



With more than 400 miles of cave passageways, Mammoth Cave ranks as the longest known cave in the world. Mammoth Cave National Park was established in 1941. In 1981, the park was designated a World Heritage Site, and became the core area of an International Biosphere Reserve in 1990. The park merits this extra protection and special status for its spectacular features on the surface and in the cave, and the way these features illustrate the connection between humans and their environment.

## Ranger-Led Activity Schedule • Spring 2014

March 15 – May 23

Cave Tours	Departures
Mammoth Passage Tour	Offered as visitation warrants
Frozen Niagara Tour	9:15, 11:45, 4:15
Mammoth Cave Discovery Tour	Offered as visitation warrants
Historic Tour	9:00, 10:00, 12:00, 1:45, (2:15 Fri-Sat), 3:15
Domes and Dripstones Tour	9:30, 10:00, 11:15, 12:15, 12:45, 1:30, 2:00, 2:45, 3:45
Star Chamber Tour	5:30 pm (Fri-Sat)
Gothic Avenue Tour	10:45
Violet City Lantern Tour	2:30
Trog	9:00 (Sat-Sun)
Introduction to Caving	12:45 (Sat-Sun)
Wild Cave Tour	9:30 (Sat-Sun)
Surface Walks & Programs—Free!	Departures
Cedar Sink Hike	8:30
Heritage Walk	9:15
Visitor Center Hours	8:00a.m. – 6:00p.m. Central Time

\*Not available by reservation. Tickets may be purchased at the Visitor Center on day of tour only.

Note—Certain tours have age limits! Please review the tour descriptions on the reverse side of this brochure before selecting your tour. Youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult 18 years or older on all tours.



The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

For full park information, go online to [www.nps.gov/mac](http://www.nps.gov/mac) or call 270.758.2180.

### Prices

Cave Tour	Adults	Youth <sup>1</sup>	Special Access <sup>2</sup>	Educational <sup>3</sup>
Mammoth Passage Tour	\$5.00	\$3.50	\$2.50	
Frozen Niagara Tour	\$10.00	\$8.00	\$5.00	
Mammoth Cave Discovery Tour	\$4.00	\$2.50	\$2.00	
Historic Tour	\$12.00	\$8.00	\$6.00	\$5.00
Domes and Dripstones Tour	\$12.00	\$8.00	\$6.00	
Star Chamber Tour	\$12.00	\$8.00	\$6.00	\$5.00
Gothic Avenue Tour	\$11.00	\$8.00	\$5.50	\$5.00
Violet City Lantern Tour	\$15.00	\$11.00	\$7.50	
Trog	n/a	\$14.00	n/a	
Introduction to Caving	\$23.00	\$18.00	\$11.50	
Wild Cave Tour	\$48.00	n/a	\$24.00	

<sup>1</sup>Box office only—not available by reservation. <sup>2</sup>Youth is 6-12 years of age. <sup>3</sup>Special access prices are for visitors presenting Golden Age, Golden Access, and America The Beautiful Senior and Access Passes. <sup>4</sup>Educational prices apply to Kindergarten-College groups. Please call the park at 270.758.2180 to schedule your educational group.

### Interested in a second cave tour?

A \$3 second-tour discount may apply to Historic, Domes and Dripstones, Frozen Niagara, and Mammoth Passage tours if purchased in person at the park for tours on the same day only. Note: The entire Frozen Niagara Tour route is seen on the Domes and Dripstones Tour. Parts of Mammoth Passage Tour are seen on the Historic Tour.

