

Mammoth Cave

NATIONAL PARK

KENTUCKY

Open All Year

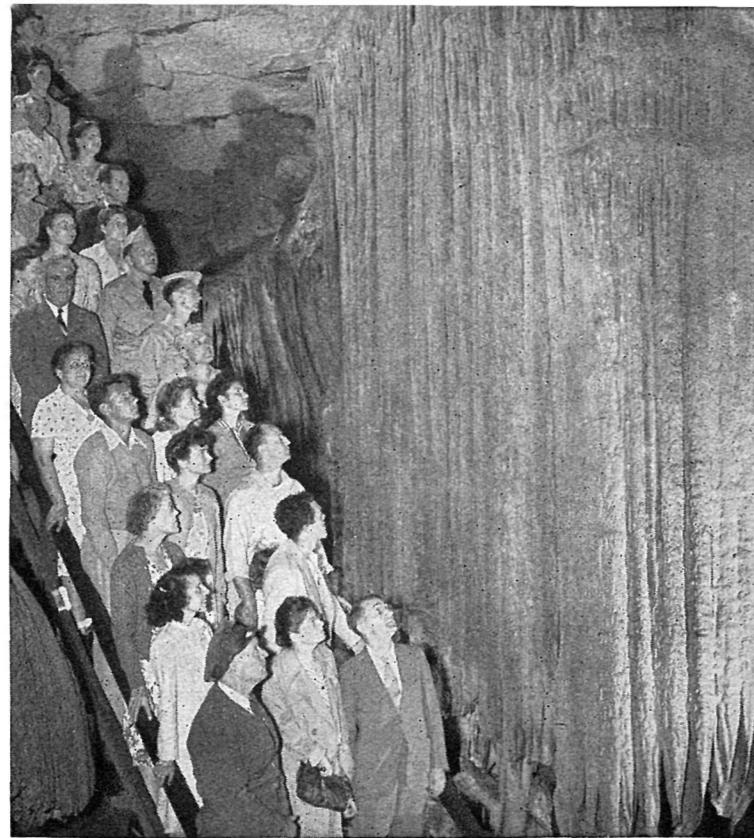
MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK

MAMMOTH CAVE, long considered one of the seven wonders of the New World, has been attracting visitors for nearly a century and a half. It was discovered by the white man about 1799—according to legend, by a pioneer named Houchin who pursued a wounded bear into the cave. It had long been used by pre-Columbian Indians. Several mummies, crude working tools, tree ladders, reed torches, moccasins, and numerous other evidences of prehistoric man's habitation have been discovered within the cave. During the War of 1812, saltpeter, used in making gunpowder, was leached from the deposits of "petre dirt" found in the cave.

Now Mammoth Cave is a national park, one of the units of the National Park System administered by the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior.

Efforts to give these caverns national park status began many years ago, but as the lands were in private ownership difficulties were encountered. By act of 1926, Congress authorized establishment of Mammoth Cave National Park upon the condition that the lands involved be donated to the Federal Government. On May 22, 1936, the Secretary of the Interior accepted deeds to something over 20,000 acres, for administration and protection, in accordance with Congressional authority. With the addition of other required lands, the park was fully established July 1, 1941.

The State of Kentucky, through the Kentucky National Park Commission and by donations made by the people of the State through the Mammoth Cave National Park Association, initiated and accomplished the greater part of the acquisition. Impressed by the splendid showing made by the State during a period of financial stress, the Federal Government by direct appropriation assisted in purchasing land to make possible complete park status. The park now embraces approximately 51,000 surface acres of forested hill country.



Frozen Niagara, the largest travertine, or onyx, formation in the cave. (Seen on Trips 2 and 4.)

GEOLOGICAL STORY OF MAMMOTH CAVE

Mammoth Cave has more than 150 miles of explored corridors literally filled with spectacular features, which may be enjoyed for their unusual qualities alone, but the cave trip is even more interesting if the visitor has a little knowledge of the geological history of the region.

