National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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

Become a Trogloxene (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

Learn More

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.