

2014 Program Schedule

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

Cumberland Gap National Historical Park



Gap Cave

A two-hour adventure awaits as you explore Gap Cave with its majestic stalagmites, striking stalactites and shimmering flowstone. Step into the music room and listen for the whispers of a Civil War soldier. Catch a glimpse of a little brown bat or a cave salamander. Reservations are recommended and can be made up to one month in advance of the trip date. Meet at the Daniel Boone parking area.

This tour involves a 1.5-mile walk; 183 steps must be negotiated within the cave. For the safety of all, no children under the age of five are permitted on the cave tour. Wearing of beach/flip flop sandals, crocs or high heeled dress shoes in the cave is not allowed.

Adults - \$8.00
Seniors with Interagency Senior Pass - \$4.00
Visitors with Interagency Access Pass - \$4.00
Children five through twelve - \$4.00

January 1 - March 29

Weekends only at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

March 30 - May 24

Weekdays at 10:00 a.m.
Weekends at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

May 25 - August 30

Daily at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

August 31 - November 30

Weekdays at 10:00 a.m.
Weekends at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Hensley Settlement

Visit historic Hensley Settlement for a nostalgic look into early 20th century Appalachia. Meander down fence lined lanes, peek into the blacksmith's shop, look into the springhouse or sit in the one room school. In 1903, Sherman Hensley and Willie Gibbons joined forces to establish a homestead on the mountaintop. Using hand tools to split chestnut logs, the settlers began to build homes. Fences surrounded the cleared land, creating pastures and garden plots. A thriving community soon emerged. The land, suitable for raising sheep and growing crops for liquid spirits, supported the community of twelve farmsteads for more than forty years. Reservations are recommended and can be made up to one month in advance of the trip date. Tour departs from the park visitor center.

Visitors must be able to walk one mile through the settlement; comfortable clothing and walking shoes are a must. Bring a light snack and drink for the 3 1/2 hour tour. Service animals only; no other pets allowed on shuttle.

Adults - \$10.00
Seniors with Interagency Senior Pass - \$5.00
Visitors with Interagency Access Pass - \$5.00
Children twelve and under - \$5.00

May 11 – October 31

Daily at 9:30 a.m.

Shuttle will not be offered August 10th.



Hike of the Month

Cumberland Gap's 85 miles of hiking trails provide plenty of opportunities for an hour long jaunt or an all day adventure. Whether a novice or aficionado, there's a hike for you!

February 22

Sugar Run Hike

Walk in the footsteps of Civil War soldiers during this 6.5-mile loop (sections of the Ridge and Sugar Run Trails and the Harlan Road and Fort McCook Trails) which meanders by earthwork remains and rifle pits.

Thomas Walker parking area at 9:00 a.m.

March 8

Chadwell Gap Hike

Join rangers in hiking the Chadwell Gap trail to Hensley Settlement. Learn about historic coke ovens and marvel at unique geologic formations. This strenuous 7-mile round trip hike includes a 2000-foot elevation gain in the initial 2 miles.

Chadwell Gap trailhead at 9:00 a.m.

April 19 and 20

Wildflower Hikes

With the coming of spring, Mother Nature spreads her colorful apron upon the earth. Dazzling yellow wood sorrel, stunning violet, liverwort and delicate pink lady slippers are but a few of the prism colored gems scattered along the landscape. Short hikes on trails around the campground will reveal these beauties.

Wilderness Road Campground amphitheater at 10:00 a.m.

May 17

Lower Sugar Run

Look closely ... critters lurk in the damp mountain forest hidden beneath logs, in streams, under rocks. Explore the woodlands during this 2-mile round trip hike while learning about salamanders, frogs, and other plants and animals that thrive in the shady, wet world of the mountain stream community.

Sugar Run picnic area at 10:00 a.m.

June 28

Shillalah Creek Road

Massive sandstone outcroppings, fabulous rhododendron groves and the refreshing water of Shillalah Falls will greet us during this 10-mile round trip hike.