According to geologists, some 240,000,000 years ago much of North America and all of Kentucky were submerged by a great ocean called the Mississippian Sea. In the millions of years that followed, the ocean receded from the continent northward into Hudson Bay and southward into the Gulf of Mexico. Rainwater soaking into the ground dissolved tremendous masses of limestone, creating thousands of funnellike depressions, called sinkholes, on the surface and honeycombing the limestone below ground with mazes of corridors.

The main corridors occur in five different levels. They have been explained as corresponding to five separate levels at which Green River once flowed. During each stage, or level, ground water percolated down through the rocks until it came to the base level established by Green River. Then it flowed horizontally underground

along this level, dissolving and wearing away the limestone and finally emptying into Green River. As Green River cut its channel deeper, it lowered the ground-water level correspondingly. When this level coincided with the position of less resistant portions of the limestone, these portions were more quickly carried away than the overlying rock, and a set of chambers was created at the new level. This happened five times. Today, Echo River slowly flows along the fifth, or lowest, level in the cave and drains into Green River. It is about 360 feet from the ground surface to the lowest cave level.

This process of solution and excavation is the first stage of cave formation. It creates barren rooms and corridors. The second stage of cave history begins with the formation of dripstone, or secondary minerals. The beauty of the cave is greatly enhanced during this stage which may follow or overlap the first. During this process water dripping from cave walls and roofs deposits much of its burden of lime as stalactites on the ceilings or stalagmites on the floors. The water which trickles down the walls forms sheets that hang like folded draperies and masses that resemble fountains. A mineral, called gypsum, adds to the beauty of the cave through the formation of woolly masses that resemble needles, pendants, flowerlike growths, and grotesque coils of white translucent crystals. Manganese and iron oxide impurities in the ground water have tinted much of the gray interior with reds, yellows, and purples.



On Echo River in Mammoth Cave—360 feet below the surface. (Seen on Trips 1 and 4.)

CAVE TRIPS AND INFORMATION

Mammoth Cave has two main entrances, one natural, known as the Old, or Historic, Entrance and the other man-made, known as the Frozen Niagara Entrance. The historic section of the cave is noted primarily for its immensity and historic features. The temperature in the cave is 54 degrees, and a light wrap is recommended. Comfortable walking shoes should be worn. No other special apparel is necessary.

Trips over the four routes given below are conducted according to schedule.

TRIP NO. 1, ECHO RIVER, takes the visitor to saltpeter vats of 1812, Bottomless Pit, Fat Man's Misery, Mammoth Dome, Ruins of Karnak, Echo River, Corkscrew, and other interesting features. Length, 3 miles; time required, 2½ to 3 hours. Starts from Historic Entrance. This trip is shown by lanterns and torches.

TRIP NO. 2, FROZEN NIAGARA, includes Onyx Colonnade, Drapery Room, Crystal Lake, September Morn, and Echo Dome. Length, ½ mile; time required, 1½ hours. This trip, showing stalactites and stalagmites, is electrically lighted throughout.

TRIP NO. 3, HISTORICAL, starts from the Historic Entrance and shows a variety of cave features, including the Rotunda, Bridal Altar, the Indian Mummy, and other evidences of the prehistoric occupation of Mammoth Cave by Indians. Length, 2 miles; time required, 2 hours. This trip is electrically lighted throughout.

TRIP NO. 4, ALL DAY TRIP. This trip comprises most of the outstanding features in Mammoth Cave, including Snowball Dining Room, Mary's Vineyard, and gypsum formations not shown on other trips. Length, 7 miles; time required about 7 hours. It begins at the Historic Entrance each day at 10 o'clock, emerging at the Frozen Niagara Entrance. Shown by lanterns, torches, and electric lights. Lunch is served in Snowball Dining Room, 267 feet underground.

