



# MAMMOTH CAVE GUIDE

Mammoth Cave National Park • Volume VI, No. 1 • 2000



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Inside

# Green River

**T**he Green River flows deeply in all the ways a river flows – through valleys, through earth, through time, through history. It flows through the center of the park, in all the ways that matter.

In the park, the Green can be very deep in the conventional sense – over 40' deep at Turnhole Spring – although the river stands at around 8 feet deep on the average (10 feet to 12 feet in the park). Its 27-mile winding course through the park is only a fraction of the river's 450-mile length, and its valley covers 9,340 square miles in Kentucky and 377 square miles in northern Tennessee. Several small Appalachian streams combine to form the river's headwaters in Lincoln and Casey counties. From there the river flows west until turning north to join the Ohio.

The Green River valley in the park is deeply cut. From ridgetop to river level, the difference in elevation can be almost 400 feet. The picturesque bluffs of the Green River offer some of the park's best views, and contain caves that give a clue to another of the river's unseen depths – its secret tributaries.

Although a number of rivers feed the Green, there are few surface streams in the Mammoth Cave area that flow into it. In cave country, those streams are underground. The porous limestones of this region draw rainwater downward through sinkholes and channel it into subterranean rivers that course sometimes for miles before joining the Green River as springs. Many of these springs – sometimes called "blue holes" – can be quite deep, and often much colder than the river itself. Blue holes have been popular among local people for years as a way to cope with a sweltering Kentucky summer.

The flow of underground rivers through the limestone of the region has, over hundreds of thousands of years, produced the longest known system of interconnected cave passages, Mammoth Cave. Indeed, it is the greenish reflection of light off of limestone particles in the water that gives the river its name.



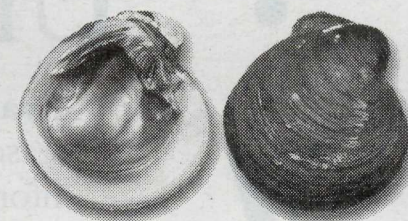
# Deep Waters

The genesis of the river stretches deeply back through time, to its first beginnings as a minor tributary to the Ohio, which was itself at one time only a minor tributary to the Mississippi. In the Quaternary period, an ancient river system called the Teays River was diverted by advancing glaciers into the Ohio, causing the Ohio to dig its valley

*Continued on page 4*

## Have you ever seen a Fatmucket?

Or a rough pigtoe, or a sheepsnose? These are only a few of the more than 70 species of freshwater mussels that inhabit the Green River in Mammoth Cave National Park. This abundance makes the Green River the most diverse population of mussels in the eastern United States. A sampling of other species sounds like a dresser drawer was dumped in the river: spectaclecase, plain pocketbook, snuffbox, pistolgrip. As abundant as they are here, the mussels are under threat elsewhere along the river – commercial mussellers harvest the molluscs for their shells, which are made into buttons and jewelry. Pollution along the river's course threatens habitats. And a tenacious invader, the zebra mussel, may soon be making inroads into the Green River, working its way down from the Great Lakes along the Ohio River, where it is already damaging native freshwater mussel communities. For now, the national park, and some counties upstream, are a haven.



Ring Pink, *Obovaria retusa*

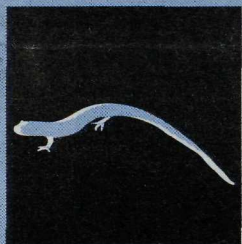
# BEEFLOOAAA

## Historic Tour

2 hours, 2 miles (strenuous). Visit the cave passages and learn about the rich human history that made Mammoth Cave famous. 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. Restrooms available. Limit: 120

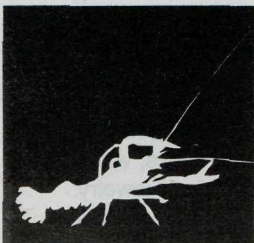
## Frozen Niagara Tour

2 hours, ¾ mile (strenuous). Descend in search of the spectacular. Ride a bus to the entrance, explore huge pits and domes and view decorative dripstone formations, including stalactites and stalagmites. Must navigate approximately 300 steps and traverse steep terrain. If you fear heights or close places and/or cannot climb steps, do not take this tour. The Travertine Tour route is included in this more strenuous tour. Restrooms not available. Limit: 120



## Discovery Tour

½ hr. minimum, ¾ mile (moderate). Visit one of the largest rooms in Mammoth Cave, explore a large canyon passage, talk with park rangers and learn about 19th Century saltpeter mining operations and the geologic origins of Mammoth Cave. Must descend and climb one stairway with more than 60 steps. To get the full picture, hike the River Styx Spring Trail or the Green River Bluffs Trail in conjunction with this tour. Overlaps a small part of the Historic Tour. **Unlimited availability during periods of high visitation.**