Shillalah Creek Road at 9:00 a.m.

July 12

Wilderness Road Hike

Join thousands of spirits - the American Indian, the pioneer, the African-American slave, and many others who whispered tales of the Cumberland Gap as we walk in their footsteps during this 3.5-mile round trip hike along the park's signature trail.

Daniel Boone parking area at 9:00 a.m.

August 23

Honey Tree Spur Trail

This peaceful 2.2-mile round trip trail includes an initial climb with several switchbacks that opens into a bramble field, a good spot for bird watching. At its summit, the trail offers a spectacular view of the Virginia countryside.

Wilderness Road Campground amphitheater at 9:00 a.m.

September 13

Lewis Hollow to Gibson Gap Trail Loop

Classic karst features including a sinking stream, iron ore mining evidence and a mixed hardwood forest community make this 9.3-mile round trip hike perfect for an early autumn outing.

Wilderness Road Campground picnic area at 9:00 a.m.

October 25th

White Rocks and Sand Cave

The White Rocks were a major landmark to weary travelers on their way to the Cumberland Gap. Journey with a ranger on this strenuous 9-mile round trip hike through lush forests with breathtaking views. See the many colors of Sand Cave.

Civic Park at 9:00 a.m.

November 15

Cumberland Trail

This soon to be completed 300-mile long trail extends from its northern terminus at Cumberland Gap to its southern terminus on Signal Mountain just outside Chattanooga, TN. On this day, we'll hike 7.5-miles round trip and be treated to breathtaking views of the Powell Valley.

Thomas Walker parking area at 9:00 a.m.



**First Thursday of Each Month
Cumberland Mountain Photography Club**

Join fellow photo enthusiasts for an evening of photography demonstrations, techniques and tips designed to capture that perfect photo!

Photographers of all ability levels are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Visitor center at 6:30 p.m.



**March 16
Crow Full Moon Hike**

Northern Native American tribes knew the March full moon as the Crow Moon, when the cawing of crows signaled the end of winter, or the Crust Moon, for the snow cover which becomes crusted from thawing by day and freezing at night. The Full Sap Moon, marking the time of tapping maple trees, is another variation. To the settlers, it was also known as the Lenten Moon, and was considered to be the last full moon of winter. This 1.2-mile round trip hike will lead us into the historic Cumberland Gap.

Thomas Walker parking area at 7:30 p.m.

**April 18
Full Pink Moon Hike**

The herb moss pink, or wild ground phlox, is one of the earliest widespread flowers of the spring lending its name to this full moon.

Other names for this month's celestial body include the Full Sprouting Grass Moon, the Egg Moon, and among coastal tribes, the Full Fish Moon, for this is the season

during which shad swim upstream to spawn. During this 1.2-mile hike, perhaps we'll see the herb moss pink shining in the brilliance of the moon.



Thomas Walker parking area at 8:00 p.m.

**April 19 and 20
Spring Wildflower Weekend**

Immerse yourself in the celebration of the parade of wildflowers. Walks, exhibits and photography workshops will showcase spring's grandeur.

Various sites throughout the park. Inquire at the visitor center for the weekend schedule.



**May 9 and 10
Cumberland Gap Dulcimer Gathering**

The 8th Annual Cumberland Gap Dulcimer Gathering will include bowed psaltry, bowed saw, claw hammer banjo, spoons and upright bass. Tap your feet to the exhilarating rhythm as the *Wilderness Road Dulcimer Club* shares songs of long ago.

Classes begin each day at 10:00 a.m. at various sites throughout the Wilderness Road Campground. A jam or concert begins at 6:30 p.m. each evening at the campground "gathering" site or the campground amphitheater.

**May 24
Lilley Cornett: A Voice for the Forest**

In 1918, Lilley Cornett and other mountain boys were drafted and sent to training camps in the east in preparation to ship out to the frontlines in France. Cornett suffered an injury during basic training and eventually returned to Letcher County, KY where he purchased land around Line Fork, his birthplace. Listen as Kentucky Humanities Council Chautauqua presenter David Hurt shares how Cornett, a conservationist before his time, refused to sell his valuable forest property to developers seeking to get rich from the timber.