CAVE TRIP FEES

(Tax Included)

Adults and children 12 years of age and over

Echo River, Trip No. 1.....	\$1.20 a person
Frozen Niagara, Trip No. 2.....	1.20 a person
Historical, Trip No. 3.....	1.45 a person
All Day, Trip No. 4.....	2.65 a person

Organized Groups—12 to 18 years of age inclusive

Echo River, Trip No. 1.....	20 cents a person
Frozen Niagara, Trip No. 2.....	45 cents a person
Historical, Trip No. 3.....	20 cents a person
All Day, Trip No. 4.....	65 cents a person

Organized groups of children 12 to 18 years old and children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult paying the full fee.

For children under 12 years of age there is no charge for Trips Nos. 1 and 3, but there is a 25-cent charge for transportation on Trips Nos. 2 and 4.

During inclement weather when transportation is furnished on Trips Nos. 1 and 3, there is an additional charge of 25 cents per person.

Lunch tickets at 75 cents may be purchased for the All Day Trip.

SCHEDULE OF TRIPS

The following trips are conducted daily, including Sundays (Central Standard Time):

<i>May 15 to September 15</i>	<i>September 16 to May 14</i>
8 a. m.—Trips 1, 2, and 3	9 a. m.—Trips 1, 2, and 3
9 a. m.—Trips 1, 2, and 3	10 a. m.—Trips 2, 3, and 4
10 a. m.—Trips 2, 3, and 4	11 a. m.—Trips 1, 2, and 3
11 a. m.—Trips 1, 2, and 3	12 noon—Trip 2
12 noon—Trip 2	1 p. m.—Trips 1, 2, and 3
1 p. m.—Trips 1, 2, and 3	2 p. m.—Trips 2 and 3
2 p. m.—Trips 1, 2, and 3	3 p. m.—Trips 1, 2, and 3
3 p. m.—Trips 1, 2, and 3	4 p. m.—Trip 2
4 p. m.—Trips 1, 2, and 3	5 p. m.—Trip 2
5 p. m.—Trip 2	
6 p. m.—Trip 2	

TREES, FLOWERS, AND WILDLIFE

Typical of the Central Hardwood Forest Region of the United States, the park forests are composed principally of deciduous broadleaved trees intermingled with scattered pines, cedars, and other evergreens. They cover 60 percent of the area inside of the park on Green and Nolin River watersheds, an area which was almost entirely covered with virgin forests 160 years ago.

The most common of the trees in the park are the various oaks and hickories, together with beech, maple, gum, yellow-poplar, ash, sycamore, elm, flowering dogwood, and redbud.

Beautiful floral families have taken up residence on the sunny hills and shady ravines of Mammoth Cave National Park. The Kentucky shrubs and wild flowers, most of which require favorable moisture conditions, are of great variety. Some of the more spectacular members of this class are the Solomonseal, wakerobin, May-apple, twinleaf, bloodroot, and Jack-in-the-pulpit. Also growing in this section are the shrubby St. Johnswort, purple coneflower, butterfly milkweed, gayfeathers, and the earlier orange gromwell.

The variety of animal life in the park is typical of the southeastern region of the country. Lying in the Valley Sink in the south section, the Knobs in the middle section, and the Hills in the north, it affords many types of wildlife habitats. The cave provides a distinctive animal life which is entirely different from the surface animals and of considerable interest to park visitors.

The more common types of mammals in the park are deer, raccoon, gray fox, red fox, opossum, cottontail rabbit, gray squirrel, fox squirrel, flying squirrel, woodchuck, skunk, chipmunk, muskrat, mink, weasel, beaver, and several kinds of bats.

Bird life in the park is of especial interest, more than 170 species having been reported. Quail, woodpeckers, mourning doves, crows, vultures, hawks, owls, robins, and cardinals are among the permanent residents.

Reptiles and amphibians are represented by more than 60 species.

The cave life is unique among the fauna of the park. Bats are the most numerous and may be observed in Longs Cave, Colossal Cavern, and Bat Cave, as well as many smaller caves. In some of the caves having streams or lakes, eyeless fish and cave crawfish are found, while the cave cricket is common in all caves.

