


Mammoth Cave Guide

Your Guide To Visiting Mammoth Cave National Park  1995

Beyond the Boundaries

What happens on the sunlit surface at Mammoth Cave affects what happens in the sunless underworld. The groundwater basins that drain into Mammoth Cave are much larger than the park, extending out to Park City, Cave City and beyond. The water from these population centers, and from the vicinity of interstate and railroad corridors, flows directly to the Green River by way of the caves. Whatever the water carries when it disappears into the ground changes the cave and the cave's inhabitants on its way through.

The biological links are intricate and they extend below the ground. The organic matter that washes in from the fertile surface is important food for creatures that never see the sun, just as human-caused contaminants are lethal to them. These caves have been called the most biologically diverse underground ecosystem known to man, supporting a rich fauna of blind, pale animals specially adapted to life in the darkness. And the key to life below is the astonishingly varied life above. Mammoth Cave National Park's cave and karst terrains, and its many plateaus, bluffs, coves, valleys, streams, and rivers, provide many different kinds of homes for a huge array of creatures. This biological kaleidoscope mingles 84 species of fish, 200 species of birds, 18 reptiles, 15 amphibians and a host of mammals including white-tailed deer, raccoon, opossum, coyote, gray squirrel, rabbit, woodchuck, muskrat, beaver, red fox and 7 kinds of bats. The Green River contains one of the most diverse mussel populations in the world, nine endangered species among them.

Also two species of endangered bats make a home in the park, as does the Kentucky cave shrimp.

Like water, air from outside changes life within the park. Mammoth Cave's flora have been identified as particularly sensitive to gaseous air pollution. The earth, too, is as influential as the air – old, abandoned oil and gas wells both inside and outside the park still present a potential threat to the underground.

Perhaps the greatest influence on the park comes from outside in the shape of you – our visitors. We welcome over 2,000,000 friends to the park every year and strive to give them an opportunity to share in Mammoth Cave National Park's wonder and diversity while at the same time preserving that wonder and diversity unchanged for those who come after.

It's what a far-sighted Congress had in mind when it declared that Mammoth Cave, and all national parks, should be set aside "... to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

If the park were contained, cut off from the outside like a museum exhibit under glass, that mandate might be simple. But it's not. It has taken, and will take, the cooperation of everyone – locally, nationally, and globally – to make it so.

The World Takes Notice

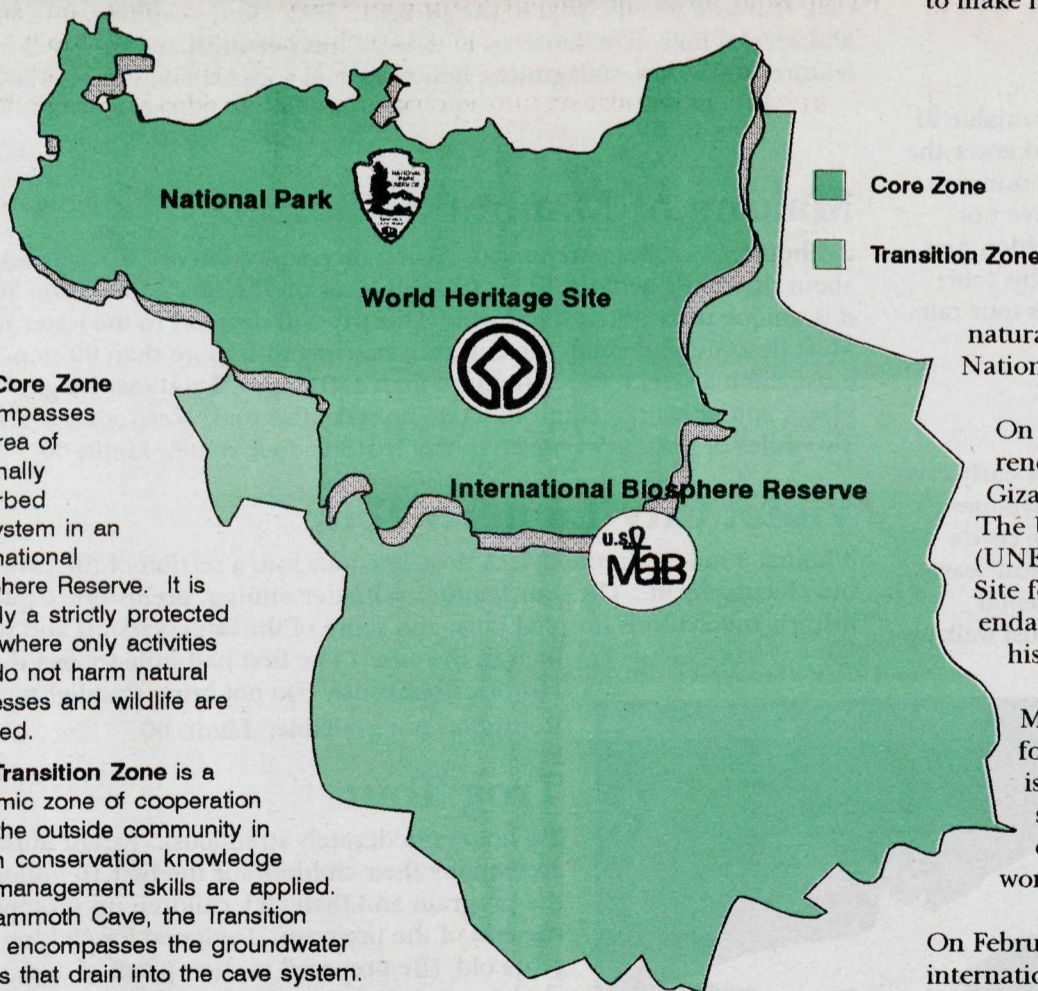
Mammoth Cave National Park was authorized by Congress in 1926 and established July 1, 1941, to protect and preserve the natural environment within its boundaries. It is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

On October 27, 1981, Mammoth Cave National Park joined the ranks of renowned places like Australia's Great Barrier Reef, Egypt's Pyramids of Giza, Nepal's Kathmandu Valley, and India's Taj Mahal Historic Park. The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated Mammoth Cave National Park as a World Heritage Site for its exceptional natural features, its habitat for threatened and endangered species, and its association with events and persons of world historic and archeological significance.

Mammoth Cave National Park, unlike many sites on the list, is known for its natural heritage as well as its cultural heritage. Mammoth Cave is the most extensive cave system in the world, with more than 345 surveyed miles of cave passageways. Pre-Columbian Native Americans explored further into Mammoth Cave than any other cave in the world – over three miles distant from any probable point of entry.

