



With more than 392 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 • 2012

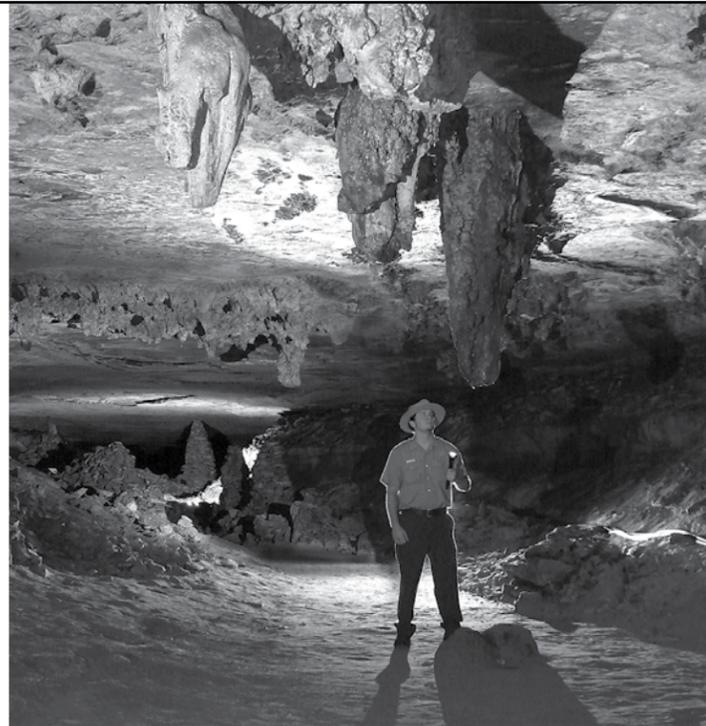
Spring

March 17 – May 24

Cave Tours	Departures
Mammoth Passage Tour*	9:00, (2:45 Fri-Sat), 4:15
Frozen Niagara Tour	8:45, 12:00, 1:00, 3:15, 4:15
Historic Tour	8:45, 9:30, 11:00, 12:00, (12:45 Sat-Sun), 3:00, (3:45 Sat-Sun)
New Entrance Tour	9:00, (9:30 Sat-Sun), 11:30, 1:45, 2:45, 3:45
Grand Avenue Tour	10:00
Snowball Tour	10:15
Violet City Lantern Tour	2:00
Star Chamber Tour	6:00 pm (Fri-Sat)
Trog	2:00 (Sat-Sun)
Introduction to Caving	9:30 (Sat-Sun)
Wild Cave Tour	9:00 Sat-Sun through May 18th, 9:00 May 19-22 and 24
Surface Walks & Programs—Free!	Departures
Water and Wildflowers Hike	8:30
Sand Cave Almanac	3:30 (Fri-Sat)
Slavery at Mammoth Cave Walk	1:45
Evening Program	7:30 pm (Fri-Sat, Beginning March 23rd)
Visitor Center Hours	8:00a.m. – 6:15 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.



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

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. ▶Camera tripods and monopods, child strollers and infant backpack carriers are prohibited in the cave for visitor safety. ▶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! In most areas of the cave, you'll be comfortable if you wear long pants and take a sweater or jacket with you.



Camping & Picnic Shelter Fees

Location	Site Type	Regular	Special Access
Mammoth Cave CG	Regular	\$17.00	\$8.50
Mammoth Cave CG	Group	\$20.00	
Mammoth Cave CG	VIP Public	\$40.00	\$20.00

March 1 - November 30

Maple Springs CG	Group	\$30.00	
Maple Springs CG	Horse - Primitive	\$22.00	
Maple Springs CG	Horse - Hookups	\$30.00	

March 1 - November 30

Houchin Ferry CG	Primitive	\$12.00	\$6.00
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Year-Round

Picnic Shelter	Picnic Shelter - Open	\$25.00	
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Open shelter; limited availability

Picnic Shelter	Picnic Shelter - Enclosed	\$50.00	
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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.

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For full park information, go online to www.nps.gov/macac or call 270.758.2180.



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

Interested in a second cave tour?

A \$3 second-tour discount may apply to Historic, New Entrance, 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 New Entrance 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!

▶The following items are not permitted on Cave Tours: Camera bags and tripods, strollers, luggage (suitcases, duffel bags, etc.), backpacks, bags of any type (including purses and diaper bags). Bags containing necessary medicinal supplies are permitted, but must be inspected and tagged as approved at the Visitor Center. ▶The following items are not permitted on cave tours or in the visitor center: Any type of weapon (clubs, batons, brass knuckles, etc.), pepper spray/mace, sharp instruments (box cutters, scissors, etc.), knives, firearms. Secure these items in your vehicle, or in one of the lockers provided at the bus loading area.

