

## FOR YOUR SAFETY

### *Cave*

- All cave tours are strenuous and require stooping and walking over unlevel terrain. Some tours (Historic and Half-day) have a number of steps associated with them.

- Wear sturdy walking shoes, not sandals.
- Watch your step; portions of the trails are wet and slippery.

### *Surface*

- While driving, be on the alert for deer crossing the roadway, particularly at night.
- Poisonous snakes and poison ivy are common, even around the most heavily visited areas.

## ADMINISTRATION

Mammoth Cave National Park is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Mammoth Cave, KY 42259, is in immediate charge.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

**National Park Service**  
**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

# Mammoth Cave

NATIONAL PARK • KENTUCKY

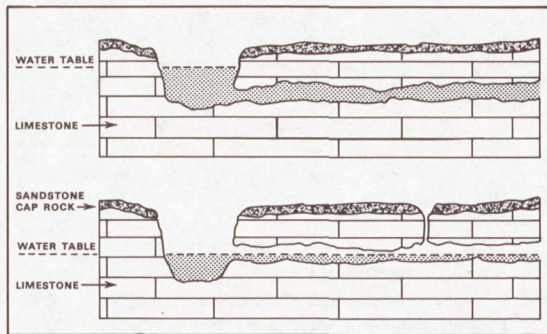




What's it like inside the earth? A visit to Mammoth Cave will let you see for yourself.

For more than 4,500 years man has felt his heart beat a little faster as he walked through Mammoth Cave's passageways and chambers. Early Indians, as they searched for cave minerals, lighted their way with blazing torches. During the War of 1812, oil lamps gave light to men who mined the cave's nitrates for use in making gunpowder. Still later, sightseers carried lanterns when walking in the cave. Today, electricity will light your way on most tours.

As you stroll through the huge rooms, over yawning pits, past the leaching vats of the saltpeter miners, and under cascading decorations of stone, you can sense man's long association with Mammoth Cave.



Like virtually all limestone caves, Mammoth Cave was formed when subterranean water dissolved the porous rock—and then receded to leave dry passageways.

#### WHAT'S IT LIKE IN THE CAVE?

The temperature stays at 12°C (54°F) and the humidity is a high 87 percent. You will need a sweater or jacket. Walking is smooth and usually dry, but you must climb steps on every trip. Expect a strenuous walk, and be sure to wear comfortable shoes. (Children under 16 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.)

#### WHAT IS THERE TO DO?

**Visitor Center.** You should stop here first to get information about cave trip schedules and to learn of other things to do and see in the park. You can purchase cave trip tickets here. The visitor center also has an illustrated program that is presented frequently throughout the day.

**Cave trips** are offered throughout the year except December 25; they vary in length (1 to 6 hours) and in time of departure. Trip schedules are subject to change. Each cave tour has something different to offer; park interpreters will make your cave experience a pleasant adventure.

**Surface activities.** In summer, interpreters present programs nightly in an outdoor amphitheater and lead a variety of nature walks over woodland trails. Some activities are scheduled in the spring and fall.

**River cruising.** You can get an appreciation of the Green River and its forest wildlife by taking a 1-hour cruise on the boat, *Miss Green River II*. Buy your tickets at the visitor center from the concessioner. Season: April through October.

**Driving.** Drive the Joppa Ridge Motor Nature Trail, which begins on the Green River road. A leaflet keyed to numbered markers along the route describes features of interest.

**Walking.** To see more of the 21,000 hectares (52,000 acres) in Mammoth Cave National Park, hike the self-guiding nature trails and longer hiking trails that lead through hardwood forests to a variety of features, including springs that emerge from the cave system. Some trails are shown on the maps in this folder; obtain additional trail information at the visitor center. There are poisonous snakes in the park; use caution on trails and at night.

#### ACCOMMODATIONS AND SERVICES

**Lodging.** Mammoth Cave Hotel, a motel-type lodge, and electrically heated cottages are open all year. Unheated cabins are available from May to September. If you expect to stay in the park in summer, we suggest that you write to National Park Concessions, Inc., Mammoth Cave, KY 42259, for rates and that you make your reservations well in advance. Accommodations are also available in nearby communities. For information on areas outside the park write to the Department of Public Information, Capitol Annex Building, Frankfort, KY 40601.

