the world. Trip will investigate the cave's ancient origins 325 million years ago all the way to its ongoing formation today. This exploration of the cave's diversity will descend to the very bottom of the cave – the water table. Must descend and climb the entrance stairway with more than 60 steps and must climb a steel tower with more than 130 steps. If you fear heights or close places and/or cannot climb stairs do not take this tour. Restrooms available. Two miles of passageway overlap the Historic Tour route. Limit: 60

Violet City Lantern Tour

3 hours, 3 miles (strenuous). Follow the path of the cave's famous explorers along a nostalgic journey into Mammoth Cave's historic past. By the light of coal-oil lantern, view a saltpeter mining operation, evidence of prehistoric exploration,



historic tuberculosis hospital ruins, and some of the largest rooms and passageways in the cave. The first half-mile follows the Historic Tour route. Do not bring flashlights. Restrooms not available. Limit: 60

"This Old Cave" Tour

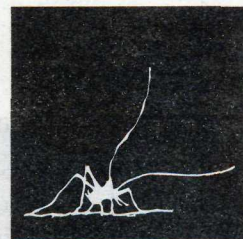
1¾ hrs., 1 mile (moderate). Join a park ranger on a walk along the surface and through the large cave passage referred to by early cave explorers as "Main Cave." Discuss issues related to managing and restoring a natural resource, such as artifact protection and cave airlocks. Questions and observations welcome. This tour overlaps parts of the Historic and Discovery Tour route. Visitors must climb and descend more than 70 stairs. Restrooms not available. This tour is best enjoyed by adults and older youths with an interest in environmental issues. A portion of this trip will be above ground. Limit: 60

Wild Cave Tour

6 to 6½ hours, 5½ miles (extremely strenuous). Must be 16 years or older to participate. (Be prepared to show proof of age.) Must have a chest size of no larger than 42 inches – anyone larger will not fit through the tight spaces. Crawl, climb, and squeeze through small passages off traditional tour routes. Helmets and lights provided. Kneepads available, but you may bring your own – rollerblade-type or hard plastic kneepads not allowed. Boots required. Gloves and long pants strongly recommended. Visitors should bring a lunch and a small water bottle in a small "fanny" pack. Restrooms available. Tickets being held at "Will Call" must check in 30 minutes prior to departure or the tickets will be released. Limit: 14

Trog Tour

2½ hours (moderately strenuous). The environment is in many parts, and they all work together – children 8-12 years old can discover the connections between the sunlit world and the underground world on this environmentally-focused activity. Parents must accompany their children for the first 15 minutes of the program and then promptly pick up children at the end of the program. Designed for children 8-12 years old. (Be prepared to show proof of age). Be prepared for crawling. Helmets and lights provided. Long pants and sturdy shoes or hiking boots required. Gloves recommended. We also recommend that you bring kneepads – rollerblade-type or hard plastic kneepads not allowed. Restrooms not available. Limit: 12



Introduction to Caving

3 to 3½ hours (strenuous). Designed for youths, adults, and families to learn and explore the basics of responsible caving. Visit passages off traditional tour routes. Stooping, bending and crawling. Helmets and lights provided. Bring your own knee pads; no rollerblade-type or hard plastic kneepads allowed. Long pants and boots required. Gloves recommended. Restrooms not available. Youths must be at least 10 years old. Ages 10-15 must be accompanied by an adult. Visitors with tickets being held at "Will Call" must check in 30 minutes prior to departure or your tickets will be released. Limit: 20

For more information on ranger-led cave trips, call the park at 1-502-758-2328 Monday through Friday, 8 am – 4:30 pm Central Time.

Underground Activities.....

Availability of these interpretive tours varies from season to season. Consult the enclosed seasonal schedule or call the park for information on what parts of the Cave will be shown during your visit.

Notes for Those Who Venture Below

Read This Before You Go into the Cave ...

- **Consider your physical limitations** realistically when choosing a cave tour. Some tours are not recommended for visitors who fear heights or close places and/or cannot climb steps. **Do not** let friends or family members talk you into joining a cave tour if you feel uncomfortable about it.
- Hard-packed dirt **trails can be somewhat rough** and uneven and may be wet and slippery. You'll encounter numerous stairs and some steep inclines on many cave tours. Therefore, **durable, flat-soled footwear** suitable for walking is essential.
- **Walking sticks and canes** are permitted on cave tours only when sufficient need is demonstrated.
- **Tripods** (and monopods) can be hazardous to other visitors and may damage cave formations. Therefore, they are **not permitted** in the cave.
- **Strollers** are impractical on bumpy, narrow cave walkways and stairways and are therefore **not permitted** on cave tours. Carry children in backpacks with caution because of low ceilings; rangers will advise you when they may be used.
- To protect air quality, **smoking** is not permitted in the cave.
- Year-round, the **cave temperature** in interior passageways fluctuates from the mid-50s to the low 60s (in Fahrenheit degrees). However, winter temperatures can be below freezing at entrances! In most areas of the cave, you'll be comfortable if you wear long pants and **take a sweater or jacket** with you.