▶White-Nose Syndrome Alert: In order to minimize the spread of White-Nose Syndrome, a fungus that has resulted in the death of more than one million bats in the eastern United States, Mammoth Cave National Park has instituted stringent decontamination procedures for all off-trail spelunking tours this summer. ▶Participants on standard on-trail walking tours may be required to undergo minor decontamination measures upon exiting the cave. ▶Clothing, footwear, and handheld items that have previously been worn or carried into caves or mines may not be brought into Mammoth Cave on any tour. For more information, call 270.758.2180, look for the latest information on the park website at www.nps.gov/macac/whitenose.htm, or inquire at the Information Desk upon arrival at the park Visitor Center.

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

Mammoth Cave National Park



Ranger-Led Programs



Spring • 2012



Water and Wildflowers Hike

▷The Water and Wildflowers Hike into Cedar Sink follows a loop trail from the top of Joppa Ridge down to a cave “window” where flowing underground water may be seen. Local wildflowers will be viewed along the way as the group discusses the rock, water and microclimates that produce so much spring beauty above ground at Mammoth Cave National Park. ▶1½ hours, 1.6 miles. Total stairs: 300.

All ranger-led surface activities are free of charge!

▲ Surface Activities

Underground Tours ▼

Mammoth Passage Tour

▷Considered a brief “smorgasbord” of cultural and natural topics, this tour is a perfect short visit into the cave’s largest and most visited entrance area. Includes the Narrows, Rotunda, large trunk passage and a steep outdoor hillside trail to and from the cave’s natural entrance! ▶1¼ hours, ¾ mile. Tour limit: 40. Total stairs: 160. Elevation change: 160’. ▶Includes parts of the Historic and all of the Discovery Tour routes. 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: 40’. ▶Includes parts of the New Entrance and Grand Avenue Tour routes. Not available by reservation. ▶Meets at the Visitor Center. **Difficulty: Easy.**

Historic Tour

▷Been in other more decorative caves, but never in Mammoth Cave? This journey through the natural entrance leads to “classic” Mammoth Cave—landmarks visited by writers, scientists, military figures and celebrities of the 1800s and early 1900s. A great family trip! ▶2 hours, 2 miles. Tour limit: 120. Total stairs: 440, including 155 at Mammoth Dome. Elevation change: 300’. ▶Limited areas of the Mammoth Cave Discovery, Mammoth Passage, Star Chamber, River Styx and Violet City Lantern Tours are visited on this route. ▶Meets at the Visitor Center. **Difficulty: Moderate.**

New Entrance Tour

▷A wonderful compliment to the Historic Tour, this trip includes a dramatic series of domes and pits, typical large trunk passageways, a short journey through dripstone formations and stairs, stairs, stairs! (Small children may find this trip overly challenging.) ▶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.**

Snowball Tour

▷From the craggy breakdown of the Rocky Mountains, enter the beautifully elliptical Cleaveland Avenue, encrusted with gypsum formations in various crystalline shapes and sizes, from sparkling needles to showy mineral “flowers”. Arrive one mile later in the Snowball Room and enjoy a bite to eat—just as visitors have done there since the 19th century! ▶3 hours, 2 miles. Tour limit: 38. Total stairs: 366 (183 in and out). Elevation change: 267’. ▶This entire route is seen on the Grand Avenue Tour. Food is available at the Snowball Room. Box lunch costs \$8.50 (cash only). Visitors may opt to carry their own picnic lunch into the cave, but must pack it in a clear, see-through backpack or large ziplock bags. ▶Meets at the Visitor Center. **Difficulty: Moderate.**



Sand Cave Almanac

▷A progressive walking and driving tour telling the saga of Floyd Collins, trapped in Sand Cave, in 1925. Meet at the Sand Cave Trailhead, by the Park’s East Entrance. ▶1½-2 hours, ¾ mile. Elevation change: 0’. ▶The caravan will drive 5.2 miles from Sand Cave Trailhead to Mammoth Cave Baptist Church. ▶Meets at the Sand Cave Trailhead. **Difficulty: Easy.** ♿(assisted)