On February 7, 1990, Mammoth Cave National Park again gained prestigious international status when UNESCO designated the Mammoth Cave area as a unit of the International Network of Biosphere Reserves to assess the effects of human manipulations upon the area. Biosphere reserves are unique natural environments where conservation and sustained use of the natural resources are combined. They represent specific types of ecosystems such as deserts, semi-deserts, tropical grasslands, and temperate deciduous woodlands. These special areas are targets for research, monitoring, and education. Cooperation among government policy makers, scientists, and local citizens is of primary importance to the system to ensure the conservation of the regional culture, its environments, and resources.

Mammoth Cave National Park has become a key area for international research on karst hydrology and cave ecosystems. The biosphere reserve, which includes the watershed area south of the park known as the sinkhole plain, encompasses 60,000 acres. The lack of surface drainage combined with enclosed valleys, sinkholes and caves make this Biosphere Reserve one of the world's classic karst areas.



The **Core Zone** encompasses the area of minimally disturbed ecosystem in an International Biosphere Reserve. It is usually a strictly protected area where only activities that do not harm natural processes and wildlife are allowed.

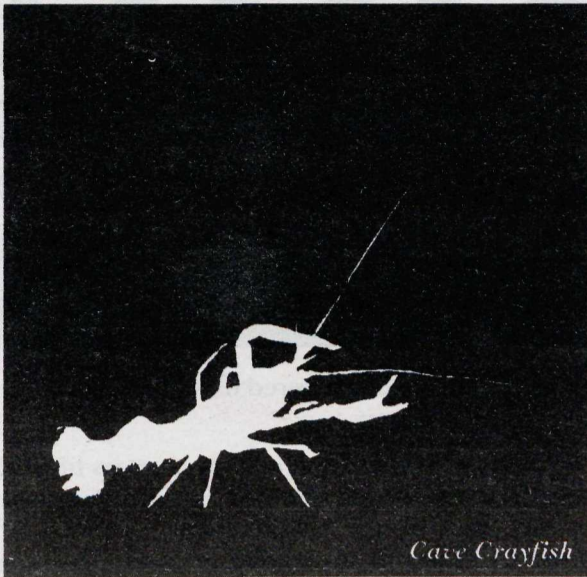
The **Transition Zone** is a dynamic zone of cooperation with the outside community in which conservation knowledge and management skills are applied. At Mammoth Cave, the Transition Zone encompasses the groundwater basins that drain into the cave system. Without the cooperation of the outside communities in ensuring that the groundwater remains untainted, serious damage to the resources of the biosphere could result.

We are discovering that the park's 52,830 acres do not encompass all the resources that inspired Congress in 1926 to authorize a new national park in Kentucky.

BELOW

Photo: Cavers in one of Mammoth's dusty passages.

Availability of these interpretive tours varies from season to season. Consult the enclosed seasonal schedule or call the park for information on what parts of the Cave will be shown during your visit.



Cave Crayfish

Historic Tour

2 hours, 2 miles (strenuous). Visit famous cave passages and learn about the cave's rich human history. View artifacts left by native Americans, discover ruins of mining operations, and see evidence of early visitors, explorers, and workers at Mammoth cave. Must descend and climb one stairway with more than 60 steps and must climb more than 130 steps on a steel tower. If you fear heights or close places and/or cannot climb steps, do not take this tour. Limit: 100

Travertine Tour

1¼ hours, ¼ mile (easy). Ride a bus to the cave entrance and view decorative dripstone formations, including stalactites and stalagmites. Must climb 18 steps; an additional 98 steps are optional. Recommended for those who cannot walk long distances. Limit: 78

Tour for the Mobility Impaired &

1½ hours, ½ mile (easy). Designed for physically impaired visitors unable to participate in other cave tours. Ride a van to the cave entrance and enter the cave via an elevator. See tubular passageways and delicate gypsum minerals on the cave walls. Two wheelchairs are available for visitors who have not brought their own. Restrooms not wheelchair accessible. Note: Golden Age and Access passports do not qualify participants for a discount on this tour; discounts have been taken into consideration when establishing this tour rate. Limit: 18

Mammoth Passage Tour

1¼ hours, ¾ mile (moderate). Visit the large passage referred to by early cave explorers as "Main Cave," whose high vaulted ceilings and broad avenues gave birth to the cave called "Mammoth." Park Rangers discuss the cave's creation by water, the absence of what many people refer to as "typical" cave formations, the cave's cultural history and contemporary environmental concerns. Visitors must descend and climb more than 60 stairs. Must walk up a steep hill to return to the Visitor Center. Limit: 100

Cleveland Avenue Tour

1¼ hours, 1 mile (moderate). A bus takes you to the cave's entrance. Descend approximately 220 stairs at the entrance. See gypsum-encrusted tube passages and learn about early tours in Mammoth Cave. Food service at Snowball Room is available seasonally (for an additional fee). Extra time will be given at the end of the tour for those wishing these services. Exit by elevator, ascending 267 feet to buses waiting to return to the Visitor Center. Limit: 100

Wild Cave Tour

6 to 6½ hours, 5½ miles (extremely strenuous). Must be 16 years or older to participate. (Be prepared to show proof of age.) Crawl, climb, and squeeze through small passages off traditional tour routes. Helmets and lights provided. Kneepads available, but you may bring your own. Gloves, boots, and long pants strongly recommended. Food available at Snowball Room. (Lunch cost not included in tour fee.) You may bring your own lunch. Restrooms available. Tickets being held at "Will Call" must check in 30 minutes prior to departure or your tickets will be released. Limit: 14

Discovery Tour

½ hr. minimum, ¾ mile (moderate). Visit one of the largest rooms in Mammoth Cave, explore a large cave passage, talk with park rangers and learn about saltpeter mining operations and the formation of Mammoth Cave. Must descend and climb one stairway with more than 60 steps. If this area of the cave intrigues you, see more of it by purchasing tickets for a Historic Tour or make reservations for a Violet City Lantern Tour. Adults: \$2, Under 16: \$1, Under 6: free. Available as visitation warrants. Call for availability before planning on taking the Discovery Tour.