Photo Tips in the Cave

Even though it is electrically lighted, taking photos in the cave can be tricky – especially in large caverns where the light dissipates. To make picture-taking more successful, follow these tips:

- Use a flash, especially with disc, instamatic and Polaroid cameras.
- Be careful not to blind other visitors with your flash.
- Use a fast-speed film (ASA 400 or greater).
- Take photos of objects less than 12 feet away.
- High intensity lights attached to video cameras spoil the ambience of visiting the cave. Please use video cameras that work effectively in low light and leave attachment lights on the surface.

Although you are welcome to bring your video camera into the cave, you may not use it while the tour is moving or you are walking. **Film while standing still** to avoid hazard to yourself and others.



A Guide lights a coal-oil lantern for exploring the shadows on the Violet City Lantern Tour.

Are You Between 6 and 13 Years Old?

Do you want to learn all you can about Mammoth Cave National Park? If so:

Take the Trog Tour, a trip for young people 8-12 years old. You get to go into parts of the cave



no one else – no parents, anyway, gets to see. Put on a hard hat and headlamp and learn how the cave was formed, what lives in it, who has been there before you, and how you can help protect it.

Become a Junior Ranger: Young People 6 – 13 years old are eligible to become Junior Rangers. Purchase the Junior Ranger packet at the book sales area in the Visitor Center and start rangering! Follow a ranger on guided activities and record your own discoveries in the booklet to become a Junior Ranger.

Bring Mom and Dad for an **Introduction to Caving:** This is a good trip for people 10 and up, poking into dark, twisting tunnels and learning why people go caving, how they do it safely, and what they find when they're there.

