

Cavern Information

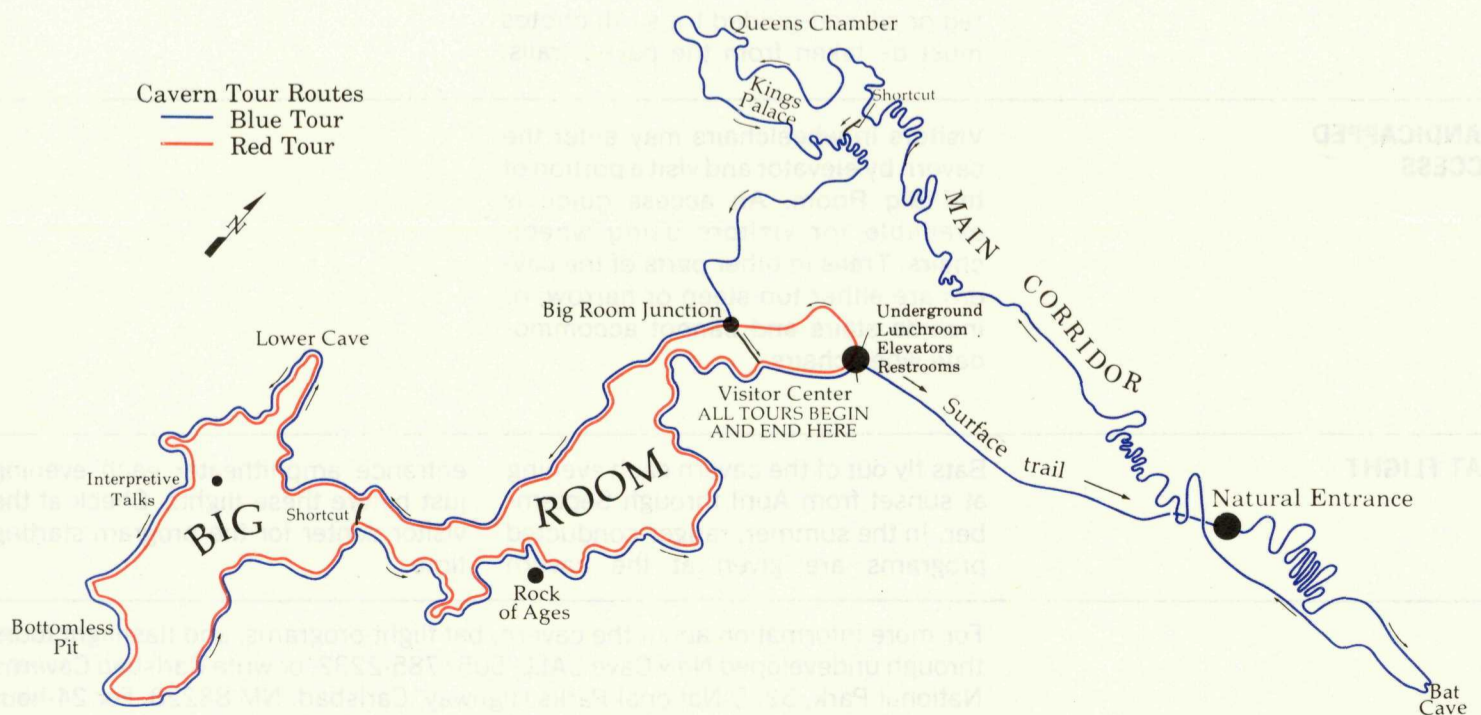
Trips into Carlsbad Cavern are available every day of the year except December 25. Tours are continuous and self-guided and may be started at any time during the hours listed. Visitors may rent interpretive radio receivers for 50¢ each, which provide a personal source of information in English or Spanish. Guided tours are given during some winter months. Park rangers are present throughout the cave to provide information, assistance, and to protect the fragile cavern features.