**Dining room and coffee shop** operate all year.

**Gifts, handicrafts, and photo supplies** can be purchased from the concessioner.

**Service Center,** located next to the campground, has a post office, service station, coin-operated

laundry, showers, ice, groceries, and campers' supplies. The store, laundry, and showers are closed from Thanksgiving to Easter week and are open only on weekends, including Fridays, in spring and fall.

**Camping and picnicking.** A 145-site campground and a picnic area are available near the visitor center. A free primitive campground with 12 sites is located at Houchins Ferry. Free backcountry campsites are also available but require a permit which may be obtained at Park Headquarters.

#### TO REMIND YOU

Mammoth Cave and its rolling landscape has been a national park since 1941, and the National Park Service asks you to follow some common-sense rules to preserve the park and its features:

Pets must be kept on a leash at all times. They are not permitted in the cave or visitor center. During warm weather please take pets to the hotel kennels; do not leave them in your car or chained unattended in visitor-use areas.

Leave all natural and historical features as you find them for others to enjoy.

Flash pictures may be taken in the cave. Tripods are not permitted; the hazard to others and to cave formations is too great.

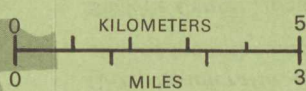
Drive with extra care and observe the speed limits. Be alert for deer and other wildlife.

Park employees are here to help you. Report any accident or injury to them.