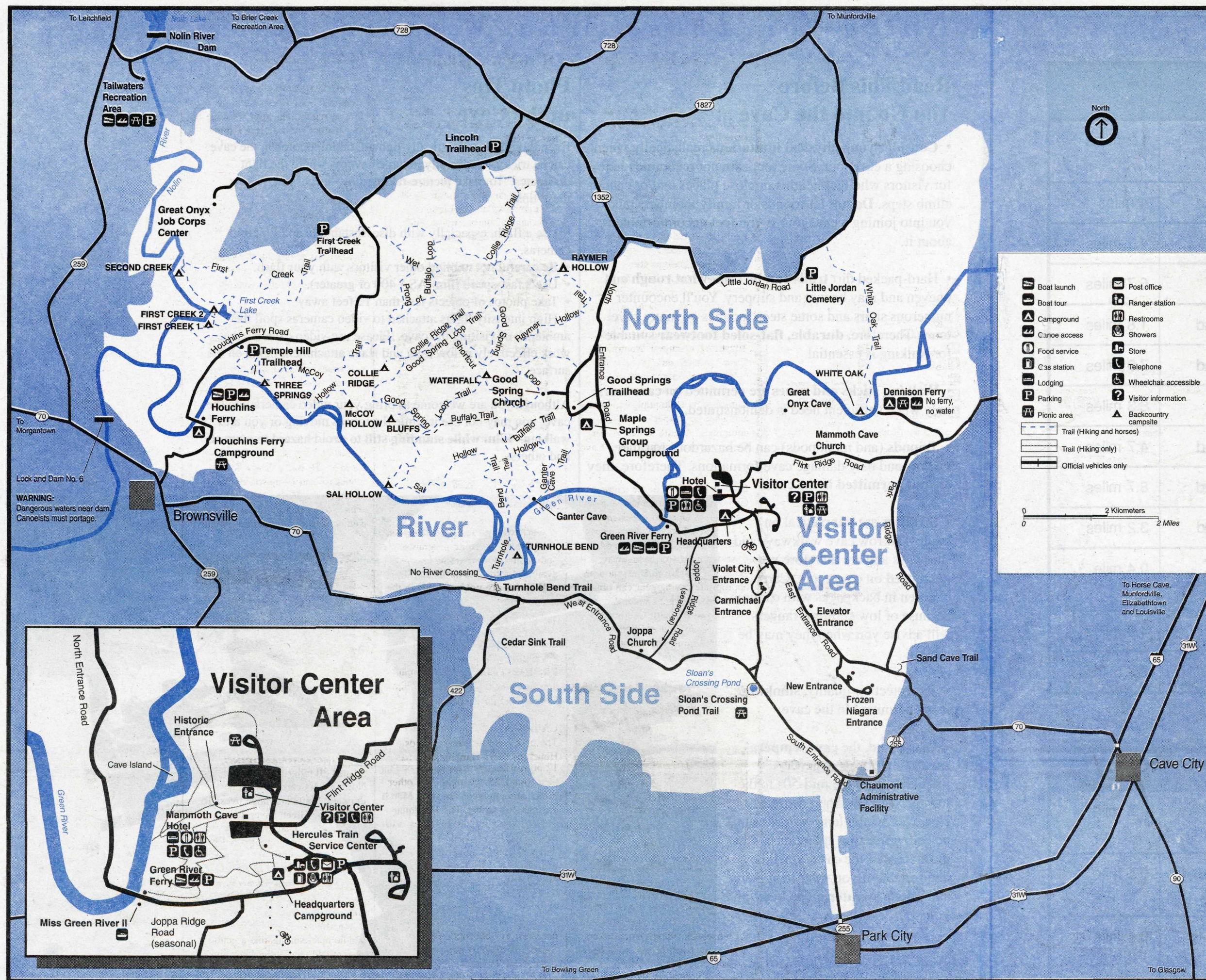
Above Ground Temperatures

Month	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Normal Highs	45	49	58	70	78	86	88	88	82	72	58	48
Normal Lows	25	26	35	45	52	60	64	62	56	44	36	28

Below Ground Temperatures

54

degrees Fahrenheit, more or less, year-round. The cave temperatures can fluctuate as much as six degrees either way in passageways close to the surface. Entrances may be very cold. The lower passages are more constant.



On the Surface of Mammoth Cave National Park

On the **North Side** over a dozen campsites dot the 70+ miles of trail. Hike here and you may not see another living soul. Seek solitude in the rugged hills and deep valleys, camp by river, lake or waterfall, explore bluffs and ridgetops. Ride horses along these backcountry trails or guide yourself on a spelunking trip in to Ganter Cave. Drive the scenic routes of Houchins Ferry Road and Little Jordan Road. If you have a large group of friends, camp out at the Maple Springs Group Campground.

On the **South Side** a quick drive and an easy walk will show you some of the park's most beautiful scenery. Take a

picnic, stroll the circle of Sloan's Crossing Pond Nature Trail and listen for bullfrogs, green frogs and red-winged blackbirds among the cattails. Descend into Cedar Sink to look through a "window" into the way water travels beneath the ground, then go to Turnhole Bend Nature Trail and find out where and how that same water joins the Green River. In season, drive Joppa Ridge Road and peer into the deep valleys.

In the **Visitor Center Area** walk on top of what lies below – six miles of beautiful woodland trail lead you into huge sinkholes and down to flowing springs, both windows to the

underworld. Take a ranger-led walk and get some first-hand knowledge about the animals and plants of the region. Sit in on an Evening Program at the Campfire Circle or the Amphitheatre. Bicycle along the bike trail or stroll along the Heritage Trail. Drive the winding and beautiful Flint Ridge Road and stop by historic Mammoth Cave Church. Walk down the Sand Cave Trail to the cave entrance and learn its bizarre story. See the train *Hercules*. Watch a film, slide show or mini-talk in the Auditorium.

Over 30 miles of the Green and Nolin Rivers trace through the park and offer a wealth of

recreational opportunities. Angle for muskellunge, bluegill, catfish, bass, perch, crappie and other game fish. Canoe the rivers and camp along their shores. Camp by the river at the Houchins Ferry and Dennison Ferry Campgrounds. Cross the Green River on two ferries – Green River Ferry and Houchins Ferry – two of the few operating rural ferries in the nation. Cruise on the *Miss Green River II* looking for wildlife, springs and river bluffs.

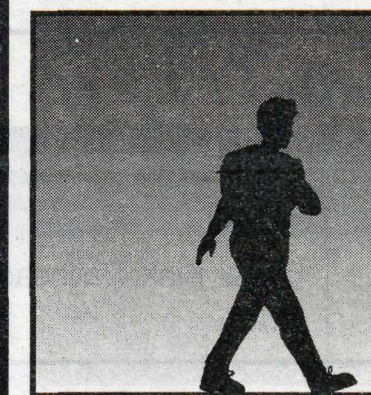


North Side

Hints and regulations:

- A backcountry use permit is required for all backcountry camping.
- **Maple Springs Group Campground** accommodates groups of 1-24 campers.
- Hikers and horseback riders must sign in at trailhead registers.
- **Horses are available** through livery outside the park. Inquire at the Visitor Center.
- A useful guide to the backcountry is *A Guide To The Surface Trails of Mammoth Cave National Park*, by Stanley D. Sides, available in the Visitor Center book sales area. Also find the Trails Illustrated map of Mammoth Cave National Park.
- **Visits to Ganter Cave are restricted** to those who can demonstrate spelunking experience and have the proper equipment. Inquire at the Visitor Center before visiting Ganter Cave.

GANTER CAVE
Hike or canoe out to the entrance of Ganter Cave for some on-your-own spelunking. Open to **experienced** cavers only, Ganter Cave is nearly 8,000 feet long and consists of at least two levels of passageway. Parties of four to nine people with appropriate caving gear can obtain a reservation to visit Ganter Cave. Inquire at the Visitor Center for a handout providing detailed information on requirements for a trip to Ganter.



