



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 2015 & Memorial Day Weekend

	Spring March 14 – May 22 and May 25 – June 12	Memorial Day Weekend May 23 – May 24
<b>Cave Tours</b>		
Mammoth Passage Tour*	Offered as visitation warrants	Offered as visitation warrants
Frozen Niagara Tour	9:15, 4:15	9:15, 4:15
Mammoth Cave Discovery Tour*	Offered as visitation warrants	Offered as visitation warrants
Historic Tour	9:00, 10:00, 12:00, 1:45, (2:15 Fri-Sat), 3:15	8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:45, 1:15, 1:45, 2:45, 3:15, 3:45
Domes and Dripstones Tour	9:30, 10:00, 11:15, 12:15, 12:45, 1:30, 2:45, 3:45	8:45, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:15, 11:45, 12:15, 12:45, 1:30, 2:00, 2:45, 3:45
Star Chamber Tour	5:30 (Fri-Sat)	
Trog	2:00 (Sat-Sun)	2:00
Introduction to Caving	9:30 (Sat-Sun)	9:30
Wild Cave Tour	9:00 (Sat-Sun)	9:00
<b>Surface Walks &amp; Programs—Free!</b>	<b>Departures</b>	
Heritage Walk	12:15 (Fri-Sat)	
Visitor Center Hours	8:00a.m. – 6:00p.m. Central Time	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 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, knives, or firearms. Secure these items in your vehicle, or in one of the lockers provided at the bus loading area.

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

### Prices

Cave Tour	Adults	Youth	Special Access <sup>2</sup>	Educational <sup>3</sup>
Mammoth Passage Tour*	\$7.00	\$5.00	\$3.50	
Frozen Niagara Tour	\$13.00	\$9.00	\$6.50	
Mammoth Cave Discovery Tour*	\$5.00	\$3.50	\$2.50	
Historic Tour	\$14.00	\$9.00	\$7.00	\$5.00
Domes and Dripstones Tour	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$7.50	
Star Chamber Tour	\$14.00	\$10.00	\$7.00	\$5.00
Trog	n/a	\$16.00	n/a	
Introduction to Caving	\$26.00	\$20.00	\$13.00	
Wild Cave Tour	\$55.00	n/a	\$27.50	

<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!**



### White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) in Bats

Bats are sick and dying here at Mammoth Cave and across the United States and Canada. The effect on bat populations is a 'wildlife disaster' unprecedented in our time, responsible for the deaths of millions of hibernating bats since it began in 2006. In the ecological process, some species could become extinct.

The dying bats have been infected with a disease called white-nose syndrome (WNS), which awakens them when they should be hibernating. White-nose syndrome was found at Mammoth Cave National Park in 2013. It leaves bats weak, decreases their flying ability, and exhausts the energy stored for their long winter's sleep before food is available in the spring. They die of exhaustion, starvation and exposure.

Though WNS is deadly to bats, it is not harmful to humans. Bats can, however, carry other diseases harmful to people, like rabies. While in the park, you may see bats flying at odd times or you may see them on the ground, alive or dead. Although the risk of contracting rabies from a bat is very small, if a bat flies into you, or if you pick up a bat, you may need to be vaccinated.

What can you do to protect yourself?

▷Never touch a bat. If a bat comes into contact with you, or if you see a bat in an unusual place, please notify a park ranger.

▷To decrease the likelihood of bat contact, wear clothing that covers your skin, such as long sleeves, long pants and a hat.

▷Please be aware that cave tours and other activities may be modified or delayed in response to bat activity. ▶As a precaution to minimize the spread of the white-nose syndrome fungus from the park, all participants on cave tours must walk on bio-security mats immediately following their tour. ▶When visiting another cave or mine, do not wear clothing or shoes worn here without first washing them. ▶For more information, call 270.758.2180, visit the park's website at [www.nps.gov/macac/whitenose.htm](http://www.nps.gov/macac/whitenose.htm), or inquire at the Visitor Center.



## 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. Cave tours and nature walks can be strenuous, so be sure you understand what will be required 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. Always look before you step. ▶All cave tours require shirts and shoes for admittance. ▶Backpacks extending above shoulder height, camera tripods or monopods, child strollers and infant backpack carriers are not allowed in the cave for visitor safety and resource protection. ▶Walking sticks and canes are permitted on cave tours only when needed for personal stability or support. ▶Flash photography is not allowed on cave tours. ▶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 wearing long pants and bringing a sweater or jacket.