### Getting Here

Mammoth Cave National Park is located near Interstate 65 in southcentral Kentucky, about 90 miles from both Louisville, KY and Nashville, TN. From the north, take exit 53 (Cave City); from the south, take Exit 48 (Park City). Signs will direct you to the park Visitor Center. Our address is 1 Mammoth Cave Parkway, Mammoth Cave, KY 42259

**We're in the Central Time Zone!**



### ►Tour requirements regarding White Nose Syndrome (WNS) in bats

While there are no known harmful effects to humans, White Nose Syndrome is responsible for the deaths of millions of hibernating bats across the United States and Canada since its discovery in 2006. White Nose Syndrome was found at Mammoth Cave National Park in 2013, but not in toured areas. Park staff are taking precautions to minimize the spread of the fungus that causes White Nose Syndrome to or from the park. ►When going on a cave tour, do not wear clothing or shoes that have been worn in other caves or mines. ►All participants on cave tours must walk on bio-security mats immediately following the conclusion of their tour. ►For more information, call 270.758.2180, look for the latest information on the park website at [www.nps.gov/mac/whitenose.htm](http://www.nps.gov/mac/whitenose.htm), or inquire at the Information Desk upon arrival at the park Visitor Center.

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## Reservations

Please note that Mammoth Cave National Park offers a number of guided tours, both on the surface and underground. Demand is high for these popular activities—tours can, and do, sell out. You may reserve tickets in advance for cave tours by calling (877)444-6777. Campground reservations are also available through this service. You may also make your reservations via internet using the address:

[www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

### For Reservations...

By Phone: (877)444-6777

TDD (hearing impaired): (877)833-6777

### Payment...



### Cancellation...

Cancellation fees apply. Call (888)448-1474 for more information.

### Call Center Hours...

9:00 am–9:00 pm Central Time, 7 days a week.

Take a little time to ensure that the activity you have chosen is the best one for you. All cave tours and nature walks can be strenuous, so be sure you understand what will be required of you before the start of your activity. If you are unsure, ask a park ranger to explain what will be required of you. NEVER let someone talk you into doing an activity if you feel uneasy about it. Youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult 18 years or older on all tours. •Cave and surface trails are uneven and slippery so be sure you have the proper footwear and always look before you step. •All cave tours require shirts and shoes for admittance. •Any type of backpack or knapsack, camera tripods or monopods, child strollers and infant backpack carriers are prohibited in the cave for visitor safety and resource protection. •Walking sticks and canes are permitted on cave tours only when sufficient need is demonstrated. •To protect air quality, smoking is not permitted in the cave or at cave entrances. •Year-round cave temperature in interior passageways fluctuates from the mid-50s to the low 60s (in degrees Fahrenheit). However, winter temperatures can be below freezing at entrances! Generally, you will be comfortable if you wear long pants and bring a sweater or jacket.