HOW TO REACH THE PARK

The park is located in southwestern Kentucky about 100 miles south of Louisville, Ky., and the same distance north of Nashville, Tenn., near U. S. Route 31—W. Louisville & Nashville Railroad and Greyhound bus lines connect with taxi service at Cave City, a distance of 11 miles from the park.

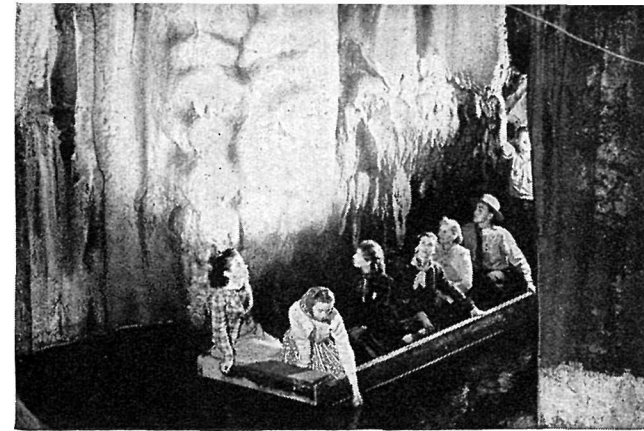
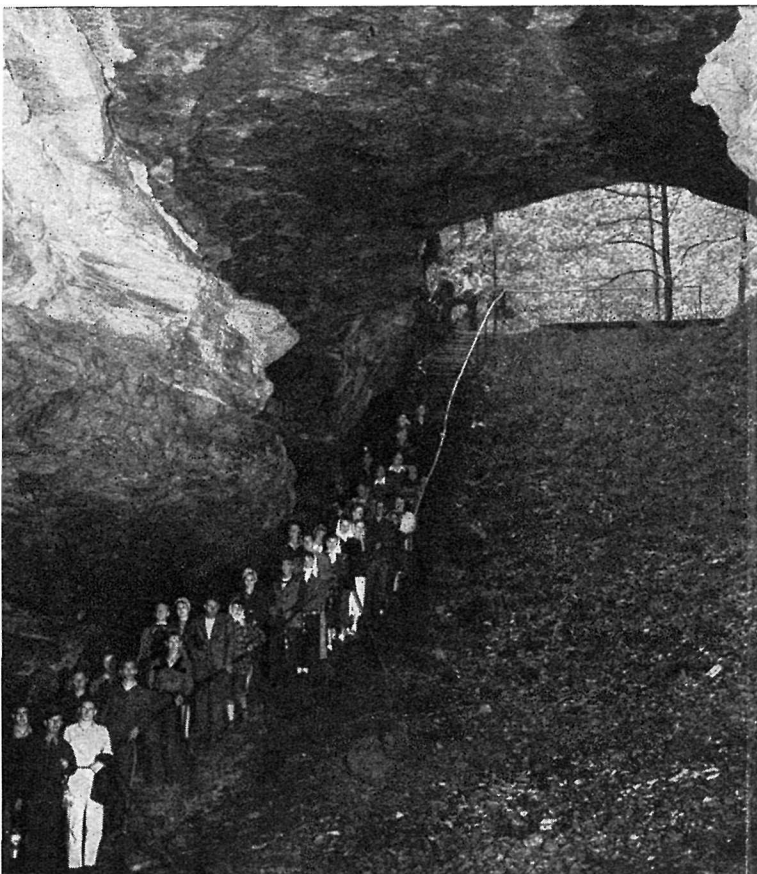
RECREATION

HIKING.—Eight miles of trails wind through dense woods along the Green River bluffs and offer an opportunity for nature lovers to observe the many varieties of trees, flowers, shrubs, and birds found in the park.

FISHING.—Thirty miles of the Green and Nolin Rivers in the park supply the fisherman with a variety of fish, including jack salmon, black bass, catfish, drum, red horse, and buffalo. No fishing license is required, and the season is open through the year, except the ponds are closed from May 1 to 29. For fishing regulations, inquire at the office of the chief park ranger.