## Travertine Tour

1-1¼ hours, ¼ mile (easy). This short introductory tour benefits those who experience difficulty in walking, and those with infants and toddlers. Ride a bus to the Frozen Niagara entrance and view some of the cave's finest geologic artistry, including stalactites, stalagmites, pits and domes. Must climb 18 steps; an additional 98 steps are optional. Limit: 40

## Gothic Tour

2 hours, 1½ miles (moderately strenuous). Visitors began touring the Mammoth Cave in 1816 to marvel at the wonders underground – and became themselves a part of the cave's fascinating history. Discover how early visitors saw the cave by lantern light and how they left their mark on this "grand, gloomy and peculiar place." Must climb and descend two stairways- one with more than 60 steps and the other with about 40 steps. Restrooms are not available. Limit: 40

## Great Onyx Tour

2¼ hours, 1 mile (moderately strenuous). Even before the creation of this national park, the private owners of Great Onyx Cave understood the need for stewardship. Join a Park Ranger on a visit to Flint Ridge and Great Onyx Cave and learn how past and present ways of treasuring these resources have come together. 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 straw" stalactites. Limit: 40

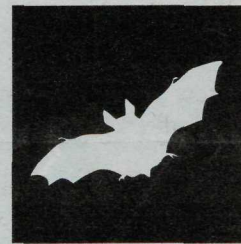
## Mammoth Passage Tour

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

## Making of Mammoth Tour

2½ hours, 2½ miles (strenuous). Get back to basics – discover the geologic beginnings of Mammoth Cave and learn why it is unique throughout the world. Trip will investigate the cave's ancient origins 325 million years ago all the way to its ongoing formation today. This exploration of the cave's diversity will descend to the very bottom of the cave – 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

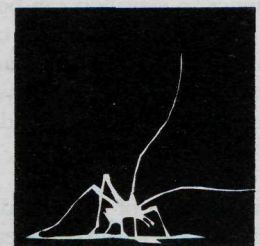
3 hours, 3 miles (strenuous). Follow the path of the cave's famous explorers along a nostalgic journey into Mammoth Cave's historic past. By the light of coal-oil lantern, view a saltpeter mining operation, evidence of prehistoric exploration, historic tuberculosis hospital ruins, and some of the largest rooms and passageways in the cave. The first half-mile follows the Historic Tour route. Do not bring flashlights. Hiking boots recommended. Restrooms not available. **Participants must be 6 years of age or older.** Limit: 60

## Mobility Impaired Tour

1 mile, 1¼ hours (easy). Designed for visitors in wheelchairs and for physically challenged visitors unable to participate in other cave tours. Ride a van to the elevator entrance, descend, and see tubular passages with delicate gypsum minerals encrusting the walls. Two wheelchairs available. Restrooms not wheelchair accessible. Golden Age and Access passport discounts do not apply on this tour; discounts have been applied to tour price. Limit: 9

## 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.) Must have a chest size of no larger than 42 inches – anyone larger will not fit through the tight spaces. Crawl, climb, and squeeze through small passages off traditional tour routes. Helmets and lights provided. Kneepads available for this tour, but you may bring your own – rollerblade-type or hard plastic kneepads not allowed. High-top (over-the-ankle) lace-up boots, with lug or deeply-treaded soles, are required. Gloves and long pants recommended. Visitors should bring a lunch and a small water bottle in a small "fanny" pack. (Lunches may be available for purchase, seasonally, for an additional charge.) Restrooms available. Visitors with tickets being held at "Will Call" must check in 30 minutes prior to departure or your tickets will be released. Limit: 14



## Trog Tour

2½ hours (moderately strenuous). The environment is in many parts, and they all work together – children 8-12 years old can discover the connections between the sunlit world and the

# Underground Activities . . . . .

**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.

For more information on ranger-led cave trips, call the park at (270)758-2328 Monday through Friday, 8 am – 4:30 pm Central Time.