HORSEBACK RIDING

All trails north of the Green River (except Ganter Cave Trail) are open for horseback riding. When hikers and horses meet, horses must be slowed to a walk and hikers must remain quiet. Three campsites at Maple Springs Group Campground are available for riders March through November. Each site can accommodate up to eight horses. Campsites cost \$15 per night and require reservations. For reservations, call the Chief Ranger's office at (502) 758-2251. Day-use horseback riders can park trailers at Lincoln Trailhead and across the road from Maple Springs Campground; trails are nearby. Always hitch horses more than 100 feet away from designated campsites, trails, or water sources. You may take a guided ride in the park with Double-J Stables (1-800-730-4773).

South Side

Hints and regulations:

- The **Joppa Ridge Motor Nature Trail** is open seasonally. Inquire at the Visitor Center before visiting Joppa Ridge.
- Ask for the **South Side Guide** at the book sales area in the Visitor Center. This guidebook will lead you to all the sights on the South Side and explain the intricate workings of the natural systems south of the Green River.



Visitor Center

Hints and regulations:

- A schedule of ranger-led walks, campfire and evening programs, and auditorium programs is available at the Visitor Center.
- **Bicycles are not available** in the park.
- **No bicycles, roller-blades or roller skates** are permitted on the trails in the park.
- **Feeding wild animals is PROHIBITED.** Feeding animals has the potential to harm both the animals and the visitor.

CAMPING

The park has four campgrounds. Houchins Ferry camping area has 12 primitive campsites and is open year-round, \$5 per night. The other three camping areas are open March through November. The Headquarters Campground has 111 sites, \$10 per night. Hot showers, coin-operated laundry, and a campstore near Headquarters Campground are operated from spring to fall by a concessioner. Maple Springs Group Campground accommodates horses and large groups of people (limit 25 per site), \$15 per night. Maple Springs is the only park campground that operates on a reservation system – dial 1-502-758-2251. Dennison Ferry is a primitive

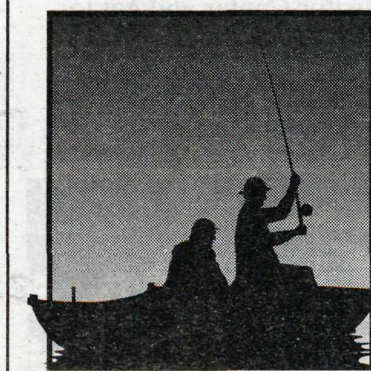


campground with 4 available sites, no charge. The Headquarters, Maple Springs, and Dennison Ferry campgrounds will be closed December – February. All park campgrounds have toilets, grills, and picnic tables; all but Dennison Ferry have potable water.

River

Hints and regulations:

- **No fishing license is required** in the park. Otherwise, Kentucky fishing regulations apply. Inquire at the Visitor Center before fishing. Fish by handline, rod and reel, or trot and throw line. All other methods are prohibited.
- **Harvesting of mussels is prohibited** in the park.
- **Swimming in the river is not recommended** because of strong currents and deep holes.
- **Camping along the floodplain** is by permit only. Inquire at the Visitor Center before camping along the river.
- **Observe weather conditions.** Flooding is possible. In case of storms, leave the water and seek shelter.
- **Canoes are available** through livery outside the park. Inquire at the Visitor Center or call 1-800-346-8908.
- **Boats may be taken in and out** of the water at Green River Ferry and Houchins Ferry. Canoes may be taken in and out at Green River, Houchins and Dennison Ferries.
- Tickets for *Miss Green River II* cruises are available at the Visitor Center, through the concessionaire.



BOATING AND CANOEING

Almost 30 miles of the Green and Nolin Rivers carry boaters past dramatic bluffs and large trees. To explore the Green River, launch your canoe at Dennison Ferry Campground or Green River Ferry; you'll find the best take-out points at Green River Ferry or Houchins Ferry. On the Nolin River, launch your boat just below Nolin River Dam at Tailwaters Recreation Area. When you reach the Green River, paddle upstream against a gentle current and take out at Houchins Ferry. We do not recommend that paddlers continue down the Green River to Lock and Dam #6. Located outside the park, the approach to the dam is not marked with warning signs. Being sucked into the current above the dam could be extremely hazardous. You may rent canoes from concessionaires located near the park. With a backcountry camping permit, you can camp anywhere within the floodplain more than 1/2 mile from ferry crossings or developed campgrounds. River levels and current fluctuate dramatically, particularly during the winter months, and snags or sandbars may be hidden underwater. You must bring at least one Coast Guard-approved life preserver for each person.