Frozen Niagara Tour

2 hours, ¾ mile (strenuous). Ride a bus to the entrance, explore huge pits and domes and view decorative dripstone formations, including stalactites and stalagmites. Must descend approximately 300 steps. If you fear heights or close places and/or cannot climb steps, do not take this tour. Portion of this tour seen on Travertine Tour. Restrooms not available. Limit: 100

Gothic Tour

2 hours, 1½ miles (moderately strenuous). The first half of this tour follows the Historic Tour route and leads past 19th century saltpeter mines. Must climb and descend two stairways- one with more than 60 steps and the other with about 40 steps. This trip features a side passageway noted for its "historic graffiti" and decorative flowstone formations, including stalactites, stalagmites, and columns. Restrooms are not available. Limit: 80

Great Onyx Tour

2¼ hours, 1 mile (moderately strenuous). This trip includes a bus tour with a cave tour and ties the past to the present. Must climb and descend 20 stairs and several hills. Use lanterns to explore this beautiful and varied cave which features stalactites, stalagmites, helictites, and soda straws. Limit: 40

Making of Mammoth Tour

2½ hours, 2½ miles (strenuous). Visit a diverse section of the cave and learn about the cave's geology. This trip will focus on the cave's formation and why it is unique throughout the world. This trip will descend to the water table. Must descend and climb the entrance stairway with more than 60 steps and must climb a steel tower with more than 130 steps. If you fear heights or close places and/or cannot climb stairs do not take this tour. Restrooms available. Two miles of passageway overlap the Historic Tour route. Limit: 60

Violet City Lantern Tour

3 hours, 3 miles (strenuous). A nostalgic tour into a section of the cave that is not electrically lit. The tour features saltpeter mining, prehistoric exploration, historic tuberculosis hospital huts, and some of the largest rooms and passage ways in the cave. The first half-mile follows the Historic Tour route. Do not bring flashlights. Restrooms not available. Limit: 60

Trog Tour

2½ hours (moderately strenuous). Parent must accompany their children for the first 15 minutes of the program and then pick children up promptly at the end of the program. Designed for children 8-12 years old. (Be prepared to show proof of age). Includes a short nature walk above-ground and a journey into cave passageways not seen on other tours. Be prepared for crawling. Helmets and lights provided. Long pants required. We recommend that you bring kneepads. Restrooms not available. Limit: 12

Introduction to Caving

3 to 3½ hours (strenuous). Designed for youths, adults, and families to learn and explore the basics of caving. Visit small passages off traditional tour routes. Stooping, bending and crawling. Helmets and lights provided. Bring your own knee pads. Long pants and boots required. Restrooms not available. Youths must be at least 8 years old. Ages 8-15 must be accompanied by an adult. Visitors with tickets being held at "Will Call" must check in 30 minutes prior to departure or your tickets will be released. Limit: 20



Little Brown Bat

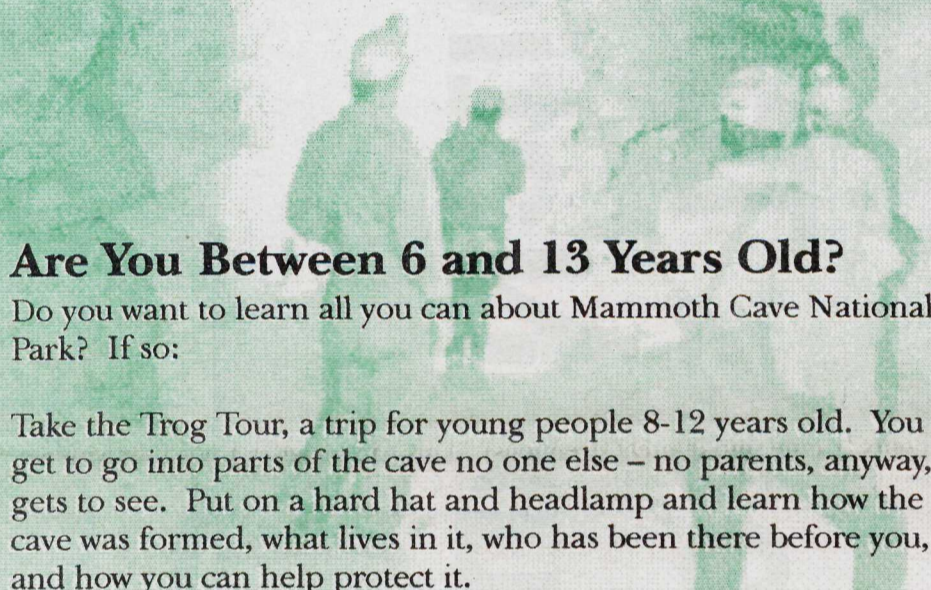
HOW TO GET CAVE TOUR TICKETS

Cave tours sell out quickly, so in order to participate in the tour of your choice, we strongly urge you to make reservations. For all cave tours, you can make reservations **no earlier than 8 weeks before** and no later than one hour before you wish to tour the cave. If you live in the U.S.A. or Canada, make reservations by calling

1-800-967-2283

From Europe, dial 1-619-452-8787. Use MasterCard, Visa or Discover Card to pay for your phone reservations. In addition to the regular fee for ranger-led activities, you will be charged an additional \$1 fee for each ticket sold over the telephone. You can also make reservations in person at the park Visitor Center for no additional charge. Groups of forty or more people are eligible for a discount on certain programs.

For more information on ranger-led cave trips, call the park at 1-502-758-2328 Monday through Friday, 8 am - 4:30 pm Central Time.



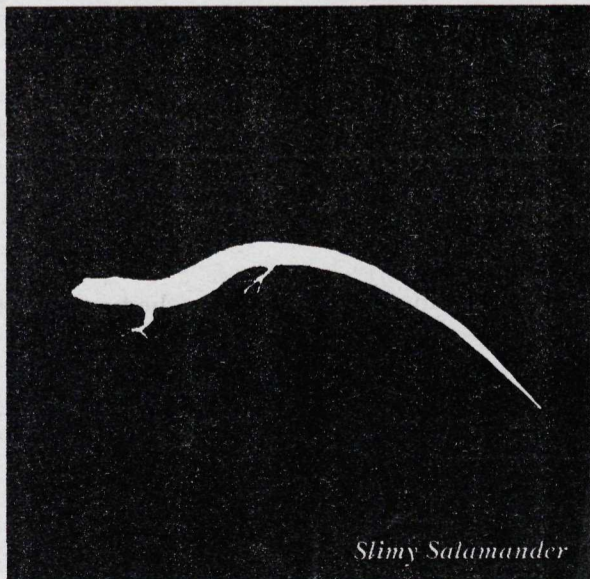
Are You Between 6 and 13 Years Old?

Do you want to learn all you can about Mammoth Cave National Park? If so:

Take the Trog Tour, a trip for young people 8-12 years old. You get to go into parts of the cave no one else - no parents, anyway, gets to see. Put on a hard hat and headlamp and learn how the cave was formed, what lives in it, who has been there before you, and how you can help protect it.

Become a Junior Ranger: Young People 6 - 13 years old are eligible to become Junior Rangers. Purchase the Junior Ranger packet at the book sales area in the Visitor Center and start rangering! Follow a ranger on guided activities and record your own discoveries in the booklet to become a Junior Ranger.