### Camping & Picnic Shelter Fees

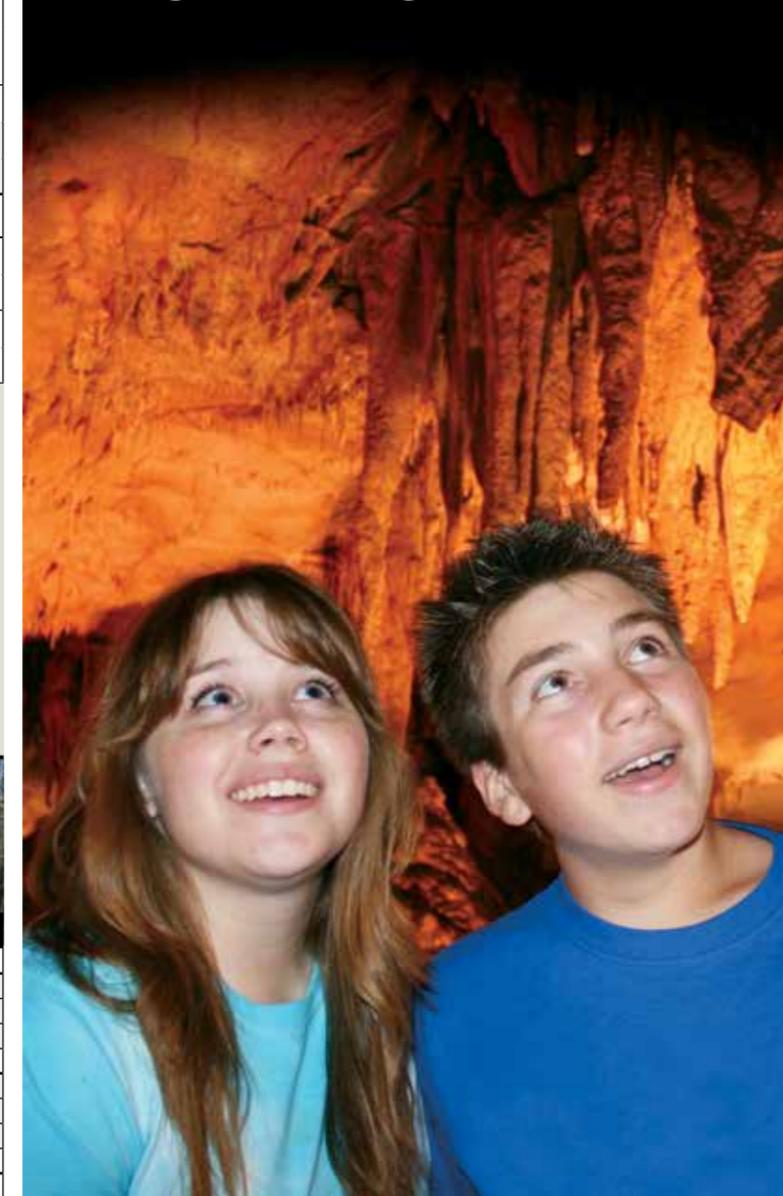
Location	Site Type	Regular	Special Access
Mammoth Cave CG	Regular	\$17.00	\$8.50
	Group - MC	\$20.00	
	VIP	\$40.00	\$20.00
Mammoth Cave Campground is open March 1 - November 30.			
Maple Springs CG	Group - MS	\$30.00	
	Horses - No Hookups	\$22.00	
	Horses - Hookups	\$30.00	
Maple Springs Group Campground is open March 1 - November 30.			
Houchin Ferry CG	Primitive Frontcountry	\$12.00	\$6.00
Houchin Ferry Campground is open year-round. NOTE: Houchin Ferry Campground is tentatively open for Spring 2014, but please contact the park to confirm before arrival.			
Picnic Shelter	Open Shelter	\$25.00	
Limited availability.			
Picnic Shelter	Enclosed Shelter	\$50.00	

Enclosed shelter; available weekends from March 1 to Memorial Day; Daily from Memorial Day to Labor Day, and weekends from Labor Day to November 30.

**Mammoth Cave National Park**



Ranger-Led Programs



**Spring 2014**



## ▲ Surface Activities

### Underground Tours ▼

#### Cedar Sink Hike

► Meander through a range of ecosystems supporting an abundance of spring wildflowers to a karst window where an underground stream briefly emerges. Cedar Sink's geology and biodiversity make this one of the Park's premiere surface hikes. ► *1½ hours, 1.6 miles. Total stairs: 300. ► Meets at the Cedar Sink Trailhead - visitors drive personal vehicles. Difficulty: Moderate.*

All ranger-led surface activities are free of charge!



#### Heritage Walk

► Learn how early residents interacted with the landscape, and the role the Green River and cave systems played in their communities. This boardwalk trail travels along a forested ridge and includes a scenic valley overlook. ► *¾ hour, ¾ mile. Difficulty: Easy.* ♿



INTRODUCTORY CAVE TOURS

#### Mammoth Passage Tour

► Visit the Rotunda, one of the largest rooms in the cave and explore a vast canyon passageway. Learn about prehistoric Native American explorers, saltpeter mining operations, and basic cave geology. This is a short introductory tour to Mammoth Cave. ► *1¼ hours, ¾ mile. Tour limit: 40. Total stairs: 160. Elevation change: 160'. ► Includes part of the Historic Tour and all of the Discovery Tour route. Offered as visitation warrants. Call the Park the day of your visit to check availability. Includes a steep outdoor hillside trail to and from the cave's natural entrance. This tour does not see dripstone formation areas. Not available by reservation. ► Meets at the Visitor Center. Difficulty: Easy.*