ABOVE

RANGER-LED ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

Visitor Center Hours: 8:00 am - 5:45 pm



March 18 - May 19, 1995

ACTIVITY

TIMES

Historic Tour

8:45 AM, 10:10 AM, 2:15 PM, 3:30 PM

Travertine Tour

9:15 AM, 4:15 PM

Wild Cave Tour

10:00 AM (Saturday/Sunday)

 Tour for the Mobility Impaired

10:30 AM

Cleaveland Avenue Tour

11:00 AM, 12:45 PM

Frozen Niagara Tour

11:30 AM, 1:45 PM

Discovery Tour

As visitation warrants, check for availability

 Mini Talk

9:35 AM, 12:45 PM

April 15 - May 19, 1995

ACTIVITY

TIMES

Historic Tour

8:45 AM, 10:10 AM, 2:15 PM, 3:30 PM

Travertine Tour

9:15 AM, 4:15 PM

Wild Cave Tour

10:00 AM (Saturday/Sunday)

Violet City Lantern Tour

10:00 AM, 2:00 PM (Saturday/Sunday)

Great Onyx Tour

10:00 AM (Saturday)

 Tour for the Mobility Impaired

10:30 AM

Cleaveland Avenue Tour

11:00 AM, 12:45 PM

Frozen Niagara Tour

11:30 AM, 1:45 PM

Introduction to Caving Tour

1:30 PM (Saturday/Sunday)

Discovery Tour

As visitation warrants, check for availability

 Mini Talk

9:35 AM, 12:45 PM

River Styx Surface Walk

9:45 AM (Sunday)

Surface Activities Beginning April 22:

Mammoth Dome Sink Surface Walk

2:15 PM (Friday)

Rock Garden Getaway Surface Walk

2:00 PM (Saturday)

Campfire Program (Headquarters Campground) Check at Visitor Center for Time (Friday)

 Amphitheater Program

Check at Visitor Center for Time (Saturday)

For Park Information Call (502) 758-2328

For Cave Tour Reservations Call (800) 967-2283

For Cave Area Information Call (800) 346-8908

For Accommodations in the Park Call (502) 758-2225

RANGER-LED ACTIVITIES DESCRIPTIONS

Historic Tour

2 hrs., 2 miles (strenuous). 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: \$4.50, Under 16: \$2.25, Under 6: free.

Travertine Tour

1-1/4 hrs., 1/4 mile, (easy). 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. Recommended for those who cannot walk long distances. Adults: \$4.00, Under 16: \$2.00, Under 6: free.

Cleveland Avenue Tour

1-3/4 hrs., 1 mile (moderate). A bus ride takes you to the cave's entrance. Descend approximately 220 stairs at the entrance. See gypsum-encrusted tube passageways and learn about early tours in Mammoth Cave. Food service at the Snowball Room optional (not included in tour duration or price). Exit by elevator, ascending 267 feet to buses waiting to return you to the Visitor Center. Adults: \$4.00, Under 16: \$2.00, Under 6: free.

Frozen Niagara Tour

2 hrs., 3/4 mile (moderately strenuous). 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. Last 1/8 mile seen on Travertine Tour. Adults: \$5.00, Under 16: \$2.50, Under 6: free.

Tour for the Mobility Impaired

1-1/2 hrs., 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. See tubular passageways and delicate gypsum minerals on cave walls. Views a portion of Cleveland Avenue Tour. 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.

Violet City Lantern Tour

3 hrs., 3 miles (strenuous). A nostalgic tour into a section of Mammoth 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. Several very steep grades. Do not bring flashlights. Restrooms not available. Adults: \$7.00, Under 16: \$3.50, Under 6: free.

Great Onyx Tour

2-1/4 hrs., 1 mile (moderately strenuous). This trip combines a surface bus ride with a tour into Great Onyx Cave tying the past to the present. Use lanterns to explore this beautiful and varied cave which features stalactites, stalagmites, helictites, sodastraws, and gypsum. Adults: \$7.00, Under 16: \$3.50, Under 6: free.

Discovery Tour

1/2 hr. minimum (moderate). Visit one of the largest rooms in Mammoth Cave, explore a large cave passage, talk with park rangers and learn about saltpeter mining and the formation of Mammoth Cave. Must descend and climb one stairway with over 60 steps. If this area of the cave intrigues you, see more of it by making reservations for a Historic Tour or a Violet City Lantern Tour. Adults: \$2.00, Under 16: \$1.00, Under 6: free.

Wild Cave Tour

6-6-1/2 hrs., 5 miles (extremely strenuous). Crawl, climb, and squeeze through small passages off traditional tour routes. Helmets and lights provided. Long pants and boots required. We strongly recommend that you bring kneepads and gloves. Bring your own lunch or purchase seasonally in Snowball Room. Restrooms available. Adults: \$30.00. Must be 16 yrs. or older to participate. Be prepared to show proof of age.

Introduction to Caving Tour

3-3-1/2 hrs. (strenuous). Designed for adults and families to learn and explore the basics of caving. Visit small passages off traditional tour routes. Stooping, bending, and crawling. Helmets and lights provided. Bring your own kneepads and gloves. Long pants and boots required. Restrooms not available. Adults: \$12.00, Under 16: \$8.00. Children must be 8 yrs. or older to participate.