Wilderness Road Campground amphitheater at 8:00 p.m. In case of rain, the program will be in the visitor center auditorium.



May 31 - August 30
Every Saturday Night
Evening Around the Campfire

Around the glowing embers of a campfire, tales of long ago begin to emerge. Learn about the lives of the early settlers traveling the Wilderness Road. Explore the forgotten faces and hidden stories of the Civil War including poor mountain people staying loyal to the Union. Learn intriguing tidbits about animals that live in the forest.

Wilderness Road
Campground
amphitheater at
8:00 p.m. In case
of rain, the
campfire program
will be cancelled.



June 11
In the Footsteps of Early Explorers

With thick forest canopy overhead, follow the Wilderness Road Trail which earlier explorers, including Daniel Boone and Lewis and Clark, once traveled. 1.7-mile round trip hike.

Thomas Walker parking area at 10:00 a.m.

June 12, 13 & 14
Genealogy Jamboree

An estimated 44 million Americans can trace their ancestors to the migration through the Cumberland Gap. Learn how to find your forefathers through unique venues located on both sides of the nation's first doorway to the west. Nationally renowned genealogical speakers, traditional crafts people and tradesmen will gather in the Towne of Cumberland Gap and at Cumberland Gap National Historical Park during this jamboree, now in its fourth year.

For additional information on workshop locations and times, connect with www.genealogyjamboree.us.



June 14
Boone Trace Dedication

A day of activities begins at Virginia's Wilderness Road State Park as pathfinder Daniel Boone and others depart Martin's Station to continue their journey to the Cumberland Gap and beyond. The day will culminate during an official ceremony at the national park visitor center.

Keep tuned to www.nps.gov/cuga for additional details on the day's events and times.

June 19
On Guard in Cumberland Gap

During this 3-mile walk, discover Confederate General Felix Zollicoffer's reasoning for choosing the Cumberland Gap as a defensive position in protecting East Tennessee.

Iron Furnace parking area at 10:00 a.m.

June 25
In the Footsteps of Early Explorers

See June 11 program description and meeting place.

July 4 and 5
Torn Within and Threatened Without: Kentuckians and the Civil War Era

Step into the Kentucky Historical Society's HistoryMobile and meet eight Kentuckians ranging from the famous to the everyday citizen! Through personal recollections, primary sources, authentic artifacts and touch-screen activities, learn critical thinking strategies and explore the difficult decisions Kentuckians faced during the Civil War. Each story highlights the importance of individual choice as a major factor in shaping Kentucky history.

- The "Great Compromiser" Henry Clay
- John J. Crittenden
- Union soldier Ben Buckner and his slave Jim
- Elijah Marrs, who was born into slavery but became a Union soldier
- Ellen Wallace, a wealthy homeowner
- Confederate soldier Henry Lane Stone
- Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court John Marshall Harlan

This program is made possible by the generosity of the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, the Pilot Corp., the Kentucky Historical Society Foundation, the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

Visitor center parking area 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

July 5

Common Strings

Darron and Vanessa Nichols take to the stage with music that reflects the hardships and pleasures of rural life in the Appalachian Mountains. They will be true to their mantra: "Our music, considered bluegrass, is nothing more than our expression of feelings and emotions of life. We strive to play our music like it should be played, our style, our sound and not just another cover band."

Wilderness Road Campground amphitheater at 8:00 p.m. In case of rain, the program will be in the visitor center auditorium.



July 17

A General's Dilemma

When Union General George Washington Morgan and his troops arrived at Cumberland Gap on June 18, 1862, all that remained were smoldering embers of supplies Confederates



could not carry with them when they abandoned the area. Morgan guarded the Gap through the summer, but was driven out in September of the same year. When Confederate forces pushed him out of Cumberland Gap, he performed one of the most miraculous retreats ever performed by any general in the war by

overcoming starvation and constant attacks by rebel cavalry. Visualize Morgan's ingenious withdrawal during this 2-mile round trip hike to Fort McCook and into the historic Cumberland Gap.