TENNIS and SHUFFLEBOARD.—Two tennis courts surfaced with Kentucky rock asphalt and four shuffleboard courts are available for visitors and are located in the rear of the Mammoth Cave Hotel.

Historic Entrance to Mammoth Cave—Discovered 1799



Crystal Lake—270 feet underground. (Seen on Trips 2 and 4.)

CAMPING and PICNICKING.—A free campground and a picnic ground are located one-half mile from the Mammoth Cave Hotel. Tables, fireplaces, wood for fuel, comfort station, laundry and shower facilities, and running water are provided for those who enjoy picnicking and camping. Individual parking spaces for trailers, with running water, are provided in one section of the camp.

NATURALIST PROGRAM

Beginning May 15 and continuing through September 30 the naturalist conducts nature hikes, leaving Mammoth Cave Hotel at 9:15 a. m. Wednesday through Sunday of each week. These trips are announced at the hotel over the public address system. Illustrated talks are offered by the naturalist at the amphitheater every evening, Wednesday through Sunday, May 15 through September 30.

CHURCH SERVICES

Mass at 8:30 a. m. each Sunday in the Chapel. Non-denominational services at 4 p. m. each Sunday in the Blue Room, Mammoth Cave Hotel.

ADMINISTRATION

Mammoth Cave National Park is under the administration of the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior. Address all comments, suggestions, or communications to the Superintendent, Mammoth Cave National Park, Mammoth Cave, Ky.

Dogwood blossoms in April



Mammoth Cave Hotel

ACCOMMODATIONS

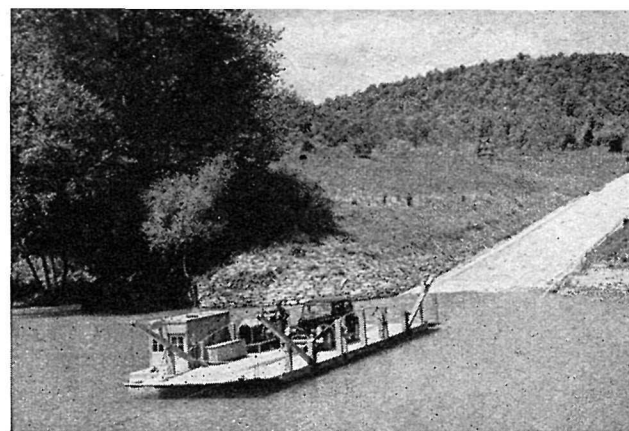
The Mammoth Cave Hotel, which is open all year, and the cottages and cabins, which are open only during the summer months, offer modern accommodations at moderate rates. At the hotel, rooms with and without bath are available, and all cabins have toilets and showers. The hotel offers dining room or coffee shop service.

Rates are not shown in this folder, as they are subject to change from season to season, but latest rates may be obtained from the General Manager, National Park Concessions, Inc., Mammoth Cave, Ky.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

The park regulations are designed for the protection of the natural features as well as for the comfort and convenience of visitors. The following is for the general guidance of visitors, who are requested to assist the administration by observing the rules.

Cabins in Mammoth Cave National Park



Mammoth Cave ferry on Green River

NATURAL FEATURES.—Do not mar, deface, or remove any rock, stalactite, stalagmite, or other natural features. Leave the flowers, ferns, and shrubs for others to enjoy.

FIRES.—Kindle only in designated campground. Extinguish completely before leaving, even for temporary absence. Fire is the arch enemy of the national parks. Do not throw burning tobacco or matches on the ground or from an automobile.

CAMPING.—Camp only in designated campground, unless special permission is received from the office of the superintendent.

HUNTING.—The park is a wildlife sanctuary. Hunting, trapping, or molesting wildlife is not allowed.

FISHING.—No license is required.

DOGS AND CATS.—Allowed in the park only when on leash, crated, or otherwise under physical restrictive control.

Snowball Dining Room—267 feet underground (Seen on Trip 4.)



Booth's Amphitheater. (Seen on Trips 1 and 4.)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR
Oscar L. Chapman, *Secretary*

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Arthur E. Demaray, *Director*



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