Mini Talk

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

River Styx Surface Walk

1-1/2 hrs. round trip, 1-1/4 miles (strenuous). Meet the Park Ranger at the Visitor Center for a short walk along the Heritage Trail to Sunset Point. Then, a winding descent through various spring flora and towering hardwoods brings you to River Styx Spring, the surface equivalent to the cave's lowest regions. Activity terminates at the spring. You may backtrack the trail at your leisure, or walk an alternate return route with the ranger. Steep grades. Free.

Mammoth Dome Sink Surface Walk

1-1/4 hrs., round trip, 1 mile (moderately strenuous). Meet the Park Ranger at the Visitor Center for a surface hike down to the sinkhole that drains into the cave's Mammoth Dome. View a hardwood forest accented with lush green ferns, jack-in-the-pulpit and other spring flora. Activity terminates at the sink, but you are welcome to hike back with the ranger or go on to explore the continuing trail. Steep grades. Free.

Rock Garden Get Away Surface Walk

1-3/4 hrs. (strenuous). Meet the Park Ranger at the Cedar Sink trailhead on Highway 422. Investigate the geological features and various flora found within one of the park's many sinkholes. Cedar Sink measures 600 feet by 1,000 feet from rim to rim, and you will descend 140 feet to its bottom! Of course, what does down, must come up, and you will retrace your steps. Be prepared to discover cave entrances, view hydrology at work, and come face to face with inhabitants of a lush microclimate. A great family experience. Be prepared for some steep uphill walking. Free.

Campfire Program

Approximately 30 min. Meet the ranger at the traditional Campfire Circle adjacent to Loop A of the Headquarters Campground. Topics are posted at the Visitor Center and the Headquarters Campground entrance station. Parking near the Campfire circle accommodates non-campers; all welcome. No fee. No reservations.

Amphitheater Program

Approximately 30 min. Meet the ranger at the Amphitheater. Subjects are posted at the Visitor Center and Headquarters Campground entrance station. Parking near the Amphitheater accommodates non-campers; all welcome. No fee. No reservation.

Trails

With nearly 80 miles of hiking trails, Mammoth Cave National Park offers plenty of space to stretch your (or your horse's) legs. Pick up a trail guide, a trail map, and perhaps a topographic map at the Visitor Center and get to know the "other half" of your park (the upper half) first hand.



Two hikers enjoy the park's inviting trails.

Self-guiding trail brochures are available for trails marked with an asterisk (*)

North Side Trails

Trail	Begins At	Length
Blair Spring Hollow Trail	Collie Ridge Trail at Raymer Hollow	1.2 miles
Buffalo Trail	Maple Springs Trailhead	4 miles
Collie Ridge Trail	Lincoln Trailhead	4.3 miles
First Creek Hollow Trail	Temple Hill Trailhead	6.7 miles
Ganter Cave Trail	Maple Springs Trailhead	1.8 miles
Good Spring Loop Trail	Maple Springs Trailhead	7.9 miles
McCoy Hollow Trail	Temple Hill Trailhead	6.3 miles
Raymer Hollow Trail	Maple Springs Trailhead	4.7 miles
Sal Hollow Trail	Maple Springs Trailhead	8.7 miles
Turnhole Bend Trail	Maple Springs Trailhead	3.2 miles
Wet Prong-McCoy Hollow Spur	Wet Prong Trail	0.4 mile
Wet Prong Trail	First Creek Trailhead	4.9 miles
White Oak Trail	Little Jordan Road	2.7 miles

South Side Trails

Trail	Begins At	Length
Cedar Sink Trail	Cedar Sink Trailhead, Hwy. 422	0.8 mile
Sand Cave Trail	Sand Cave Trailhead, Hwy. 255	0.1 mile
Sloan's Crossing Pond Trail	Sloan's Crossing Pond Trailhead, Hwy. 70	0.4 mile
Turnhole Bend Nature Trail	Turnhole Bend Nature Trail Trailhead, Hwy. 70	1 mile

Visitor Center Area Trails

Trail	Begins At	Length
Campground Trail	Campsite 11, Loop A	0.5 mile
Dixon Cave Trail	Historic Entrance	1.2 miles
Echo River Spring Trail	Green River Ferry	0.4 mile
Echo River Trail	Sunset Point	2.2 miles
Green River Bluffs Trail*	Visitor Center Picnic Area	1.1 miles
Mammoth Dome Sink Trail	Heritage Trail	2 miles
River Styx Spring Trail*	Historic Entrance	0.6 mile
Heritage Trail	Mammoth Cave Hotel	0.3 miles

Services

For park information: 1-502-758-2328

For cave tour reservations: 1-800-967-2283

For accommodations within the park: 1-502-758-2225

For accommodations and attractions outside the park: 1-800-346-8908

ACCOMMODATIONS

In the park:
Mammoth Cave Hotel,
758-2225
Outside the park:
call 1-800-346-8908

RESTAURANTS

In the park:
Mammoth Cave Hotel,
758-2225
Outside the park:
call 1-800-346-8908

GROCERIES

Service Center Camp Store at
Headquarters Campground

POST OFFICE

Service Center at
Headquarters Campground,
758-2311

SHOWERS & LAUNDROMAT

Service Center at
Headquarters Campground.
Hours vary by season.