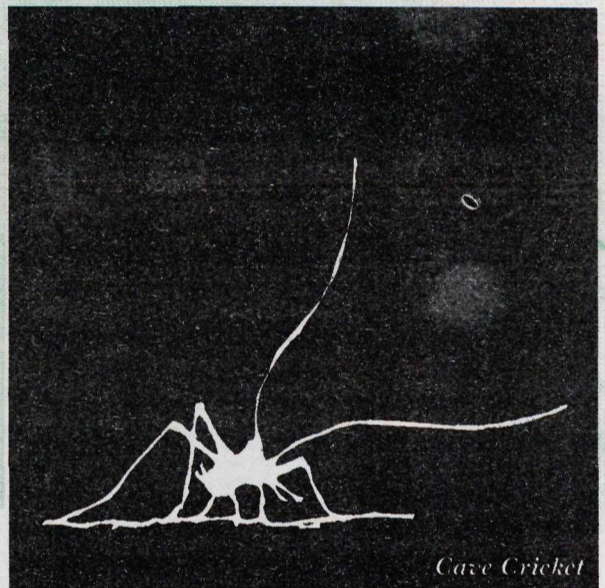
Bring Mom and Dad for an Introduction to Caving: This is a good trip for people 8 and up, poking into dark, twisting tunnels and learning why people go caving, how they do it safely, and what they find when they're there.



Slimy Salamander

READ THIS BEFORE YOU GO INTO THE CAVE ...

- ◆ **Consider your physical limitations** realistically when choosing a cave tour. Some tours are not recommended for visitors who fear heights or close places and/or cannot climb steps. **Do not** let friends or family members talk you into joining a cave tour if you feel uncomfortable about it.
- ◆ **Walking sticks and canes** are permitted on cave tours only when sufficient need is demonstrated.
- ◆ **Tripods** (and monopods) can be hazardous to other visitors and may damage cave formations. Therefore, they are **not permitted** in the cave.
- ◆ **Strollers** are impractical on bumpy, narrow cave walkways and stairways and are therefore **not permitted** on cave tours. Carry children in backpacks with caution because of low ceilings; rangers will advise you when they may be used.
- ◆ To protect air quality, **smoking** is not permitted in the cave.
- ◆ Year-round, the **cave temperature** in interior passageways fluctuates from the mid-50s to the low 60s (in Fahrenheit degrees). However, winter temperatures can be below freezing at entrances! In most areas of the cave, you'll be comfortable if you wear long pants and **take a sweater or jacket** with you.
- ◆ Hard-packed dirt **trails can be somewhat rough** and uneven and may be wet and slippery. You'll encounter numerous stairs and some steep inclines on many cave tours. Therefore, **durable, flat-soled footwear** suitable for walking is essential.



Cave Cricket

Photo Tips in the Cave

Even though it is electrically lighted, taking photos in the cave can be tricky - especially in large caverns where the light dissipates. To make picture-taking more successful, follow these tips:

- Use a flash, especially with disc, instamatic and Polaroid cameras.
- Be careful not to blind other visitors with your flash.
- Use a fast-speed film (ASA 400 or greater).
- Take photos of objects less than 12 feet away.
- High intensity lights attached to video cameras spoil the ambience of visiting the cave. Please use video cameras that work effectively in low light and leave attachment lights on the surface.

Although you are welcome to bring your video camera into the cave, you may not use it while the tour is moving or you are walking. **Film while standing still** to avoid hazard to yourself and others.

Above Ground Temperatures

Month	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Normal Highs	45	49	58	70	78	86	88	88	82	72	58	48
Normal Lows	25	26	35	45	52	60	64	62	56	44	36	28

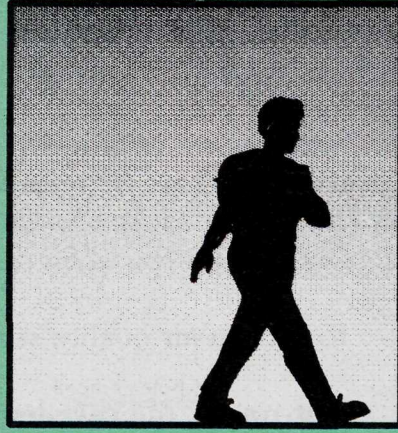
Below Ground Temperatures

54

degrees Fahrenheit, more or less, year-round. The cave temperatures can fluctuate as much as six degrees either way in passageways close to the surface. Entrances may be very cold. The lower passages are more constant.

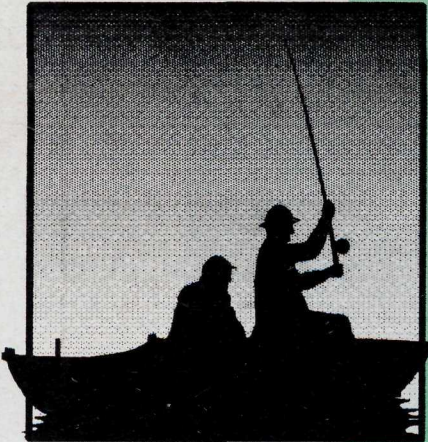
1 North Side

Over a dozen campsites dot the 70+ miles of trail on the North Side. Hike here and you may not see another living soul. Seek solitude in the rugged hills and deep valleys, camp by river, lake or waterfall, explore bluffs and ridgetops. Ride horses along these backcountry trails or guide yourself on a spelunking trip into Ganter Cave. Drive the scenic routes of Houchins Ferry Road and Little Jordan Road. Seek out the Big Woods, one of the few remaining stands of old-growth timber in Kentucky. If you have a large group of friends, camp out at the Maple Springs Group Campground.



2 River

Over 30 miles of the Green and Nolin Rivers trace through the park and offer a wealth of recreational opportunities. Angle for muskellunge, bluegill, catfish, bass, perch, crappie, and other game fish. Canoe the rivers and camp along their shores. Camp by the river at the Houchins Ferry and Dennison Ferry campgrounds. Cross the Green River on two ferries – Green River Ferry and Houchins Ferry – two of the few operating rural ferries in the nation. Cruise on the Miss Green River II looking for wildlife, springs and river bluffs.