# Notes for Those Who Venture Below

underground world on this environmentally-focused activity. Parents must accompany their children for the first 15 minutes of the program and then promptly pick up children at the end of the program. Designed for children 8-12 years old – the trip is too physically challenging for younger children. (Be prepared to show proof of age). Be prepared for crawling. Helmets and lights provided. Long pants and sturdy shoes or hiking boots required. Gloves recommended. We also recommend that you bring kneepads – rollerblade-type or hard plastic kneepads not allowed. 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 responsible caving. Visit passages off traditional tour routes. Stooping, bending and crawling. Helmets and lights provided. Bring your own knee pads; no rollerblade-type or hard plastic kneepads allowed. Long pants and high-top (over-the-ankle) lace-up athletic shoes or boots, with lug or deeply-treaded soles, are required. Gloves recommended. Restrooms not available. Youths must be at least 10 years old. Ages 10-15 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

## Grand Avenue Tour

4½ hours, 4 miles (Very Strenuous). Experience the cave's geologic variety. Hike through avenues representing four separate aspects of cave formation and discover why some of these passages were originally named "Grand Avenue." A short bus ride to Carmichael Entrance begins the trip. Consider your physical limitations – must ascend and descend steep switchback trails and a total of more than 500 stairs. Restrooms available. Scheduled 35-minute lunch stop at Snowball Room – lunch may be purchased at an additional charge. Age restriction: **children must be at least 6 years old to take the Grand Avenue Tour.** Overlaps a portion of the Frozen Niagara and Travertine tours. Limit: 120.

## 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.
- 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. If you have difficulty walking on uneven surface trails, cave trails will also pose a problem.
- **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. **Use caution** when carrying children in backpacks because of low ceilings; rangers will advise you when they may be used. Do not use them when entering the cave on the Frozen Niagara Tour.
- 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.

## 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 only at stops** to avoid hazard to yourself and others.



Lanterns waiting to pierce the shadows on the Violet City Lantern Tour.

## Are You Between 6 and 13 Years Old?



**D**o you want to learn all you can about Mammoth Cave National Park? If so:

**Take the Trog Tour,** a summer 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 are eligible to become Junior Rangers. Purchase the Junior Ranger packet at the book sales area in the Visitor Center and start rangersing! 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 10 and up, crawling into dark, twisting tunnels and learning why people go caving, how they do it safely, and what they find when they're there.

### Above Ground Temperatures

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

### Below Ground Temperatures

# 54°

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.

## EARTHSPEAK! 2000

### SPRINGFEST (APRIL 15-23)

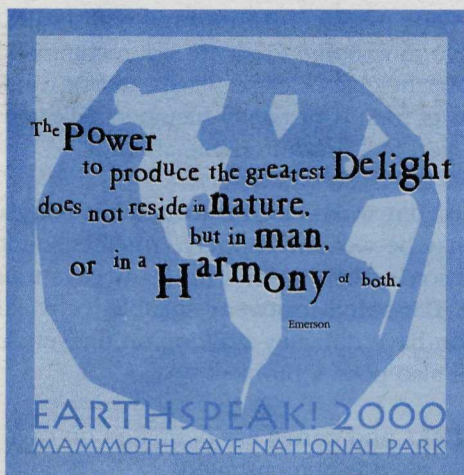
Earth Day and National Park Week provide the backdrop as we celebrate the natural world with this great slate of spring activities.

### KARSTLANDS JURIED ARTS EXHIBITION

Kentucky artists are invited to enter works on paper and canvas for this nine-day celebration of Central Kentucky's artistic and aesthetic excellence. The "Express Yourself!" workshop lets your own talent come forth.

### WILDFLOWER WEEKEND

Your national park explodes in natural color as its native wildflowers come into their own. Discover this pageant for yourself – join over twenty guided walks led by some of the Commonwealth's preeminent naturalists. Several naturalist seminars will also be offered free to the public.



### KARSTLANDS MUSIC SERIES

Styles from bluegrass to folk to brass to choral celebrate our Kentucky heritage **all summer long.**

### COLORFALL (OCTOBER 7-15)

Changing leaves add color to this varied tapestry of offerings celebrating the rich cultures of the Karstlands of Central Kentucky.

Archeologists and folklorists will share their knowledge through shows, demonstrations and seminars in Native American life, modern area history, genealogy, and cemetery preservation. Professional craftspeople will demonstrate traditional Kentucky crafts, from broommaking to quilting to spinning to storytelling.

### COLORFALL FOLKWAYS EXHIBITION

Works on paper as well as the work of professional crafters, will illustrate the rich culture of the region in a fantastic nine-day exhibition.

For detailed event-specific information, call (270)758-2254 or visit our website at <http://www.nps.gov/macal/>

## Green River - Deep Waters

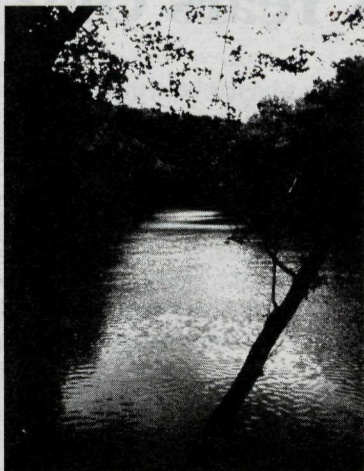
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deeper. This caused its tributaries, like the Green, to also dig deeper valleys.