GIFTS

Mammoth Cave Hotel,
758-2225

EMERGENCIES

Dial 911. For non-emergency
assistance, dial the following, in
order, until you receive a reply:
758-2328, 758-2322, 758-2111

LOST AND FOUND

Ticket Sales Area, Visitor
Center, 758-2328

FIRST AID

Visitor Center

KENNEL

Mammoth Cave Hotel,
758-2225

FUEL

Service Center Camp Store at
Headquarters Campground

Warning!

Keep Wildlife Wild!

Please don't feed the animals in the park. They can become dependent on unhealthy human handouts. Also, they are not tame and can hurt you, no matter how "cute" they may seem. The park is their refuge – don't kill any living thing, even animals you may be afraid of or find unpleasant, like snakes, salamanders and insects. They are all part of the living system of Mammoth Cave.

Be Car-Safe!

Sad to say, not all of our visitors are as honest as you, and items have been stolen from vehicles. Always lock your vehicle and stow any valuables out of sight of a would-be thief.

Also, not all of our visitors know the dangers of leaving children or pets in the car during their visit; temperatures inside a closed car can reach a dangerous 120 degrees on a hot day.

Accessibility

Visitor Center

The Visitor Center and its restrooms are accessible. One or more rangers are trained – to some degree – in sign language. Call the park ahead of time to find out if a sign language interpreter will be available when you plan to visit. Inquiries may also be made at the Information Desk.

Headquarters Campground Area

Loop D has two designated wheelchair accessible campsites. Restroom facilities are also accessible. The nearby campstore, post office, and laundry facilities are also accessible. Camping facilities are available March through November.

Picnic Area

Open seasonally, the Picnic Area is minimally accessible. There are two handicapped parking spaces and picnic tables. Restrooms are not accessible for mobility impaired visitors.

Heritage Trail

This level offers all visitors a leisurely stroll and has been specially designed to accommodate visitors with disabilities. The trail features wheelchair turnouts, rest areas with benches, and lights for evening use. Along this trail, you'll find a beautiful overlook, large trees, and The Old Guide's Cemetery. You can borrow a cassette tape describing the walk at the Visitor Center. The trail begins at the end of the footbridge near the Mammoth Cave Hotel.

Ranger Activities

Most ranger-led programs around the Visitor Center are accessible. Inquire at the Information Desk.

Hotel & Restaurant

Recent hotel renovations now provide access for visitors in a wheelchair. Four fully accessible overnight accommodations and two fully accessible sets of restrooms are now available.

Cave Tour Reservation Order Form — Mammoth Cave National Park

Mail To: DESTINET 9450 Carroll Park Drive San Diego, CA 92121-2256

Enclosed is \$_____ for _____ Adult Tickets and _____ Youth Tickets (under 16) or holder of Golden Access Passport Tickets, plus \$_____ at one dollar reservation fee per ticket.

Please send tickets to:

Name _____ Phone () _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____



Preferred Date: _____ Alternate: _____

Please write in number of tickets:

- ☐ Gothic Tour
- ☐ Frozen Niagara Tour
- ☐ Historic Tour
- ☐ Cleaveland Avenue Tour
- ☐ Violet City Lantern Tour
- ☐ Travertine Tour
- ☐ Wild Cave Tour
- ☐ Trog Tour
- ☐ Great Onyx Tour
- ☐ Introduction to Caving
- ☐ Making of Mammoth
- ☐ Mammoth Passage Tour

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| ☐ Morning | ☐ Mid-day | ☐ Afternoon |
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More Information

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Mammoth Cave National Park
Mammoth Cave, KY 42259



MAMMOTH CAVE GUIDE

Your Guide to Visiting Mammoth Cave National Park

Cave tours sell out quickly, so in order to participate in the tour of your choice, we strongly urge you to make reservations. For all cave tours, you can make reservations following the schedule at left, and no later than one hour before you wish to tour the cave. If you live in the U.S.A. or Canada, make reservations by calling

1-800-967-2283

From Europe, dial 1-619-452-8787. Use MasterCard, Visa or Discover. Card to pay for your phone reservations. In addition to the regular fee for ranger-led activities, you will be charged an additional \$1 fee for each ticket sold over the telephone. You can also make reservations in person at the park Visitor Center for no additional charge. Groups of forty or more people are eligible for a discount on certain programs.