Thomas Walker parking area at 10:00 a.m.

July 23

In the Footsteps of Early Explorers

See June 11 program description and meeting place.

August 2

Blue and Gray in Black and White

Musicians Sparky and Rhonda Rucker bring to life the story of the Civil War. The duo's passion for this defining moment in America's history inspired this program which



focuses on the war's impact on the different regions of our country. The music and stories, some sad and some humorous, reflect personal insights from the various personalities who participated in the war.

Wilderness Road Campground amphitheater at 8:00 p.m. In case of rain, the program will be in the visitor center auditorium.

August 9

Trickery at the Cumberland Gap

In September 1863, some 1,700 barely trained Union recruits under Colonel John De Courcy marched south toward the Cumberland Gap. On top of Pinnacle Mountain, Confederate General John Wesley Frazer waited for them with 2,500 veterans, well protected in forts and rifle pits. What happened next is unbelievable, for through deception, De Courcy led Frazer to believe his forces to be much larger leading Frazer to surrender unconditionally. During this 1.0-mile round trip walk, delve into De Courcy's brilliant tactics.

Fort McCook parking area at 10:00 a.m.

August 13

In the Footsteps of Early Explorers

See June 11 program description and meeting place.



August 27

In the Footsteps of Early Explorers

See June 11 program description and meeting place.

September 27
Within the Shadows of Cumberland Gap Heritage Walk

Cumberland Gap's history is filled to the brim with chapters of the Cherokee and Shawnee, longhunters and pioneers, Civil War soldiers, industrialists and park visitors! Walk the Wilderness Road Trail through the historic Gap and meet the figures in each riveting chapter. After the 1.5-mile long walk a shuttle service will be provided from the Daniel Boone parking area back to the Thomas Walker parking area. Returning visitors, new characters await you!

Begin your walk at the Thomas Walker parking area. Historical re-enactors will be along the trail from 10 a.m. to noon and again from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.



October 11 and 12
Historic Chocolate Making Demonstrations

The sweet smell of chocolate will waft through the air as a team from American Heritage Chocolate will share chocolate's journey through one-on-one historical bean-to-beverage demonstrations. See, touch, taste and smell the historic chocolate making experience.

Made possible by Mars Chocolate North America and American Heritage Chocolate.

Visitor center
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Photo courtesy of American Heritage Chocolate.



November 6
Beaver Full Moon Hike

During this 1.2-mile round trip hike mile into the historic Cumberland Gap, reflect upon the Native Americans who eons ago, set their beaver traps before the swamps froze to ensure a supply of warm winter furs. Dress warmly.

Thomas Walker parking area at 5:30 p.m.

November 8
Owl Prowl

First, intrepid prowlers will be armed with information on the tri-state's local owls through a program at the park visitor center. Then, with a ranger, head out into the woods and search for these winged nighttime wonders that throughout the ages have fascinated and awed. Wear warm clothing!



Visitor center auditorium at 7:00 p.m.

December 13
A Taste of Christmas Past

In the ever-hastening holiday bustle across the nation, shopping carts are filled with electronic games, gadgets, and gallantry, while streams of shoppers rush about, buying with a vengeance. But in the snow covered mountains of Appalachia the memories of Christmas past still linger, reminding us of what this season was like long ago!

Old and young alike are invited to join in this special morning and enjoy gingerbread, sugar cookies and hot chocolate. Make a craft which you can share with loved ones on Christmas morning.

Visitor center at 10:00 a.m.



Additional programs may be added throughout the year.

Cumberland Gap National Historical Park
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www.nps.gov/cuga

Programs sponsored by the National Park Service, Cumberland Crafts of the Southern Highland Craft Guild, Eastern National and Friends of Cumberland Gap.



www.craftguild.org

www.easternnational.org

www.friendsofcumberlandgap.org