



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Jewel Cave
National Monument

11149 US Hwy 16
Building B12
Custer, SD 57730
605-673-8300 phone
605-673-8397 fax

Jewel Cave National Monument News Release

Release Date: **February 20, 2014**

For Immediate Release

Contact: **Bradley Block / Chief of Interpretation / bradley_block@nps.gov**

Jewel Cave Takes Reservations for Wild Caving Tours

Custer, SD - Jewel Cave National Monument is offering its second Wild Caving Tour this winter on Friday, February 28. The off-trail caving experience is limited to five participants. Reservations are required and can be made at any time prior to Wednesday, February 26.

Wild Caving Tours offer a three to four-hour trek that takes participants off-trail within Jewel Cave. The tour is strenuous, and all cavers are required to fit through an eight and one-half inch by 24 inch opening. Participants must be eighteen years of age or older; however, young adults sixteen or seventeen are allowed on the tour with parental approval. The tour begins at 11:30 a.m. and concludes around 4:00 p.m.

Jewel Cave National Monument also offers two Scenic Tours Wednesday through Friday, occurring at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Scenic Tours are one hour and 20 minutes in length and take participants on a one-half mile guided hike through the cave. Discovery Tours take place Wednesday through Friday at 9:05 a.m. 12:45 p.m. and 3:45 p.m. and consist of a 20-minute educational presentation inside one large room of the cave. Guided cave tours are not available on Mondays or Tuesdays; however, the Visitor Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. (MST).

The third and final winter Wild Caving Tour is slated for Friday, March 21. Interested participants should contact the visitor center directly at 605-673-8300 for information about reservations, ticket fees, and available space. Jewel Cave National Monument can also be visited online at www.nps.gov/jeca. The Visitor Center is currently closed on weekends and Federal holidays through late March 2014.

About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 401 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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