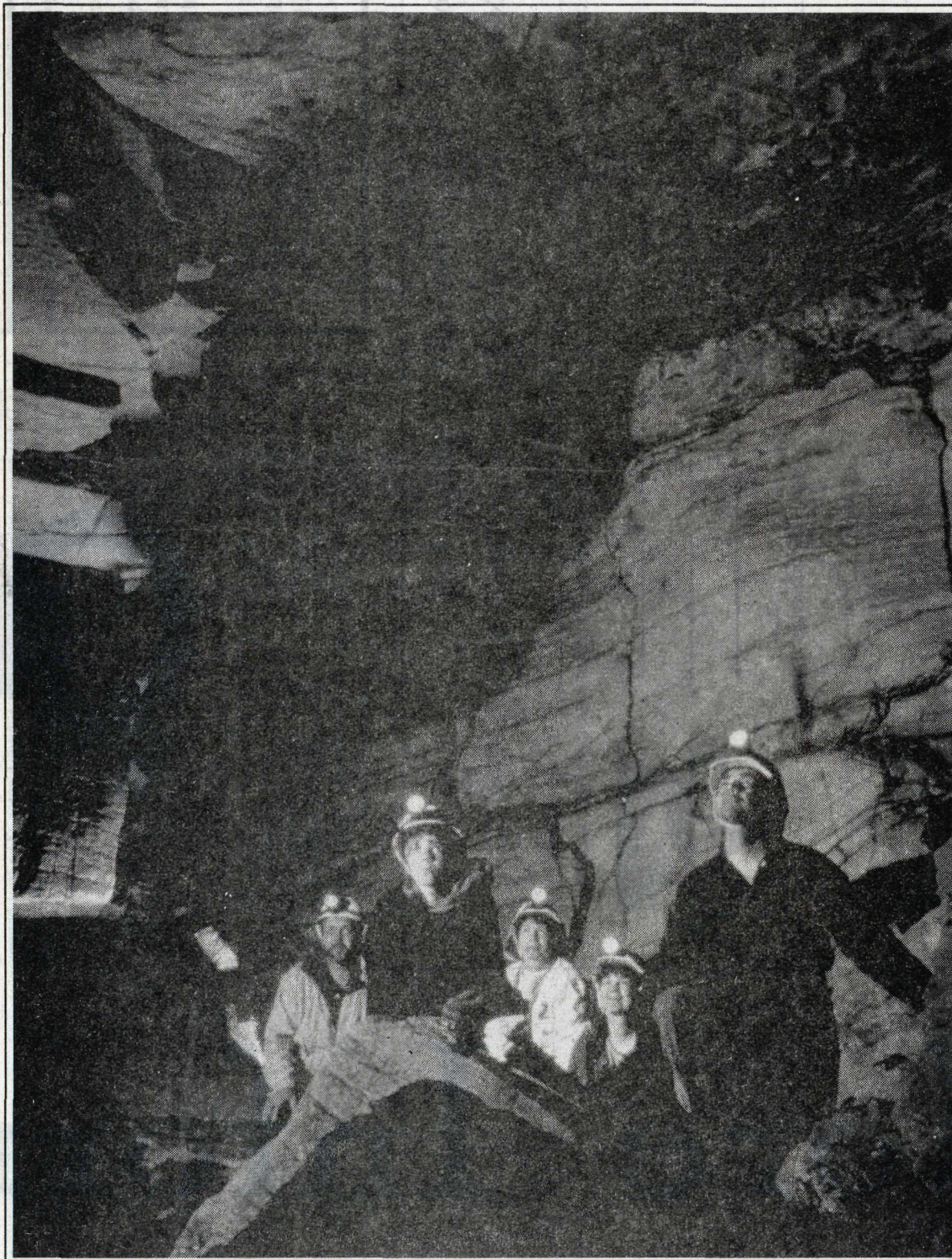
To order by mail, see Page 7.

How To Reserve Cave Tour Tickets

Call 1-800-967-2283

Ticket Table: Call up to five months in advance!

If you call for your tickets between	You can buy tickets for	Ticket Table: Call up to five months in advance!		
		For information on tours in 1997, call the toll-free number 1(800)967-2283	July 15 - September 3	September 31 - December 31
January 15 - April 14	January 15 - April 14	April 15 - July 14	April 15 - September 3	September 3 - January 14



Mammoth Cave • National Park



MAMMOTH CAVE GUIDE



Looking at a map of the boundaries of a park like Mammoth Cave gives the impression of a place isolated, and insulated, from everywhere else. But all of these places – all national parks – are vitally joined to the world around them. And few make this clearer than Mammoth Cave.

We are discovering that the park's 52,830 acres do not encompass all the resources that inspired Congress in 1926 to authorize a new national park in Kentucky. The cave itself reaches beyond the boundary under surrounding hills and ridges. The real measure of the park's connection to the outside world is not what goes out of the park, but what comes in....

1996