

Camping at the Park



Welcome!



Three park campgrounds offer you the convenience of camping near your car. One accommodates large groups and horses. Mammoth Cave Campground and Maple Springs Group Campground are open March 1 - November 30; Houchin Ferry Campground and backcountry campgrounds are open year-round.

Mammoth Cave Campground

Located ¼ mile from the park Visitor Center, this campground includes 105 sites. Each site features a paved parking area, a picnic table, and a fire ring. The campground has restrooms, fresh water, a dump station, garbage dumpsters, and a recycling station. There are no hookups for electricity or water. The camping fee is \$20/night/site and \$10 for visitors with Senior/Access Passes. No Refunds. Reservations are recommended. Check-in time is 12 noon, and check-out time is 11am.

A maximum of 8 persons is permitted at each site, and campers may stay a maximum of 14 days in a calendar year. Showers, operated by the park concessioner, are open daily March 1–November 30, 6am-10pm. Showers are located behind the Caver's Camp Store adjacent to the campground. Inquire at the Camp Store for current shower fees. Emergency phone numbers, and announcements regarding park activities, are posted at the bulletin board at the campground entrance.

Mammoth Cave Campground Group Sites

Mammoth Cave Campground also offers 4 sites to accommodate groups, with a limit of 16 campers per site. Each site has paved parking, picnic tables, and a fire ring. \$25/night/site. No discount is offered

on group camping. Check-in time is 12 noon, and check-out time is 11am. No refunds. Reservations are recommended.

Maple Springs Group Campground

Located 6 miles from the Visitor Center and 3 miles north of the Green River Ferry, this campground has 7 sites; 3 of these are primitive group sites with a limit of 24 persons/site, with a fee of \$25/night. Four of the Maple Springs sites are designated horse camp sites with hitching posts and trailer parking, limited to 8 horses/site. Sites #1 and #2 have water and electric hookups, \$35/night. Sites #3 and #4 are primitive (no hookups), \$25/night. All Maple Springs campsites have multiple picnic tables and fire rings. Chemical toilets, garbage dumpsters, and fresh water are available. No discounts for group camping. No

refunds. Reservations are required. Maple Springs Campground check-in time is 12 noon and check-out time is 11am. Note: The most direct route from the Visitor Center to the Group Campground requires crossing the Green River Ferry. The ferry has a load limit of 8 tons. High or low water conditions may impede crossing, especially of motor homes or trailered units. The ferry is open 6am to 9:55pm. daily, except when repairs or hazardous river conditions prevent operation. An alternate route to the campground via state and county roads is 35 miles from the Visitor Center.

Houchin Ferry Campground

Located 15 miles from the park Visitor Center on the south bank of the Green River, this campground includes 12 sites. Each site has a picnic table and a fire ring. The campground has chemical toilets, fresh water, and an adjacent picnic shelter. This campground is not suitable for large trailers or RVs. The camping fee is \$12/night/site and \$6 for visitors with Senior/Access Passes. No refunds. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Backcountry Camping

Thirteen peaceful and scenic backcountry campsites offer opportunities to find solitude and appreciate the beauty and diversity of Mammoth Cave National Park's rugged hills and majestic woodlands. Overnight camping is permitted at designated sites and along floodplains more than ½ mile away from ferry crossings or developed campgrounds. Each campsite holds a maximum of 8 people. All sites

except McCoy Hollow have a nearby water source. Boil and treat water before drinking, or carry in your own drinking water. Go in person to obtain a free backcountry use permit and a free trail map showing backcountry campsites at the Visitor Center. Other detailed guidebooks are available for sale.

Picnic Areas

Located near the park Visitor Center, the picnic area has numerous picnic tables and three picnic shelters, two of which (one open and one enclosed) are available by reservation. The picnic area also has fire grates, restrooms, fresh water, and a garbage dumpster. Each picnic shelter features ten picnic tables, and all but the enclosed

shelter offer working fireplaces. The reservation fee is \$50 per day, \$75 per day for the enclosed shelter. Availability is limited; call the park for information. No Refunds. The picnic area is open 8am to 8pm March through November.

