



Learn More

Caves are a frontier for discovery, a terra incognita with deep secrets and guarded mysteries to explore, study and preserve.

Become a Troglaxene (cave visitor)

There are many different varieties of caves in the National Park Service and there are public access policies just as varied to protect those caves. Always check the cave visitation policies of each individual park before exploring caves on your own.



Make sure that everyone in your party follows the cavers' motto:

Take nothing but pictures

Leave nothing but carefully placed footprints

Kill nothing but time



The National Park Service homepage links to information that will help you plan your visit to any of the 391 National Park areas:

<http://www.nps.gov>

The National Park Service's Views of the National Parks web site provides a multimedia introduction to understanding caves and karst resources:

<http://www.nature.nps.gov/Views/layouts/Main.html#/Caves/>

Tour of National Park Geology:

<http://www.nature.nps.gov/geology/tour/>

National Park Service cave managers' newsletter, *Inside Earth*:

<http://www.nature.nps.gov/geology/caves/newsletter.htm>

Cave photographs of Speleothems, Speleologists, Chambers, Entrances, and Cave Critters:

<http://www.nature.nps.gov/geology/caves/photo.htm>

Links for caving websites, book list (including children's literature), and other resources:

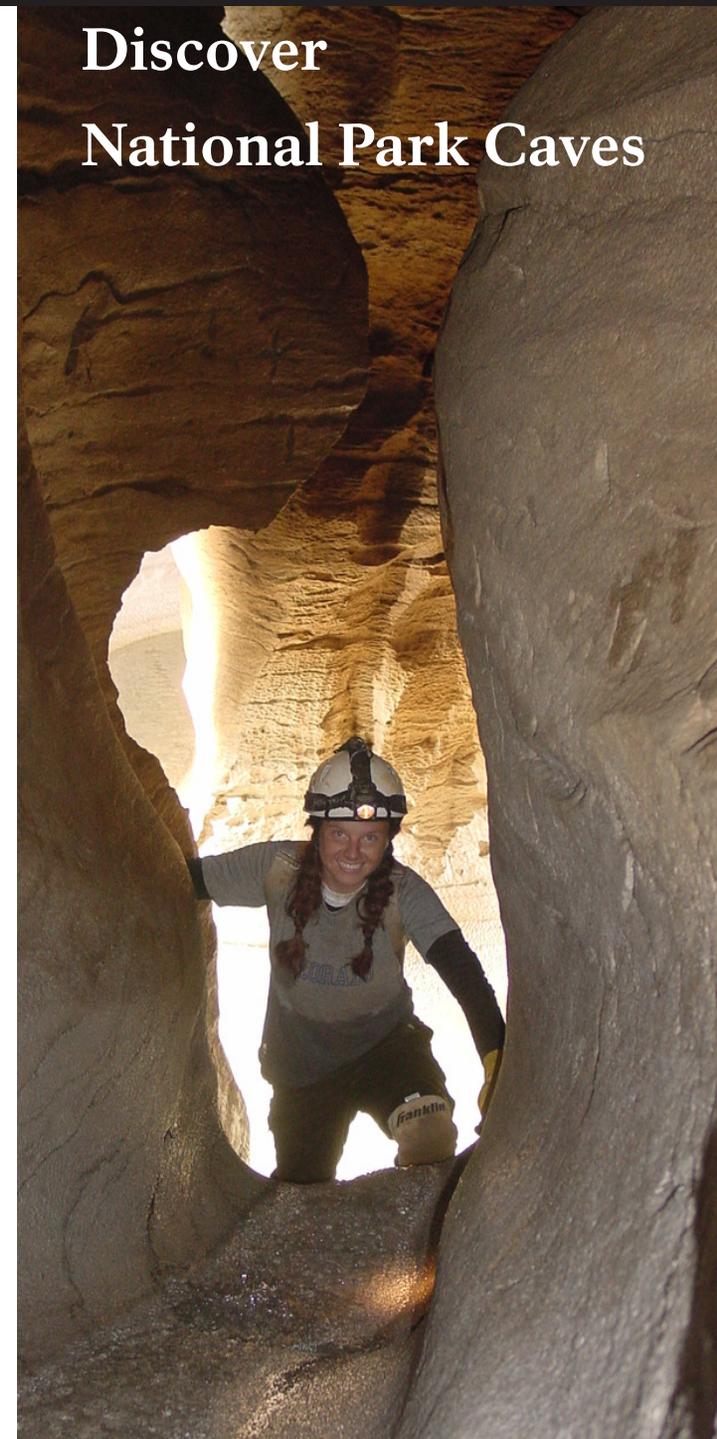
<http://www.nature.nps.gov/geology/caves/links.htm>

National Speleological Society:

<http://www.caves.org>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Discover National Park Caves



U.S. National Parks with Cave Tours

SOLUTION CAVES

Solutional caves are formed by the dissolving of rock along fractures in the presence of weak, acidic water.

Carlsbad Caverns National Park

Outstanding display of cave formations, large bat flights in summer.

Cumberland Gap National Historical Park

Beautiful Gap Cave was used by both Union and Confederate soldiers.

Great Basin National Park

Richly decorated Lehman Caves has abundant shield formations.

Jewel Cave National Monument

2nd longest cave in the world; a 3-dimensional maze cave.

Mammoth Cave National Park

At over 360 miles, the longest cave in the world; several tours offered.

Oregon Caves National Monument

Marble cave with diverse geology.

Ozark National Scenic Riverways

Outstanding karst features with over 300 caves.

Russell Cave National Monument

Contains 10,000 years of archaeological evidence.

Sequoia National Park

Crystal Cave contains banded marble and the famous spiderweb gate.

Timpanogos Cave National Monument

Beautiful displays of helictite and anthodite formations.

Wind Cave National Park

Largest display of boxwork formation, one of the world's longest caves.

TALUS CAVES

An enterable space between boulders (such as at the base of a cliff or mountain) is considered a talus cave.

Pinnacles National Monument

Self-guided hikes to 2 talus caves.



LAVA CAVES

These caves form when lava flows freeze over, drain, and leave behind open tubes.

Craters of the Moon National Monument

Scenic, volcanic terrain with a variety of features including lava tubes.

El Malpais National Monument

View cave life close up in several large lava tubes.

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

Witness lava tubes in the making!

Lava Beds National Monument

Rugged, volcanic landscape with over 700 lava caves.

SEA CAVES

Sea caves form at seashores and lakeshores from the pounding action of waves.

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore

Caves and spectacular scenery await summer and winter visitors.

Point Reyes National Seashore

Sea caves formed along the Pacific coast.