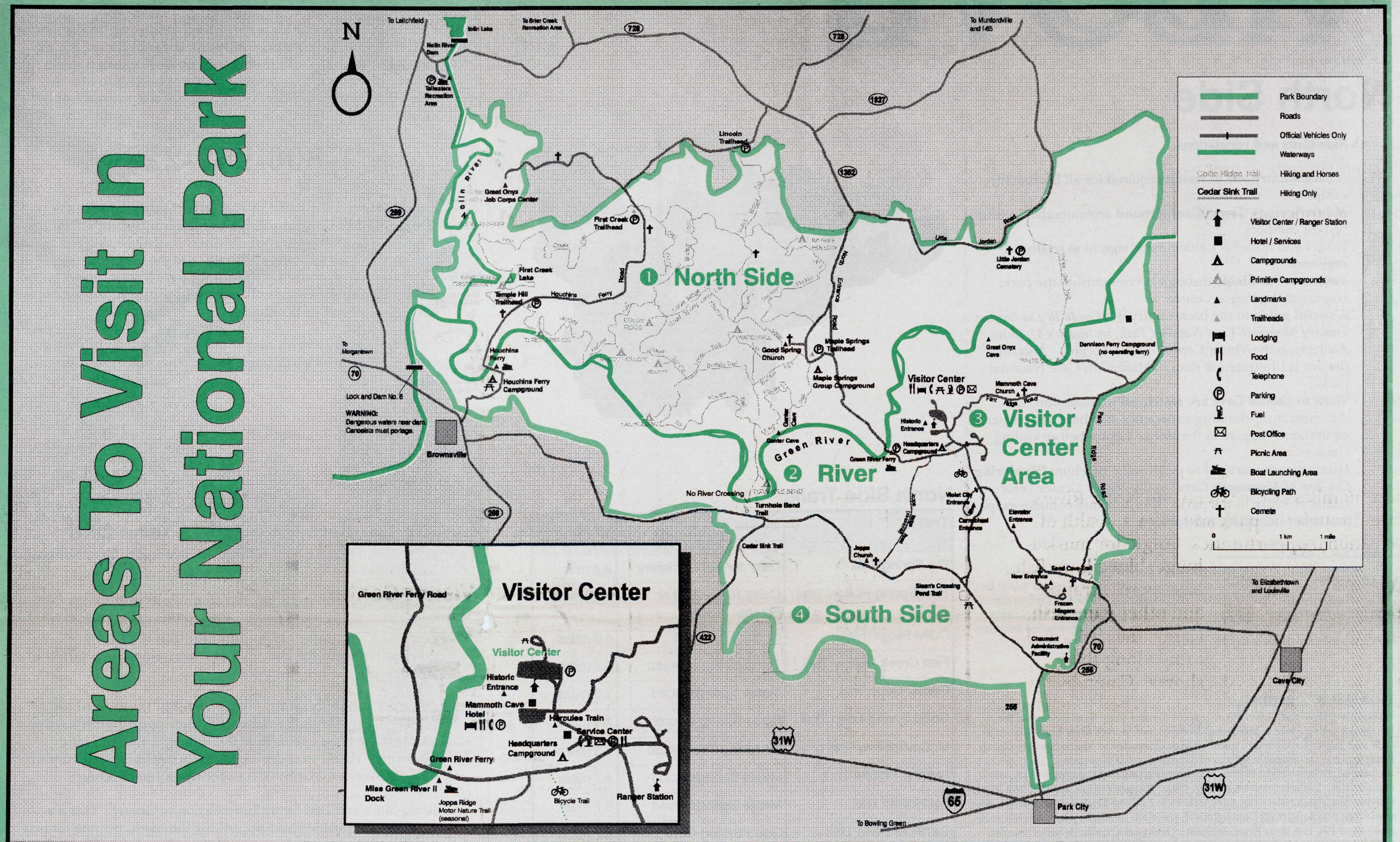


3 Visitor Center Area

Walk on top of what lies below – six miles of beautiful woodland trail lead you into huge sinkholes and down to flowing springs, both windows into the underworld. Take in a ranger-led walk and get some first-hand knowledge about the wildlife and flora of the region. Sit in on a campfire program at the Campfire Circle or an evening program at the Amphitheatre and find out how people lived 2,000 years ago, discover what kinds of creatures like the dark, talk to someone from the 1800s, and learn what owls and frogs and snakes do in their spare time – among many other things. Bicycle along the bike trail or stroll along the Heritage Trail. Drive the winding and beautiful Flint Ridge Road and stop by historic Mammoth Cave Church. Walk down the Sand Cave Trail to the entrance of the cave and learn its bizarre story. Have lunch at the hotel. See the train Hercules and learn how people got to Mammoth Cave before everybody had a car. Camp in Headquarters Campground. Take in a film, slide show, or mini-talk in the Visitor Center Auditorium.



Areas To Visit In Your National Park



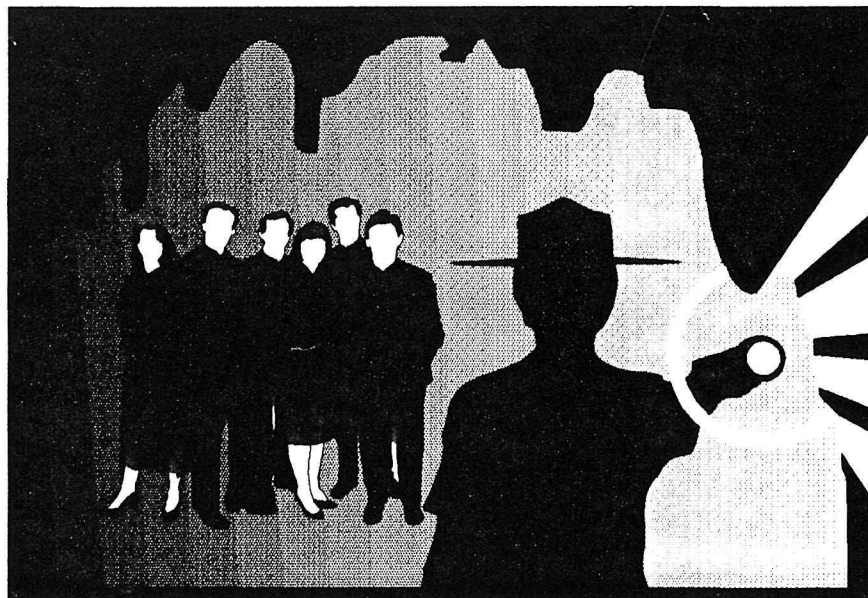
Mammoth Cave National Park

4 South Side

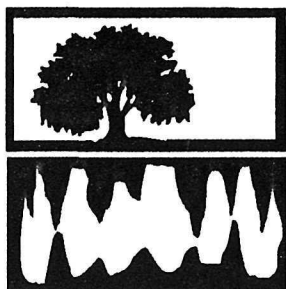
A quick drive and an easy walk will show you some of the park's most beautiful scenery. Take a picnic, stroll the circle of Sloan's Crossing Pond Nature Trail and listen for bullfrogs, green frogs and red-winged blackbirds among the cattails. Descend into Cedar Sink to look through a "window" into the way water travels beneath the ground, then go to Turnhole Bend Nature Trail and find out where and how that same water joins the Green River. In season, drive the Joppa Ridge Motor Nature Trail and peer into the deep valleys.