BLUE TOUR

The BLUE TOUR is the complete walk-through trip (3 miles or 5 kilometers). This tour begins at the visitor center, travels about 300 yards over a surface trail, and then enters the cave through the natural entrance. It takes about 3 hours and is a strenuous walk, not recommended for anyone with serious health or walking problems. In the first 1¾ miles of walking, visitors descend 830 feet and then ascend 80 feet before reaching the underground lunchroom. The second portion of the trip is the same as the RED TOUR — a fairly level walk of 1¼ miles around the Big Room, back to the lunchroom, and return to the surface by elevator.

RED TOUR

Visitors wishing to take the shorter RED TOUR enter the cave by elevator and walk 1¼ miles (2 kilometers) around the Big Room. This walk is fairly level and usually takes 1½ hours to complete. All visitors return to the surface by elevator.



HOURS

Trips are continuous and visitors may enter the cave any time during the hours listed. Except — guided tours through the Main Corridor (first half of BLUE TOUR) Monday thru Friday during days of low visitation in the winter.

Open Every Day

(except Dec. 25)

M O U N T A I N T I M E

| | SUMMER Memorial Day - Labor Day | WINTER Rest of Year |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Visitor Center Opens | 8:00 a.m. | 8:00 a.m. |
| First Blue Tour | 8:30 a.m. | 8:30 a.m. |
| First Red Tour | 8:30 a.m. | 8:30 a.m. |
| Last Blue Tour | 3:30 p.m. | 2:00 p.m. |
| Last Red Tour | 5:00 p.m. | 3:30 p.m. |
| Last Elevator from Cave to Surface | 6:30 p.m. | 5:00 p.m. |
| Visitor Center Closes | 7:00 p.m. | 5:30 p.m. |

Hours are subject to change.

FEES

| | |
|---------------|------------------|
| Adults | - \$5 per person |
| Ages 6 - 15 | - \$3 per person |
| Under 6 | - FREE |
| Golden Age | - \$2.50 |
| Golden Access | - \$2.50 |

Golden Eagle Passes are not applicable. Only cash, traveler's checks, and cashier's checks are accepted as payment.

YOUR COMFORT AND SAFETY

The cavern temperature is a constant 56°F and a light jacket or sweater is recommended for the trip. **Good walking shoes with rubber soles are recommended for all cavern tours.** Open-toed shoes, plastic soles, or high heels are not safe on the steep and wet cavern trails.

Children 15 years of age and younger

must be accompanied by a sponsor of at least 18 years of age.

SERVICES

Food service is available at a restaurant on the surface and at the underground lunchroom. A gift shop, nursery, and kennel are also located in the visitor center. The nursery rate is \$5.00 per child for the 4-hour period normally needed for the cavern trip. This includes a snack. There is also an additional fee when visitors go on a New

Cave tour. The kennel rate is \$3.50 per pet for the same period. **Baby strollers are not allowed on the cavern trails.** There are no overnight accommodations or camping facilities in the park.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography, including the use of flash, tripods and video cameras, is permitted on all self-guided trips. All photos must be taken from the paved trails,

without resting camera equipment on the cavern rocks or formations.

HANDICAPPED ACCESS

Visitors in wheelchairs may enter the cavern by elevator and visit a portion of the Big Room. An access guide is available for visitors using wheelchairs. Trails in other parts of the cavern are either too steep or narrow, or include stairs and cannot accommodate wheelchairs.

BAT FLIGHT

Bats fly out of the cavern each evening at sunset from April through September. In the summer, ranger-conducted programs are given at the cavern

entrance amphitheater each evening just before these flights. Check at the visitor center for the program starting time.

For more information about the cavern, bat flight programs, and flashlight tours through undeveloped New Cave CALL: 505/785-2232, or write Carlsbad Caverns National Park, 3225 National Parks Highway, Carlsbad, NM 88220. For 24-hour recorded information call 505/785-2107.