### Camping & Picnic Shelter Fees

Location	Site Type	Regular	Special Access
Mammoth Cave CG	Regular	\$20.00	\$10.00
	Group - MC	\$25.00	
	VIP	\$50.00	\$25.00
Maple Springs Group CG	Group - MS	\$25.00	
	Horses - No Hookups	\$25.00	
	Horses - Hookups	\$35.00	
Houchin Ferry CG	Primitive Frontcountry	\$12.00	\$6.00

Mammoth Cave Campground is open March 1 - November 30.

Maple Springs Group Campground is open March 1 - November 30.

Houchin Ferry Campground is open year-round.

### Picnic Shelters

Open Shelter \$50.00

Limited availability.

Enclosed Shelter \$75.00

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 2015**  
With Memorial Day Weekend



## ▲ Surface Activities

### Heritage Walk

►Travel with us along the Heritage Trail to 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, with a scenic overlook of the Green River valley from Sunset Point. ►*¾ hour, ¾ mile.* ►Meets at the Visitor Center Back Porch. **Difficulty: Easy.** ♿

All ranger-led surface activities are free of charge!



### 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 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. This tour does not see dripstone formation areas. Not available by reservation. ►Meets at the Visitor Center. **Difficulty: Easy.**

### Frozen Niagara Tour

►The Frozen Niagara Entrance provides easy access to this decorative area of the cave. Walk through a fairyland of formations to learn how dripstone is formed. An optional 49 step staircase takes visitors under the Frozen Niagara formation to the Drapery Room. This easy trip is ideal for people who want a short introduction to Mammoth Cave. A ten minute bus ride to and from the entrance is included. ►*1¼ hours, ¼ mile. Tour limit: 36, 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.**



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### Historic Tour

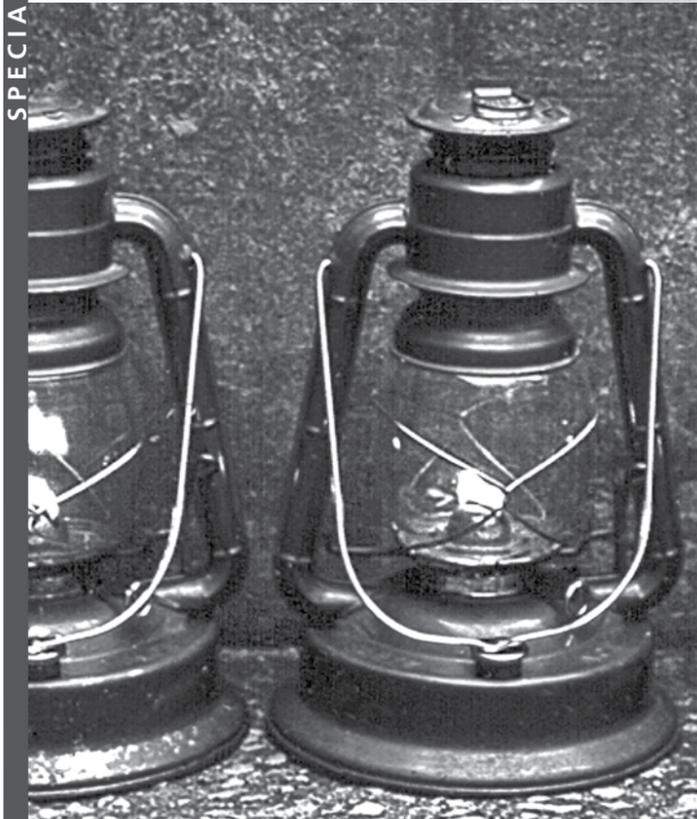
►Feel the same excitement that intrigued our earliest explorers and visitors. Leave initial large passages behind to descend into deeper levels. Cross over Bottomless Pit, squeeze through Fat Man's Misery, clamber up Mammoth Dome tower to return to the Historic Entrance. ►*2 hours, 2 miles. Tour limit: 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

►Wind down through deep pits and high domes via a 280 step staircase. Vertical cave gives way to large canyons and underground hill climbs. Visit the Frozen Niagara formation, then pass through one of the caves most decorative dripstone areas. A ten minute bus ride to and from the entrances is included. 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

►Leave waning daylight behind as you enter the Historic Entrance by lantern light. See the cave as it was seen by early tourists. Gaze upward in the Star Chamber as a traditional illusion is recreated. Follow your guide into mystical Gothic Avenue. Retrace your steps and exit the cave to Kentucky's nocturnal landscape. ►*2½ hours, 1½ miles. Tour limit: 40. Age limit: 6 and older. Total stairs: 260. Elevation change: 160'.* ►Includes parts of the Historic Tour, Violet City Lantern Tour, Gothic Avenue Tour, 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.**



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

## SPELUNKING ADVENTURES



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### 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.**

### 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.**