Ranger-Led Activities



Mammoth Cave National Park



Summer
1995



Schedule:

May 20 – June 9, 1995

Historic Tour	8:45, 10:10; 2:15, 3:30
Travertine Tour	9:15, 4:15
Frozen Niagara Tour	11:00, 11:30, 1:00 1:45
Violet City Lantern Tour	10:00, 2:00
Great Onyx Tour	10:00
Discovery Tour	As visitation warrants
Introduction to Caving	1:30 (Sat/Sun)
Wild Cave Tour	10:00
Mobility Impaired Tour	10:30 (Call for availability)
River Styx Trail Walk	9:45 (Sat/Sun)
Mammoth Dome Sink Walk	2:15 (Sun/Tue/Thu)
Rock Garden Getaway	2:00 (Mon/Wed/Fri/Sat)
Campfire Program	7:00 (Sun/Tue/Thu)
Evening Program	8:15 (Mon/Wed/Fri/Sat)

Visitor Center Hours: 8 am – 6 pm Central Time

Please note:

Mammoth Cave National Park offers a number of guided tours, both on the surface and underground. Demand is high for these popular activities — tours can, and do, sell out. For more information about the tours and availability, call the park at (502) 758-2328. For cave tour reservations call 1-800-967-2283 and charge it to Discover, Visa, or MasterCard. For area information, call 1-800-346-8908. Cave tours sell out quickly. **In order to plan ahead and participate in the tour of your choice, we strongly urge you to make reservations.** For all cave tours, you can **make reservations through Mistix Corporation no earlier than eight weeks before and no later than one hour before** you wish to tour the cave. Make reservations by calling **1-800-967-2283** or mail your reservation with a personal check or money order to HSN MISTIX Customer Service, P.O. Box 85705, San Diego, California 92186-5705. You can also make reservations in person at the park Visitor Center. In addition to the regular National Park Service fee for ranger-led activities, Mistix charges a \$1.00 fee for each ticket sold. Groups of 40 or more people may be eligible for a discount on certain programs.

**June 10 – August 20, August 26 & 27
and
September 2 & 3, 1995**

Historic Tour	8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30
Travertine Tour	8:15, 12:00, 5:30
Frozen Niagara Tour	9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:50
Violet City Lantern Tour	10:45 (Call for availability)
Discovery Tour	Daily
"This Old Cave" Tour	2:30
 Mobility Impaired Tour	10:00, 12:00
Trog Tour	10:00
Introduction to Caving	1:30
Wild Cave Tour	10:00
Nature Walk	9:30, 3:00
 Campfire Program	7:00 (Sun/Tue/Thu)
 Evening Program	8:15 (Mon/Wed/Fri/Sat)

Visitor Center Hours: 7:30 am – 7 pm Central Time

**August 21 – September 4, 1995
(weekdays only)**

Historic Tour	9:30, 10:00, 11:00, 2:00, 4:00
Travertine Tour	12:00
Frozen Niagara Tour	8:30, 9:30, 2:30
Discovery Tour	As visitation warrants
 Mobility Impaired Tour	12:30
Introduction to Caving	1:30
Wild Cave Tour	10:00

Visitor Center Hours: 7:30 am – 7 pm Central Time

Tips:

In planning a cave trip, **consider your physical limitations realistically.** Park rangers **do not recommend most cave trips for visitors who fear heights or close places and/or cannot climb steps.** In addition, plan your caving attire so that you'll be safe and comfortable. Hard-packed dirt trails can be somewhat rough and uneven and may be wet and slippery. On most cave tours, you'll encounter numerous stairs and some steep inclines. Therefore, **durable footwear suitable for walking is essential.** Furthermore, year-round cave temperatures in interior passageways average around the mid-50s to the low 60s (in degrees Fahrenheit). Often, you'll feel a breeze, (sometimes a strong one!) near entrances. In most areas of the cave, you'll be most comfortable if you **wear long pants and take a sweater or jacket with you.**

ABOVE



North Side

North Side hints and regulations:

- A **backcountry use permit** is required for all backcountry camping.
- **Maple Springs Group Campground** accommodates groups of 1-24 campers.
- Hikers and horseback riders must **sign in at trailhead registers**.
- **Horses are available** through liverys outside the park. Inquire at the Visitor Center.
- A **useful guide** to the backcountry is *A Guide To The Surface Trails of Mammoth Cave National Park*, by Stanley D. Sides, available in the Visitor Center book sales area. Also find the Trails Illustrated ® map of Mammoth Cave National park.
- **Visits to Ganter Cave are restricted** to those who can demonstrate spelunking experience and have the proper equipment. Inquire at the Visitor Center before visiting Ganter Cave.
- Hikers are encouraged to pick up the brochure "**Exploring On Top of Mammoth Cave**" at the Visitor Center before taking any hike in the park. This brochure contains **maps** and other important information.

GANTER CAVE

Hike or canoe out to the entrance of Ganter Cave for some on-your-own spelunking. Open to *experienced* cavers only, Ganter Cave is nearly 8,000 feet long and consists of at least two levels of passageway. Parties of four to nine people with appropriate caving gear can obtain a reservation to visit Ganter Cave. Inquire at the Visitor Center for a handout providing detailed information on requirements for a trip to Ganter.

HORSEBACK RIDING

All trails north of the Green River (except Ganter Cave Trail) are open for horseback riding. When hikers and horses meet, horses must be slowed to a walk and hikers must remain quiet. Three campsites at Maple Springs Group Campground are available for riders March through November. Each site can accommodate up to eight horses. Campsites cost \$15 per night and require reservations. For reservations, call the Chief Ranger's office at (502) 758-2251. Day-use horseback riders can park trailers at Lincoln Trailhead and across the road from Maple Springs Campground; trails are nearby. Always hitch horses more than 100 feet away from designated campsites, trails, or water sources. You may take a guided ride in the park with Double-J Stables (1-800-730-4773).

South Side

South Side hints and regulations:

The **Joppa Ridge Motor Nature Trail** is open seasonally. Inquire at the Visitor Center before visiting Joppa Ridge.