#### Frozen Niagara Tour

► Often the perfect taste of Mammoth Cave for visitors with very small children, elderly family members, or others who cannot walk long distances. Not sure you like close places? Have trouble walking or managing long staircases? This short visit through a decorative area of Mammoth Cave might be best for you. ► *1¼ hours, ¼ mile. Tour limit: 36. Total stairs: 12, plus an optional 98. Elevation change: 50'. ► Includes part of the Domes and Dripstones Tour and Grand Avenue Tour routes. ► Meets at the Visitor Center. Difficulty: Easy.*

#### Mammoth Cave Discovery Tour

► Visit one of the largest rooms in the cave and explore a vast canyon passageway. Learn about prehistoric explorers, saltpeter mining, early owners and basic cave geology on this self-guiding tour. Rangers are on hand along this short introductory tour. ► *½ hour, ¾ mile. Total stairs: 160. Elevation change: 160'. ► Includes part of the Historic Tour and all of the Mammoth Passage Tour routes. Offered as visitation warrants. Call the Park the day of your visit to check availability. Includes a steep outdoor hillside trail to and from the cave's natural entrance. Not available by reservation. ► Meets at the Historic Entrance. Difficulty: Easy.*

GENERAL CAVE TOURS



#### Historic Tour

► Learn stories of our earliest tourists, cave guides and cave explorers. Descend through multiple levels of diverse passageways before climbing 155 stairs to exit back out the Historic Entrance. ► *2 hours, 2 miles. Tour limit: 120. Total stairs: 440, including 155 at Mammoth Dome. Elevation change: 300'. ► Limited areas of the Discovery, Mammoth Passage, Star Chamber, River Styx and Violet City Lantern Tours are visited on this route. This tour does not visit dripstone formation areas. ► Meets at the Visitor Center. Difficulty: Moderate.*



#### Domes and Dripstones Tour

► A wonderful complement to the Historic Tour, this trip includes a dramatic series of domes and pits, typical large trunk passageways, and a short journey through dripstone formations. A ten-minute bus ride to and from the entrances is included. This tour was formerly known as the New Entrance Tour. ► *2 hours, ¾ mile. Tour limit: 114. Total stairs: 500, including 280 on initial descent. Elevation change: 250'. ► Includes the complete Frozen Niagara Tour route and a portion of the Grand Avenue Tour route. ► Meets at the Visitor Center. Difficulty: Moderate.*

#### Star Chamber Tour

► This nostalgic trip into the cave's natural entrance is reminiscent of early tours of Mammoth Cave. Who were the patients who desperately found their way to the short-lived tuberculosis hospital? Who was George S. Gatewood and why are his name and initials seen on the walls of Gothic Avenue? This trip is by lantern light. ► *2½ hours, 1½ miles. Tour limit: 40. Age limit: 6 and older. Total stairs: 200. Elevation change: 160'. ► Includes parts of the Historic, Violet City Lantern, Gothic Avenue, Discovery, and Mammoth Passage Tour routes. Lanterns may cause some discomfort for visitors with respiratory illnesses. Only adults may carry lanterns. ► Meets at the Visitor Center. Difficulty: Moderate.*

#### Gothic Avenue Tour

► Gothic Avenue features hundreds of candle-smoked signatures and monuments of stacked limestone dating back through the cave's early years of tourism. ► *2 hours, 1½ miles. Tour limit: 40. Total stairs: 230. Elevation change: 140'. ► Portions of this tour are also seen on the Historic Tour, Mammoth Passage Tour, Star Chamber Tour and Violet City Lantern Tour. ► Meets at the Visitor Center. Difficulty: Moderate.*

