

NEW CAVE — A Guided Flashlight Trip Through An Undeveloped Cave



History



Indians of the Guadalupe Mountains have left remnants of their culture and way of life throughout the area. Most of what they left raises more questions than we can answer. New Cave was known and used by Native Americans perhaps a thousand years ago, but when they left, they took with them the knowledge of its location. In the late 1930's, a goat herder named Tom Tucker rediscovered the opening.

His discovery led to the development of guano mining in the cave during the 1940's and 1950's. Mining stopped in 1957, and in 1973 the National Park Service opened New Cave to primitive tours. Today visitors can enjoy the thrill of cave exploration as they join park rangers on a flashlight tour of one of the more spectacular caves in Carlsbad Caverns National Park!

Reservations

Reservations are required and may be made at the Carlsbad Cavern visitor center or by calling 505/785-2232 anytime between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. MST. **IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO KEEP YOUR RESERVATION, PLEASE NOTIFY THE PARK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

Tours are limited to 25 people. NO exceptions! The National Park Service reserves the right to cancel or alter tours as necessary.

Tour Schedule

Ranger guided flashlight tours are offered daily during the summer months and weekends only from September through May.

Tours last approximately two hours and require about 1¼ miles of walking in the cave.

Equipment

Bring a strong flashlight for each person and carry drinking water. Wear hiking boots or good walking shoes for the steep, rocky trail from the parking lot and for the steep, slippery trail in the cave. Photography is permitted; however, tripods are not.

Video cameras are not recommended. Low light levels make photography very difficult. Baby carriers, infant backpacks and strollers are not permitted. Lock valuables in your car trunk.

Safety



Parts of the New Cave tour may be considered physically strenuous. Conditions of the trail vary seasonally from wet to dry. At times the tour may include walking steep slippery slopes and using a rope as a handline to climb a slope. Light is provided exclusively by handheld flashlights and lanterns.

Although lighting is adequate, persons who experience difficulty with low levels of light will find the tour difficult. A portion of the tour includes sitting in total darkness.

Fees

Adults	\$6.00
Child 6-15 years	\$3.00
Golden Age	\$3.00
Golden Access	\$3.00

*For safety reasons children under six years of age are not permitted under any circumstances. Please bring the correct change. Fees are collected at the cave entrance.

*Golden Age and Golden Access card holders receive a 50% discount.

*Golden Eagle Passes are not valid.

How To Get There

Undeveloped New Cave is located near the mouth of Slaughter Canyon, 23 miles from Carlsbad Cavern and the visitor center.

The turnoff for New Cave is located 5 miles south of White's City on state highway 62/180.

Transportation to the cave is not provided. **DO NOT DRIVE TO THE VISITOR CENTER FOR A NEW CAVE TOUR.** Allow plenty of time to drive to the New Cave parking area and to hike up the half-mile trail. The hike to the entrance is **STRENUOUS**. You will climb 500 feet in the half-mile (equivalent to a 50-story building), and 30-45 minutes is

recommended for the hike. It should be attempted only by those in good physical condition. It can be very hot in the summer and very cold in the winter. For safety reasons, stay on the trail at all times. **ALL TOURS START AT THE CAVE ENTRANCE AT THE SCHEDULED TIMES.**

