

CARLSBAD CAVERNS NATIONAL PARK
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220

CAVERN INFORMATION

Trips into Carlsbad Caverns are available every day of the year; reservations are not necessary. All trips are continuous and self-guided and may be started at any time during the hours listed on the schedule on the reverse side of this sheet. Rangers patrol the cave to provide information, assistance and protection.

The complete Walk-In Trip (3 miles) begins at the Caverns's natural entrance near the Visitor Center, and usually takes 2-1/2 to 3 hours. However, visitors may remain in the cavern as long as they wish, up to departure time of the last elevator to the surface as shown on the schedule. In the first 1-1/2 mile of walking, visitors descend to a depth of 830 feet below the surface, then ascend 80 feet before reaching the Underground Lunchroom (where the elevators are located). The second portion of the trip starts at the Underground Lunchroom and is a relatively level, easy walk of 1-1/4 miles around the Big Room. Visitors wishing to take only the Big Room Trip, which requires approximately 1-1/2 hours, may enter the Cavern by elevator. Everyone returns to the surface by elevator.

Photography, including use of flash and time exposures, is permitted on all trips. However, all photos must be made from the paved trails, without resting camera equipment on cavern rocks or formations.

The park is a Designated Fee Area under the Land and Water Conservation Fund, with Annual Golden Eagle and Golden Age Passports honored. The daily entrance fee is \$3.00 per private non-commercial motorized vehicle, and \$1.00 per person for those arriving by commercial bus or other means of transportation. Visitors under 16 are admitted without charge when accompanied by an adult. Only cash, Traveler's Checks, Certified or Cashier's Checks are accepted as payment for fees.

Box lunches, individual sandwiches, hot and cold drinks and other items provided by the park concessioner are available in the Underground Lunchroom. Box lunches contain two ham and cheese sandwiches, potato chips, cup cake and orange for \$2.20 plus tax; or fried chicken (3 pieces), roll, potato chips, cake and orange for \$2.50 plus tax.

Surface concession facilities include a restaurant, gift shop, nursery and kennel service. The nursery rate is \$2.00 per child for the time required for the Cavern tour (a snack is included), and the kennel rate is \$1.00 per pet for the same period. Baby strollers are not allowed on cavern trails.

Visitors in wheel chairs may enter the Cavern by elevator and visit a portion of the Big Room. Trails in other portions of the Cavern are either too steep, narrow, or include stairs and cannot accommodate wheel chairs. Rental wheel chairs are not available in the park. Please inquire at the information desk.

The Cavern temperature is a constant 56 degrees and a light jacket or sweater is suitable for the Cavern trip. Low heel shoes with rubber soles or heels are also recommended. Shoes with soles or heels made of plastic are not safe as they have a tendency to slip on the steep downhill grades.

There are no camping facilities or overnight accommodations in the park. Such facilities are available in nearby communities.

OPERATING HOURS FOR CAVERN TRIPS, 1979 - 1980
(Mountain Time)

SPRING SCHEDULE
Mid May thru June 2, 1979

Visitor Center Opens	7:30 AM
First Trip (both Walk-In and Big Room)	8:00 AM
Last Complete Walk-In Trip thru Natural Entrance	2:30 PM
Last Elevator down for Big Room Trip	4:00 PM
Last Elevator from Cave to Surface	5:30 PM
Visitor Center Closes	6:00 PM

SUMMER SCHEDULE
June 3 thru September 3, 1979

Visitor Center Opens	7:00 AM
First Trip (both Walk-In and Big Room)	7:00 AM
Last Complete Walk-In Trip thru Natural Entrance	4:30 PM
Last Elevator down for Big Room Trip	6:00 PM
Last Elevator from Cave to Surface	7:30 PM
Visitor Center Closes	8:00 PM

WINTER SCHEDULE
September 4, 1979 to Mid May, 1980

Visitor Center Opens	7:30 AM
First Trip (both Walk-In and Big Room)	8:00 AM
Last Complete Walk-In Trip thru Natural Entrance	2:00 PM
Last Elevator down for Big Room Trip	3:15 PM
Last Elevator from Cave to Surface	4:25 PM
Visitor Center Closes	5:00 PM

Trips are continuous and visitors may enter the cave anytime during hours listed.

Bat Flight Programs usually start about 7:00 PM during the summer schedule. Inquire at the Information Desk in the Visitor Center for exact time.