Grand Avenue Tour

▷This long tour is the one you want if you like a strong physical walking challenge or already experienced shorter Mammoth Cave tours. Focuses on the “ups and downs” of the cave system, including multiple tough hill climbs and lots of geological variety. (Includes a short stop for a purchased box lunch at the one-mile mark.) ▶4½ hours, 4 miles. Tour limit: 78. Age limit: 6 and older. Total stairs: 670. Elevation change: 280’. ▶The Snowball and Frozen Niagara Tour routes, and portions of the New Entrance Tour route, are seen on this tour. This tour is not recommended for visitors who have heart or respiratory illnesses, diabetes or walking difficulties. Hills may rise more than 60’ in places. Food is available at the Snowball Room. Box lunch costs \$8.50 (cash only). Visitors may opt to carry their own picnic lunch into the cave, but must pack it in a clear, see-through backpack or large ziplock bags. ▶Meets at the Visitor Center. **Difficulty: Strenuous.**



Violet City Lantern Tour

▷A traditional trip through classic Mammoth Cave by lantern light. This visit to numerous historic landmarks provides a good physical workout as well as nostalgic insights to the cave’s earliest tours. ▶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, Discovery, Star Chamber, 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: Strenuous.**

Slavery at Mammoth Cave Walk

▷This easy walk uses the ¾-mile Heritage Trail, adjacent to the Mammoth Cave Hotel. The ranger will share stories of the old Mammoth Cave Estate and the challenges presented by both enslavement and freedom. Includes the gravesite of enslaved guide Stephen Bishop. ▶¾ hour, ¾ mile. Elevation change: 0’. ▶This boardwalk is wheelchair accessible. ▶Meets at the Visitor Center. **Difficulty: Easy.** ♿

Star Chamber Tour

▷This nostalgic trip into the cave’s natural entrance is reminiscent of the tours of old at 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. A great tour for summer campers! ▶2½ hours, 1½ miles. Tour limit: 40. Age limit: 6 and older. Total stairs: 200. Elevation change: 160’. ▶Includes parts of the Historic, Discovery, Violet City Lantern, 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.**



Trog

▷A kids-only off-trail adventure! Hike through the forest to the Historic Entrance and find out how the surface and subsurface are connected. Put on your hard hat and headlamp (provided) as you travel off-trail. Unlock the secrets of how the animals of Mammoth Cave survive in the deep dark as you hike, crawl and belly-slide through rarely visited passages. ▶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, and must pick up children promptly at the end of the tour to assist with the shoe decontamination. Coveralls, kneepads, hard hats, and headlamps will be provided. Please bring extra pair of tennis shoes or sandals for use during shoe decontamination at the end of the tour. Requires at least 2 participants. ▶Meets at the Visitor Center. **Difficulty: Moderate.**

Evening Program

▷Join a park ranger for a special program at the wheelchair accessible Park Amphitheatre. Programs generally begin just before dark and interpret a different topic each evening during summer. Check at the Visitor Center information desk to learn more about available evening amphitheatre programming. ▶½-¾ hours, miles. ▶The Park Amphitheatre is wheelchair accessible. Consider carrying a flashlight for added safety on the walkways following the program. ▶Meets at the Park Amphitheatre. **Difficulty: Easy.** ♿

Introduction to Caving

▷Want to really go caving? Not sure if spelunking is for you? Try this short small-group caving challenge to discover things about the cave, and yourself. Bring your friends or family. ▶3½ hours, 2 miles. 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. High-top, over-the-ankle lace-up boots, with lug or deeply treaded soles, are required. No low-cut hiking or athletic shoes allowed. You will not be allowed to participate in the tour if you are not wearing proper footwear—No exceptions. Gym shorts and t-shirts are recommended for wear under coveralls. Please bring extra pair of tennis shoes or sandals for use during boot decontamination at the end of 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

▷Face the darkness—and the challenge. Journey with experienced guides and a small adult group through some of the starkly beautiful yet physically demanding “wild” areas of the cave. See places no other tour encounters. ▶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. High-top, over-the-ankle lace-up boots, with lug or deeply treaded soles, are required. No low-cut hiking or athletic shoes allowed. You will not be allowed to participate in the tour if you are not wearing proper footwear—No exceptions. Gym shorts and t-shirts are recommended for wear under coveralls. Please bring extra pair of tennis shoes or sandals for use during boot decontamination at the end of the tour. All equipment and outerwear provided; no personal caving equipment allowed. Food is available at the Snowball Room. A box lunch can be purchased for \$7.50 (cash only). Visitors may bring a lunch and/or water bottle—a small fanny pack will be provided. Requires at least 2 participants. ▶Meets at the Visitor Center. **Difficulty: Very Strenuous.**

INTRODUCTORY CAVE TOURS

GENERAL CAVE TOURS

SPECIALTY TOURS GENERAL CAVE TOURS

SPELUNKING ADVENTURES SPECIALTY CAVE TOURS

GARY BERDEAUX

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