



## Accessibility Guide



Big Room Trail

NPS / DAN PAWLAK

### In the Cavern

The self-guiding Big Room Trail is partially accessible to visitors using wheelchairs and walkers. The non-skid trail is paved with a mixture of emery chips and epoxy. The trail, which is about 1.25 miles (2 km), begins at the Underground Lunch Room. About 2/3 of the Big Room Trail is wheelchair and walker accessible, with interpretive signs along the trail and audio guides available from the bookstore. Use the map on the back of this brochure as a guide.

#### Visitors using wheelchairs should go into the Big Room only with assistance.

Both the map and barriers on the trail define areas open to wheelchair and walker users.

Some areas are closed due to steep grades and narrowness of the trail. Please do not take wheelchairs or walkers into closed areas or leave them unattended. Accessible restrooms are available in the Underground Lunch Room. For wheelchair users to access the elevator lobby from the Underground Lunch Room, use the phone mounted on the kiosk counter. Press the button to call. The ranger will notify the elevator operator who will open the revolving doors for you.

**Note:** *The self-guiding Natural Entrance Trail, King's Palace, and caving tours are not accessible to visitors using wheelchairs or walkers. Exhibits and photographs of these areas are offered in the visitor center.*

### On the Surface

#### Parking

Accessible parking is marked with blue reserved signs. The visitor center, theater, book store, gift shop, and restaurant are on the same level, with ramps from the parking lot. Automatic doors are available at the main entrance.

#### Cavern fees

Adults (16 and older)	\$15
15 and under	Free

Entrance is free for holders of the Annual Pass, Annual Pass (Military), Senior Pass, Access Pass, or 4th Grade Pass, in addition to three other individuals. Pass holders must obtain free entry tickets by showing their pass and photo ID to the ticket counter in the visitor center.

#### Bat Flight Program

Reserved, accessible parking is available in the lower parking lot near the cavern's Natural Entrance, where the Bat Flight Program takes place. The top of the Bat Flight Amphitheater features a reserved area for visitors using wheelchairs. An accessible restroom is available.

#### Picnic Areas

Accessible picnic tables near the visitor center are located at the far end of the east parking lot and in front of the restaurant, through the breezeway to the left of the visitor center entrance doors. A few tables are available along Walnut Canyon Drive, the paved road from the park entrance.

#### Nature Trail

A section of the self-guiding Nature Trail near the visitor center is partially accessible to people using wheelchairs and walkers. The trailhead is located in the east parking lot. Check at the information desk for more details.

#### Rattlesnake Springs Picnic Area

Located about 15 miles (24 km) from the visitor center, this picnic area features picnic tables and cooking grills under large cottonwood trees. One accessible picnic table and accessible restrooms are available.

#### Desert Drive

A one-hour drive through the Chihuahuan Desert, this low-speed, 9.5 mile (16 km) gravel road is suitable for most vehicles, except motor homes and cars pulling trailers. The road starts near the visitor center. A brochure is available at the visitor center information desk.

#### Roadside Exhibits

Interpretive exhibits are located at pullouts along the park entrance road. Most are readable from your vehicle.

# Big Room Trail

NORTH



0 .10 .20 miles

1 inch = .20 miles



**For Your Safety**  
 —Visitors using wheelchairs should enter the Big Room only with assistance.  
 —Benches are located at convenient intervals along the trail.

Underground Lunchroom, Restrooms, and Elevators

**Big Room Trail**  
 Entrance and exit for wheelchair and walker users

*Natural Entrance Trail*  
 Steep Grade  
 Do Not Enter

- Key**
- Trail open to wheelchairs/walkers
  - - - Trail not open to wheelchairs/walkers
  - Emergency telephone
  - Trail barrier and turnaround point

**Approximate Distances**

from elevators to shortcut	.22 miles (.35 km)
from shortcut to Lower Cave barrier	.10 miles (.16 km)
from shortcut to Bottomless Pit barrier	.18 miles (.30 km)
from shortcut to Rock of Ages barrier	.14 miles (.44 km)