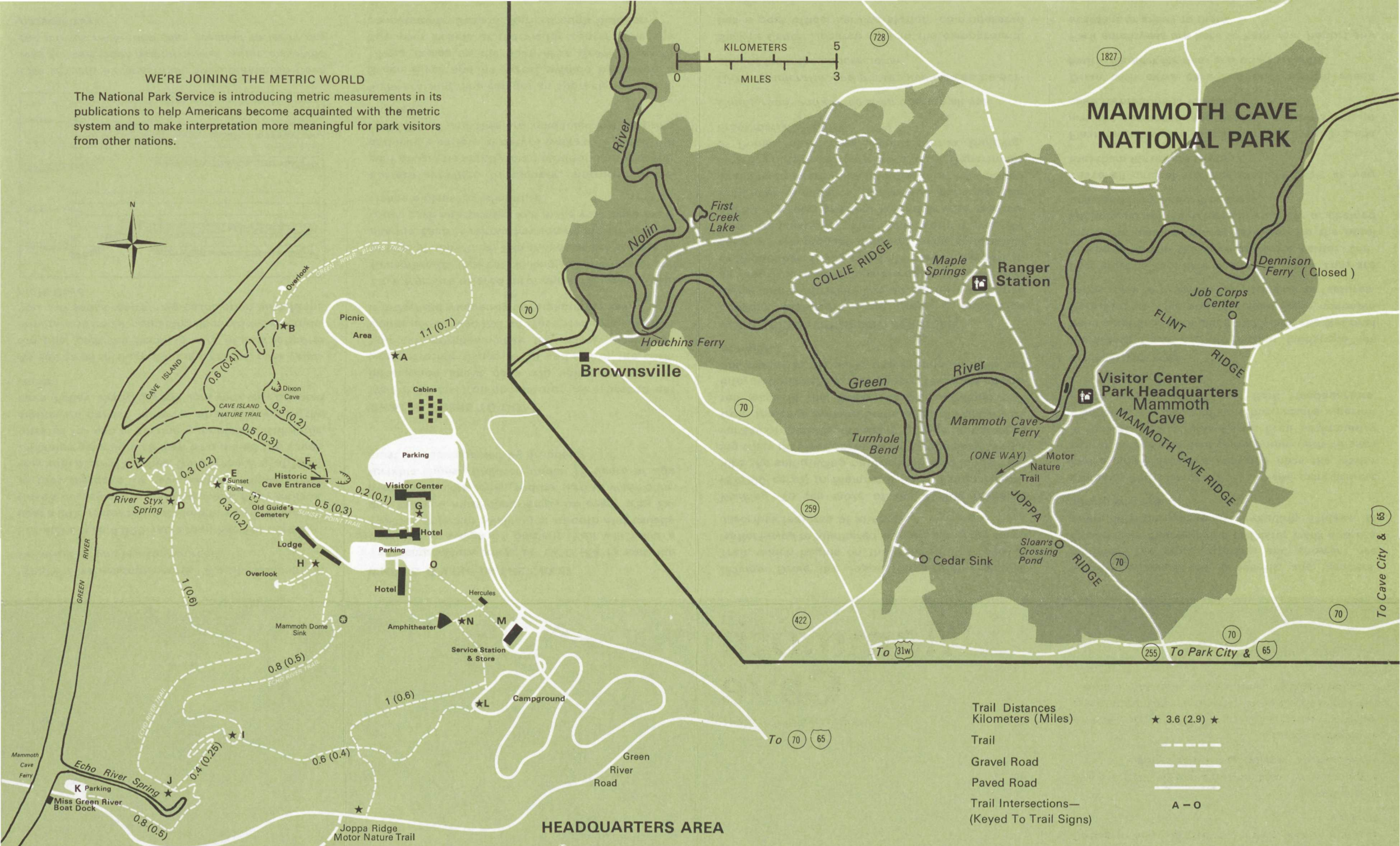


**WE'RE JOINING THE METRIC WORLD**

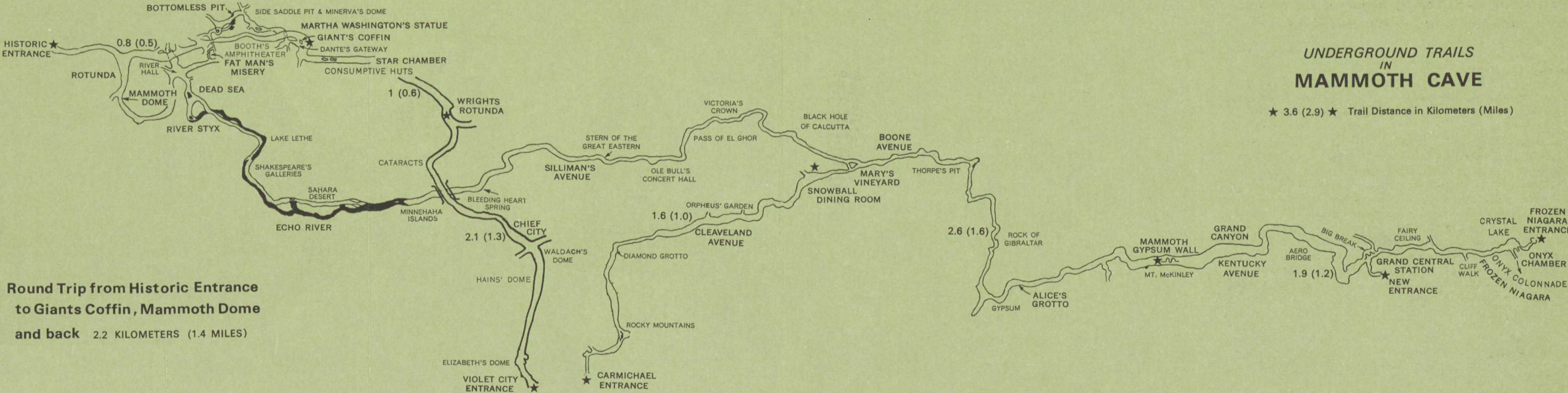
The National Park Service is introducing metric measurements in its publications to help Americans become acquainted with the metric system and to make interpretation more meaningful for park visitors from other nations.



**MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK**



- Trail Distances  
Kilometers (Miles)      ★ 3.6 (2.9) ★
- Trail      -----
- Gravel Road      - - - - -
- Paved Road      \_\_\_\_\_
- Trail Intersections—  
(Keyed To Trail Signs)      A — O



**UNDERGROUND TRAILS IN MAMMOTH CAVE**

★ 3.6 (2.9) ★ Trail Distance in Kilometers (Miles)

**Round Trip from Historic Entrance to Giants Coffin, Mammoth Dome and back** 2.2 KILOMETERS (1.4 MILES)