SPECIALTY CAVE TOURS



SPECIALTY TOURS



#### Violet City Lantern Tour

► Walk through miles of large passages by lantern light. Relive the stories and illusions of almost 200 years of tourism as the guides recreate the rugged nature of early tours. The flickering flame and rustic trails in this area make it seem as if time stands still in the cave. ► *3 hours, 3 miles. Tour limit: 38. Age limit: 6 and older. Total stairs: 160, and numerous hills without handrails. Elevation change: 160'. ► Includes parts of the Historic, Gothic Avenue, Star Chamber, and Mammoth Passage Tour routes. Lanterns may cause some discomfort for visitors with respiratory illnesses. Only adults may carry lanterns. Good walking shoes recommended. ► Meets at the Visitor Center. Difficulty: Strenuous.*

### SPELUNKING ADVENTURES



#### Trog

► A kids-only off-trail adventure! Hike through the forest and find out how the surface and subsurface are connected. Learn how cavers safely explore today. Unlock the secrets of how cave life survives. Discover a new world as you hike, crawl and belly-slide through the cave. ► *2¾ hours, 1½ miles. Tour limit: 12. Age limit: 8-12 years only. Total stairs: 200. Elevation change: 180'. ► Shorts and t-shirts are recommended for wear under coveralls. Parents, guardians and/or chaperones must attend the first 30 minutes of the tour to assist when children "suit up" with their equipment; adults must pick up children promptly at the end of the tour. Coveralls, kneepads, hard hats, and headlamps will be provided. Sturdy footwear or tennis shoes recommended; no open toed shoes. Requires at least 2 participants. ► Meets at the Hotel dorms near the tennis courts. Difficulty: Moderate.*

SPELUNKING ADVENTURES

#### Introduction to Caving

► A wild caving challenge for new cavers or families! Designed for both adults and kids 10 years and up. Learn the rules and techniques of safe caving, and an appreciation of this special environment. Similar to Wild Cave Tour, but shorter and less difficult. ► *3½ hours, 1 mile. Tour limit: 20. Age limit: 10 and older. Total stairs: 280+. Elevation change: 250'. ► An adult must accompany visitors under age 18. Organized youth groups must have at least two adult representatives accompanying minor children. Chest or hip measurement must not exceed 42 inches; if you are larger, you cannot physically pass through the crawlspaces. Lace-up hiking boots that cover the ankle are required. Boots must have good tread. No slick-soled footwear is permitted. No tennis shoes allowed. You will not be allowed to participate in the tour if you are not wearing proper footwear—No exceptions. Shorts and t-shirts are recommended for wear under coveralls. Please bring extra pair of shoes or sandals for use during boot cleaning after the tour. All equipment and outerwear provided; no personal caving equipment allowed. Requires at least 2 participants. ► Meets at the Visitor Center. Difficulty: Strenuous.*

#### Wild Cave Tour

► A wild caving challenge for adults only. Venture into miles of undeveloped passageways no other tour sees. Be prepared for free-climbing, lengthy crawls, wet areas, and tight openings. Good physical condition is essential. ► *6-6½ hours, 5 miles. Tour limit: 14. Age limit: 16+; proof of age may be requested. Elevation change: 300'. ► An adult must accompany visitors under age 18. Organized youth groups must have at least two adult representatives accompanying minor children. Chest or hip measurement must not exceed 42 inches; if you are larger, you cannot physically pass through the crawlspaces. Lace-up hiking boots that cover the ankle are required. Boots must have good tread. No slick-soled footwear is permitted. No tennis shoes allowed. You will not be allowed to participate in the tour if you are not wearing proper footwear—No exceptions. Shorts and t-shirts are recommended for wear under coveralls. Please bring extra pair of shoes or sandals for use during boot cleaning after the tour. All equipment and outerwear provided; no personal caving equipment allowed. Visitors will need to bring their own lunch or snacks and water bottle. A small fanny pack will be provided. Requires at least 2 participants. ► Meets at the Visitor Center. Difficulty: Very Strenuous.*



Sign language interpreters may be provided on cave tours by calling 270.758.2180 at least two weeks prior to the reserved tour(s).