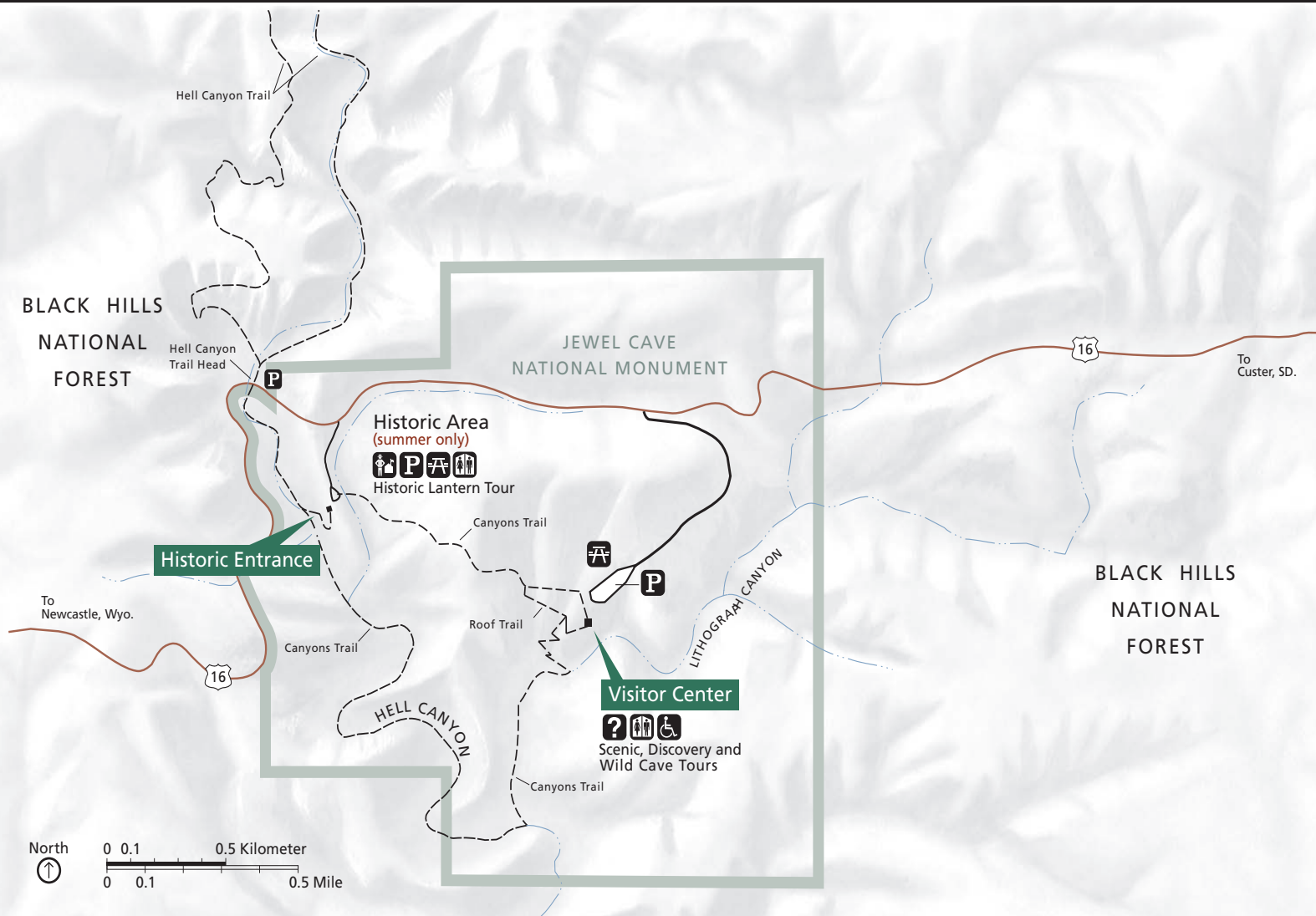




# Trail Guide

## Jewel Cave National Monument

Welcome to Jewel Cave National Monument. To fully immerse yourself within the stories of the resources, we invite visitors to explore and discover the surface trails. The ponderosa pine forest, open meadows, and rocky terrain offer an assortment of flora and fauna that captivates most hikers. Whether you are seeking a short, family-oriented stroll or wish to be challenged with a half-day trek, one of three trails will satisfy your hiking interest. Two trails begin at the visitor center, while the third loops through the nearby Black Hills National Forest.



**Roof Trail**  
• 1/4 mile hike  
• Easy

**Hell Canyon Trail**  
• 5 1/2 mile hike  
• Easy to Moderate  
• Black Hills National Forest

**Canyons Trail**  
• 3 1/2 mile hike  
• Easy to Moderate



- Information
- Parking
- Picnic area
- Restrooms
- Ranger Cabin
- Wheelchair accessible

Information about hiking trails is available at the Visitor Center.



# Additional Hiker Information

## Roof Trail:

- Trail Head ~ Visitor Center
- Length ~ ¼ mile (0.4 km), Loop Trail
- Hiking Time ~ 30-45 minutes
- Terrain ~ Moderate inclines. Not accessible for wheelchairs or strollers.
- Difficulty ~ Easy

Explore the relationship between the surface and subsurface resources of Jewel Cave National Monument by walking this self-guided tour. The trail begins at the covered patio area outside the visitor center lobby and returns to the north end of the visitor center. An overlook, located approximately 100 yards (91 m) from the visitor center, provides a magnificent view of the forest and canyons.

NPS Photo / Melissa Oehler



Red Squirrels are often seen along the trails of Jewel Cave National Monument.

## Canyons Trail:

- Trail Head ~ Visitor Center or Historic Cabin Area
- Length ~ 3.5 miles (5.6 km)
- Hiking Time ~ 2-4 hours
- Terrain ~ Moderate to steep inclines. Not accessible for wheelchairs or strollers.
- Difficulty ~ Easy to Moderate

Explore the surface resources and geologic features of the Monument by hiking in the backcountry. The trail begins at the covered patio outside the visitor center lobby and winds its way down into Lithograph Canyon. Turning right at a fence, hikers enter Hell Canyon and stroll along a combination of unpaved roads and open meadows to a sign that leads to the historic entrance. From there, it is around one mile back to the visitor center.

## Hell Canyon Trail:









- Trail Head ~ Approximately 1 mile (1.61 km) west of the visitor center entrance on Highway 16
- Length ~ 5.3 miles (8.9 km), Loop Trail (Overlook Spur ~ 0.3 miles, 0.5 km)
- Hiking Time ~ 2-4 hours
- Terrain ~ Moderate to steep inclines. Not accessible for wheelchairs or strollers.
- Difficulty ~ Easy to Moderate

Trek along limestone cliffs with outstanding views of Hell Canyon and the surrounding area. This trail starts with a steep climb for around one-half mile and then circles the canyon. Rocky terrain and a few creek crossings combine to make this a challenging route. The last two miles of trail follows the bottom of the Hell Canyon drainage and ends at the parking area. NOTE: During the spring and early summer months, ticks are very common along this trail.



Wildland fire scars are common along the Canyons Trail. NPS Photo

## Things to know:

-  Never hike alone
-  Alert others to your whereabouts and hiking times
-  Stay on marked trails
-  Do not take any flowers, rocks, or artifacts from the Monument
-  Pack plenty of water and appropriate clothes
-  Carry a map of the hiking area
-  Watch for poison ivy, rocks, and other hazards along the trail
-  Check your body and clothing frequently for ticks