Information and Regulations

Campground Kiosk Phone: 270.758.2424

For general park information, call 270.758.2180, or go online: www.nps.gov/maca

For Reservations:

Mammoth Cave Campground, Maple Springs Group Campground, and the Visitor Center Picnic Area

Toll-Free: 1.877.444.6777

Online: www.recreation.gov

Visa, Mastercard, American Express, and Discover Card are accepted.

Parkwatch!

Please report all crime promptly by dialing 911.

To pass on information to the Park regarding criminal activity, and you wish to remain anonymous, please dial (888)219-1599

- 1. Pay the camping fee at the entrance kiosk. Check-in time is 12 noon. Check-out time is 11 am.
- 2. Maximum of 8 persons per site. Maximum 14 day stay in calendar year.
- Park all wheeled vehicles on asphalt pads. All
 vehicles must fit on asphalt; overflow parking
 located at Service Center adjacent to campground.
- 4. Quiet hours 10 pm to 6 am. Generators are permitted from 6 am to 10 pm as long as they are properly muffled and do not create unreasonable noise.
- Keep pets on a leash at all times. Do not leave pets unattended at campsite. Kennels are available at the Mammoth Cave Hotel. Dispose of pet waste in garbage.
- Mark your campsite when you leave so others know it is occupied. Articles left unattended on an unpaid campsite for 24 hours may be impounded.
- 7. Confine fire to established fire rings. Do not burn trash in the fire rings.
- 8. Transport of firewood into the park is prohibited. You may pick-up any dead or downed wood inside the park or purchase wood from the Caver's Camp Store located at the Service Center. Store hours vary with season; check bulletin board at kiosk for current hours.
- Do not chop, cut, saw, or drive nails into standing trees.
 Do not use mechanized saws in the park.
- 10. All plants and animals in Mammoth Cave National Park are protected. Do not disturb or kill any wildlife, including snakes. Collection of any portion of a plant is prohibited unless specifically authorized by regulation.
- 11. Do not dig, trench, or level ground at your campsite.
- 12. Showers are operated by the park concessionaire and are located at the Service Center. Showers and laundry are open daily March 1 through November 30.

- 13. In accordance with Title 36 CFR 2.4 and Kentucky law, visitors may openly carry firearms on trails, in campgrounds, or any other area in which carrying is not specifically prohibited. Persons with valid concealed weapons permits may carry concealed weapons in these areas also. Weapons of any kind are prohibited in all federal facilities, on all cave tours, on the park's tour buses, and in the facilities of the park concessionaire.
- 14. Other weapons capable of destruction, such as fireworks, bows, air rifles, blowguns and slingshots, are prohibited in the park.
- 15. Mini-bikes, mopeds, and motorcycles are permitted only on improved roads.
- Rollerskates, rollerblades, skateboards, coasting vehicles, or similar devices are allowed only in the campground.
- 17. Water hydrants are for collection of water to be used at your campsite. Washing dishes or clothing at water hydrants is prohibited.
- 18. To eliminate unpleasant odors and muddy campsites, catch your drain water in buckets and empty into toilets in the restrooms.
- 19. When food is not being prepared or eaten, it must be stored inside a vehicle to prevent wildlife access to human food. **Do not feed or play with wildlife.** Wild animals that become dependant on human handouts may lose their ability to forage independently when campers disappear in the "off-season."
- 20. Obey the 15-mph speed limit and the stop signs in the campgrounds. Watch for children at play.
- 21. Carry a flashlight or lantern when walking after dark.
- 22. Overnight camping is not permitted in parking lots, overlooks, or along roadsides in the park.



As a National Park Service Center for Environmental Leadership, Mammoth Cave National Park encourages practices that protect and conserve our resources. We hope that our visitors will join us in this effort by recycling, securing waste items appropriately, and using recycled and environmentally friendly products.

Mammoth Cave Campground