South Side Trails

Trail	Begins At	Length
Cedar Sink Trail	Cedar Sink Trailhead, Hwy. 422	0.8 mile
Sand Cave Trail	Sand Cave Trailhead, Hwy. 255	0.1 mile
Sloan's Crossing Pond Trail	Sloan's Crossing Pond Trailhead, Hwy. 70	0.4 mile
Turnhole Bend Nature Trail	Turnhole Bend Nature Trail Trailhead, Hwy. 70	1 mile



North Side Trails

Trail	Begins At	Length
Big Spring Trail	Little Jordan Cemetery	0.4 mile
Blair Spring Hollow Trail	Collie Ridge Trail at Raymer Hollow	1.2 miles
Collie Ridge Trail	Lincoln Trailhead	4.3 miles
First Creek Hollow Trail	Temple Hill Trailhead	6.7 miles
Ganter Cave Trail	Maple Springs Road	1.8 miles
Good Spring Loop Trail	Good Spring Church	7.9 miles
McCoy Hollow Trail	Houchins Ferry Road	6.3 miles
Raymer Hollow Trail	Maple Springs Road	4.7 miles
Sal Hollow Trail	Maple Springs Road	8.7 miles
Turnhole Bend Trail	Good Spring Church	3.2 miles
Wet Prong-McCoy Hollow Spur	Wet Prong Trail	0.4 mile
Wet Prong Trail	Houchins Ferry Road	4.9 miles
White Oak Trail	Little Jordan Road	2.7 miles



Visitor Center Area

Visitor Center Area hints and regulations:

- A **schedule of ranger-led walks**, campfire and evening programs, and auditorium programs is available at the Visitor Center.
- **Bicycles are not available** in the park.
- **No bicycles, roller-blades or roller skates** are permitted on the trails in the park.
- **Feeding wild animals is PROHIBITED.** Feeding animals has the potential to harm both the animals and the visitor.

CAMPING

The park has four campgrounds. Houchins Ferry camping area has 12 primitive campsites and is open year-round, \$5 per night. The other three camping areas are open March through November. The Headquarters Campground has 111 sites, \$10 per night. Hot showers, coin-operated laundry, and a campstore near Headquarters Campground are operated from spring to fall by a concessioner. Maple Springs Group Campground accommodates horses and large groups of people (limit 25 per site), \$15 per night. Maple Springs is the only park campground that operates on a reservation system—dial 1-502-758-2251. Dennison Ferry is a primitive campground with 4 available sites, no charge. The Headquarters, Maple Springs, and Dennison Ferry campgrounds will be closed December – February. All park campgrounds have toilets, grills, and picnic tables; all but Dennison Ferry have potable water.

River

River hints and regulations:

- **No fishing license is required** in the park. Otherwise, Kentucky fishing regulations apply. Inquire at the Visitor Center before fishing. Fish by handline, rod and reel, or trot and throw line. All other methods are prohibited.
- **Harvesting of mussels is prohibited** in the park.
- **Swimming in the river is not recommended** because of strong currents and deep holes.
- **Camping along the floodplain** is by permit only. Inquire at the Visitor Center before camping along the river.
- **Observe weather conditions.** Flooding is possible. In case of storms, leave the water and seek shelter.
- **Canoes are available** through liveries outside the park. Inquire at the Visitor Center or call 1-800-346-8908.
- **Boats** may be taken in and out of the water at Green River Ferry and Houchins Ferry. Canoes may be taken in and out at Green River, Houchins and Dennison Ferries.
- Tickets for **Miss Green River II** cruises are available at the Visitor Center, through the concessionaire.

BOATING AND CANOEING

Almost 30 miles of the Green and Nolin Rivers carry boaters past dramatic bluffs and large trees. To explore the Green River, launch your canoe at Dennison Ferry Campground or Green River Ferry; you'll find the best take-out points at Green River Ferry or Houchins Ferry. On the Nolin River, launch your boat just below Nolin River Dam at Tailwaters Recreation Area. When you reach the Green River, paddle upstream against a gentle current and take out at Houchins Ferry. We do not recommend that paddlers continue down the Green River to Lock and Dam #6. Located outside the park, the approach to the dam is not marked with warning signs. Being sucked into the current above the dam could be extremely hazardous. You may rent canoes from

Accessible Mammoth Cave

Visitor Center

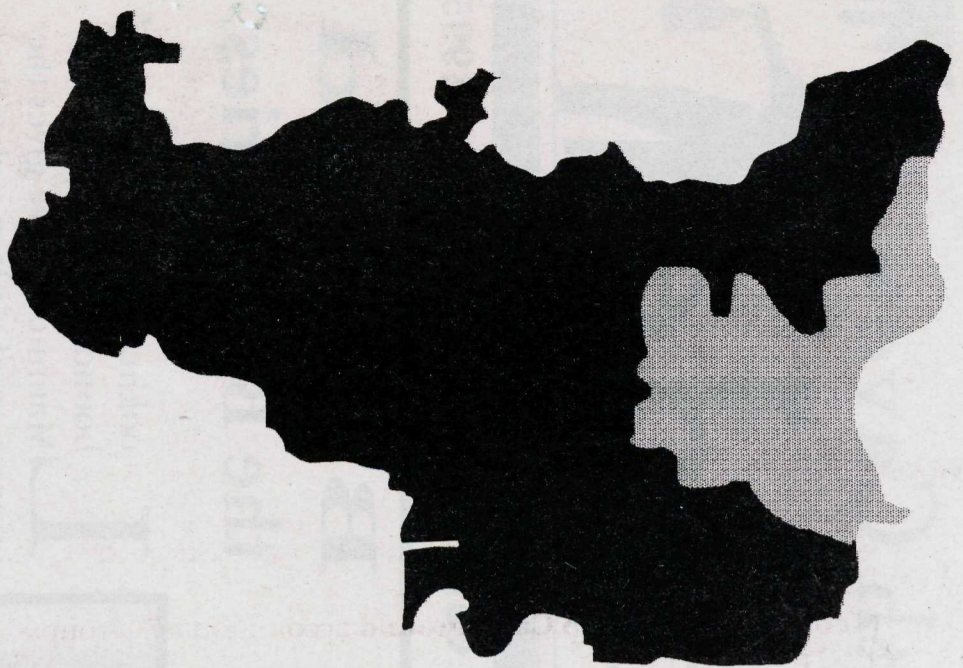
The Visitor Center and its restrooms are accessible. One or more rangers are trained – to some degree – in sign language. Call the park ahead of time to find out if a sign language interpreter will be available for your tour date. Inquiries may also be made at the Information Desk.

Headquarters Campground Area

Loop D has two designated wheelchair accessible campsites. Restroom facilities are also accessible. The nearby campstore, post office, and laundry facilities are also accessible. Camping facilities are available March through November.

