

Guided Tours

Tour Schedule

Guided tour	Trail type	Offered	Tour times	Adult fee* under age 16 half price	Age limit	Tour length	Group limit
Kings Palace Tour	paved trail, one 80-foot hill to negotiate	Daily	9:00 & 11:00 A.M. 1:00 & 3:00 P.M.	\$8.00	4	1½	75
Left Hand Tunnel	packed dirt trail	Daily	9:00 A.M.	\$7.00	6	1½-2 hours	15
Slaughter Canyon Cave	slippery, sometimes uneven, rocky trail	Sat & Sun in winter, Daily Memorial Day through the third Sunday in August	10:00 A.M. 1:00 P.M.	\$15.00	6	2-2½ hours	25
Lower Cave	ladders, variable dirt trail, might get dirty	Monday through Friday	1:00 P.M.	\$20.00	12	2-3 hours	12
Hell of the White Giant	climbing and crawling, tight squeezes, will get dirty	Saturday	1:00 P.M.	\$20.00	12	3-4 hours	8
Spider Cave	climbing and crawling, tight squeezes, will get dirty	Sunday	1:00 P.M.	\$20.00	12	3-4 hours	8

*Tours, times, and fees are subject to change.

Tour Descriptions

Kings Palace Tour

A ranger will lead you through four highly-decorated chambers 830 feet below the surface. The trail is paved, however, there is a steep hill that you must walk down and then back up. Tours depart from the Underground Rest Area. Additional tours are offered in summer.

Left Hand Tunnel

On this easy lantern tour your guide will highlight cavern history, formations, cave pools, and Permian Age fossils. Lanterns are provided. Tour departs from the visitor center.

Slaughter Canyon Cave

This is a well-decorated, undeveloped backcountry cave. There are no electric lights, so it is very important that each person bring at least a two D-cell flashlight with fresh batteries. Penlights are not permitted. Tours depart from the Slaughter Canyon Cave entrance at the scheduled time. *Do not drive to the visitor center for this cave tour.* Allow plenty of time to drive to Slaughter Canyon and 45 minutes for the steep and strenuous 0.5-mile hike to the cave entrance. Attempt this hike only if you are in good physical condition. Carry water—the desert is dry, and can be very hot in summer and very cold in winter. Stay on the

trail at all times and be sure to wear sturdy boots or shoes.

Check the other side of this brochure for reservation information and directions to Slaughter Canyon Cave. Transportation to the cave is not provided.

Lower Cave

You will see evidence of early exploration, cave pools, and beautiful formations on this moderately-strenuous tour. Be prepared to descend 50 feet on ladders. Bring gloves and four new AA batteries per person. Tour departs from the visitor center.

Hall of the White Giant

This is a strenuous, challenging tour to a remote chamber in Carlsbad Caverns. You will be required to crawl long distances, squeeze through tight crevices, and climb up slippery passages. Bring your own gloves, knee pads, and four AA batteries per person. Tour departs from the visitor center.

Spider Cave

On this strenuous caving tour you can expect tight craws, canyon-like passages, and bizarre formations. Bring your own gloves, knee pads, and four new AA batteries. The tour departs from the visitor center for a short hike to the cave. Bring water for the hike.

Reservations

Guided tours are listed from easiest to most strenuous. Make reservations by calling 1-800-987-2283 from 8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M., Mountain time (10:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M., Eastern time). The TDD number is 1-888-530-9796. Make cancellations at least 24 hours before the tour by calling 1-800-388-2733; a \$1.50 cancellation fee is charged per person.

A General Admission ticket is required in addition to special tour fees for all guided tours except Slaughter Canyon Cave and Spider Cave. Purchase this ticket at the park visitor center.

Children under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Tours, times, and fees are subject to change at any time. Call (505)785-2232, ext. 0, for more information.

Directions to Slaughter Canyon

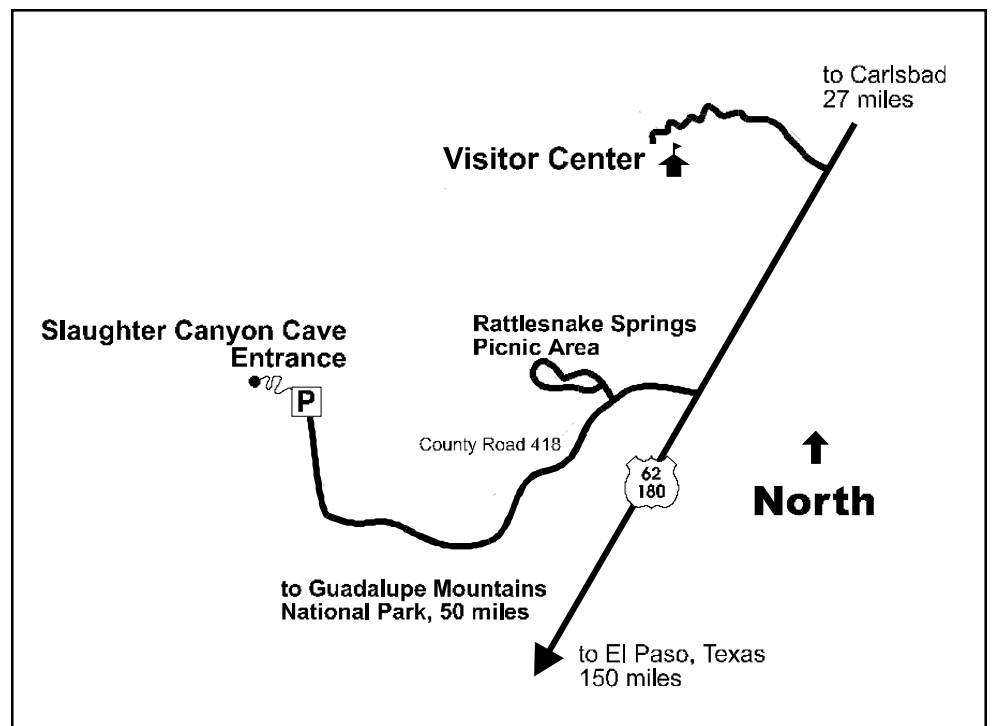
Slaughter Canyon Cave is 23 miles from the park visitor center. The turnoff for Slaughter Canyon is located 5 miles south of Whites City on state highway 62/180. Follow the signs from there to the Slaughter Canyon parking lot. Hike to the cave entrance from there. Allow 45 minutes for the steep and strenuous one-half mile hike from the parking lot to the cave entrance. Chemical toilets are available at the parking lot.

Distances

Driving from Carlsbad Caverns Visitor Center to Slaughter Canyon takes about 45 minutes (23 miles).

Driving from Carlsbad, New Mexico to Slaughter Canyon takes about one hour (36 miles).

Driving from El Paso, Texas to Slaughter Canyon takes about 3 hours (150 miles).



Safety Information

Parts of the caving tour routes are very physically challenging. Trail conditions may be either wet or dry, depending on the season. Some tours include steep and slippery slopes, crawls, and climbing. People who experience difficulty with low light, heights, or tight spaces may want to avoid these tours. All guided tours include a *lights out* experience.

Photography is permitted guided tours, but tripods and video cameras are not.



Published by Carlsbad Caverns
Guadalupe Mountains Association,
revised 04/98, printed on recycled paper.