Picnic Area

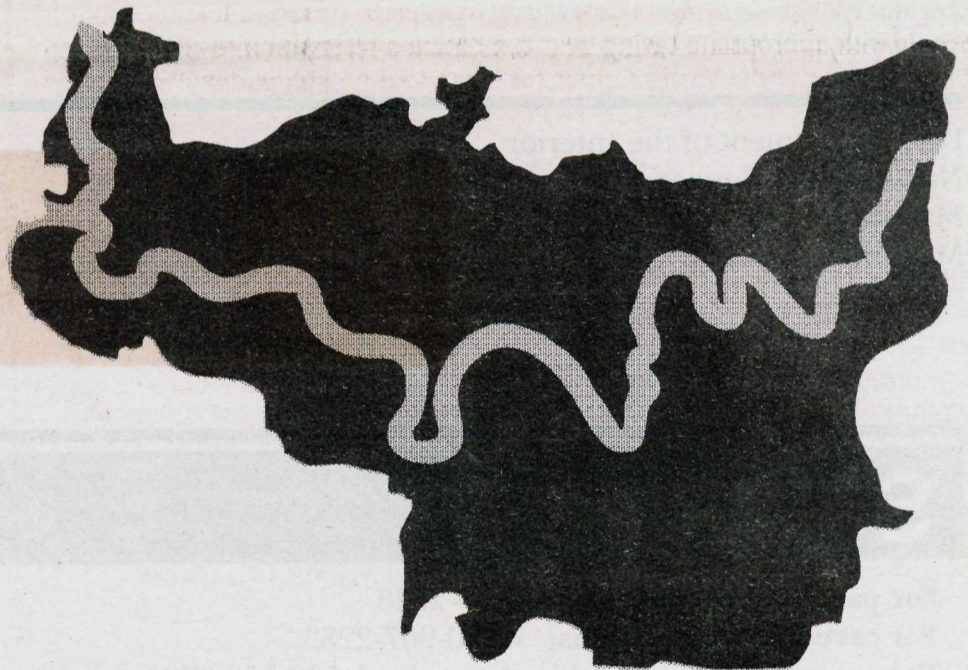
Open seasonally, the Picnic Area is minimally accessible. There are two handicapped parking spaces and picnic tables. Restrooms are not accessible for mobility impaired visitors.



Visitor Center Area Trails

Trail	Begins At	Length
Campground Trail	Campsite 11, Loop A	0.5 mile
Dixon Cave Trail	Historic Entrance	1.2 miles
Echo River Spring Trail	Green River Ferry	0.4 mile
Echo River Trail	Sunset Point	2.2 miles
Green River Bluffs Trail*	Visitor Center Picnic Area	1.1 miles
Mammoth Dome Sink Trail	Heritage Trail	0.3 mile
River Styx Spring Trail*	Historic Entrance	0.6 mile
Heritage Trail	Mammoth Cave Hotel	0.3 miles

* Self-guiding trail brochure available



concessionaires located near the park. With a backcountry camping permit, you can camp anywhere within the floodplain more than 1/2 mile from ferry crossings or developed campgrounds. River levels and current fluctuate dramatically, particularly during the winter months, and snags or sandbars may be hidden underwater. You must bring at least one Coast Guard-approved life preserver for each person.

The Heritage Trail

This level offers all visitors a leisurely stroll and has been specially designed to accommodate visitors with disabilities. The trail features wheelchair turnouts, rest areas with benches, and lights for evening use. Along this trail, you'll find a beautiful overlook, large trees, and The Old Guide's Cemetery. You can borrow a cassette tape describing the walk at the Visitor Center. The trail begins at the end of the footbridge near the Mammoth Cave Hotel.

Ranger Activities

Some ranger-led activities are accessible. Refer to page 2 for details.

Hotel & Restaurant

Recent hotel renovations now provide access for visitors in a wheelchair. Four fully accessible overnight accommodations and two fully accessible sets of restrooms are now available.

Mammoth Cave Guide

Your Guide To Visiting Mammoth Cave National Park 1995

Beyond the Boundaries

Looking at a map of the boundaries of a park like Mammoth Cave gives the impression of a place isolated, and insulated, from everywhere else. But all of these places – all national parks – are vitally joined to the world around them. And few make this clearer than Mammoth Cave.

We are discovering that the park's 52,830 acres do not encompass all the resources that inspired Congress in 1926 to authorize a new national park in Kentucky. The cave itself reaches beyond the boundary under surrounding hills and ridges. The real measure of the park's connection to the outside world is not what goes out of the park, but what comes in.

More Inside



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U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Mammoth Cave National Park
Mammoth Cave, KY 42259



Services

- For park information:** 1-502-758-2328
- For cave tour reservations:** 1-800-967-2283
- For accommodations within the park:** 1-502-758-2225
- For accommodations and attractions outside the park:** 1-800-346-8908

ACCOMMODATIONS

In the park:
Mammoth Cave Hotel,
758-2225
Outside the park:
call 1-800-346-8908

POST OFFICE

Service Center at
Headquarters Campground,
758-2311

LOST AND FOUND

Ticket Sales Area, Visitor
Center, 758-2328

SHOWERS & LAUNDROMAT

Service Center at
Headquarters Campground.
Hours vary by season.

FIRST AID

Visitor Center

RESTAURANTS

In the park:
Mammoth Cave Hotel,
758-2225
Outside the park:
call 1-800-346-8908

GIFTS

Mammoth Cave Hotel,
758-2225

KENNEL

Mammoth Cave Hotel,
758-2225

GROCERIES

Service Center Camp Store
at Headquarters
Campground

EMERGENCIES

Dial 911. For non-emergency
assistance, dial the following,
in order, until you receive a
reply: 758-2328, 758-2322,
758-2111

FUEL

Service Center Camp Store
at Headquarters
Campground

Celebrations at Mammoth Cave

Participate in some of the special events and activities being observed at Mammoth Cave National Park. From displays in the Visitor Center area to weekends filled with walks, talks, and activities, your national park is the perfect backdrop for expanding cultural, historical, and holiday interest.

Wildflower Weekend

April 22 & 23, 1995

Celebrate the coming of spring with a variety of conducted nature walks to view some of the 872 species of flowering plants located in Mammoth Cave National Park. Slide presentations, displays, and intriguing lectures by renown botanist round out this colorful weekend. Admission: Free

Archaeology Weekend

November

(TBA - Call the park for information)

If you're interested in life during prehistoric and historic times, this series of discussions, lectures, slide presentations, and craft demonstrations is not to be missed! Learn weaving techniques, flint knapping, and the latest in archeological preservation and continuing research in and around the Mammoth Cave. Admission: Free

Keep Wildlife Wild!

Please don't feed the animals in the park. They can become dependent on unhealthy human handouts. Also, they are not tame and can hurt you, no matter how "cute" they may seem. The park is their refuge – don't kill any living thing, even animals you may be afraid of or find unpleasant, like snakes, salamanders and insects. They are all part of the living system of Mammoth Cave.

Be Car-Safe!

Sad to say, not all of our visitors are as honest as you, and items have been stolen from vehicles. Always lock your vehicle and stow any valuables out of sight of a would-be thief. Also, not all of our visitors know the dangers of leaving children or pets in the car during their visit; temperatures inside a closed car can reach a dangerous 120-degrees on a hot day.