The river's depths hold creatures whose form is unchanged from ages past – gars and turtles – as well as creatures like the eyeless cave crayfish whose very form developed in the dark recesses of springs and underground rivers.

The breadth of diversity of the life in the Green River ecology is also enormous. The river contains over 80 species of fish, making its fish fauna perhaps the most diverse in the National Park system. Even more important is the great diversity of freshwater mussels.

Canoeists on the river routinely see white-tailed deer, beaver,



*A view from riverside*

ducks, herons, squirrels, snakes, and raccoons. These creatures are drawn to the riverbank by the same scarcity of surface water that drew humans in prehistory. We know that Native Americans had an association with Green



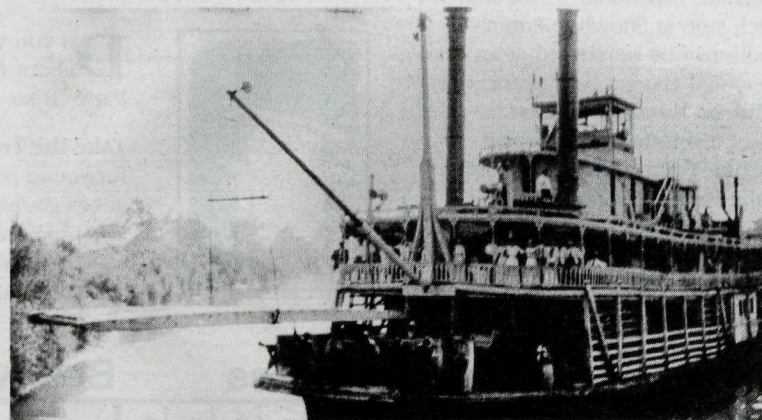
*Mammoth Cave ferry, circa 1930. Today's ferry is one of the few remaining working river ferries in America.*

River more than 4,000 years ago, because the river cane they used to light their way into Mammoth Cave has been found in the cave, perfectly preserved. The river would have served as a ready source of food and water for early peoples, and cavities in the rock bluffs provided shelter.

Europeans arrived during the late 1790s and early 1800s, flowing, like the waters, from the Appalachian mountains. Like the Native Americans before them, these settlers found water for drinking and cooking difficult to come by on the ridge tops. Most families chose to live near the river, which at that time was known as the "Buffaloe River."

During the 1830s, construction of canals and dams began to deepen the relatively low water levels upstream and make the Green River navigable. This allowed freedom to explore new territory. By 1906, a lock and dam number six was built 20 miles downstream, which opened the river to steamboat traffic. The steamboats not only brought visitors to tour the cave, along with food and other supplies, but also transported crops such as tobacco, corn and wheat to markets to sell for local farmers.

One of the first steamboats to arrive at Mammoth Cave was the *Chaperon*. Another popular steamboat was the *Evansville*. It left port from Evansville, Indiana for a four-day cruise to Mammoth Cave. A round trip ticket cost around \$10.00 in 1925. In the 1930's, steamboat travel to Mammoth Cave ended when the



*The steamboat Evansville, circa 1925*

*Evansville* burned. Improving road conditions and the growth of the railroad also helped slow steamboat travel.

Progress poses threats, however. Agricultural runoff, industrial effluent, and domestic waste have the potential to pollute the waters of the Green River both directly and through contamination of underground tributaries. Monitoring and cooperation among people living along the river to mitigate threats will go a long way toward keeping the Green a safe and sustaining water source.

Our influence on the river can be as profound as its influence on us, and the way we live, work and play along the Green River must be guided by an understanding and appreciation that continues to deepen.

FOR INFORMATION ON RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ON THE RIVER, SEE PAGE 7.

# UserFee Program

What will your money do for the park?



## Investments in our parks – We need your support.

**W**elcome! Mammoth Cave National Park is being cared for today and preserved for future generations by the American people. This dual objective – use and preservation – comes at a price. Protecting our natural and cultural heritage while ensuring that all our visitors have a safe, enjoyable, and educational experience costs money.

Due to the popularity of these national treasures, the number of visitors continues to climb. But government funding available for necessities such as road and building repairs, campground maintenance, visitor protection, and other services has not kept pace with the demand.

To address these needs, Congress directed the U.S. Department of the Interior in 1996 to implement the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program in three of its agencies, including the National Park Service.

### The Recreation Fee Demonstration Program Will:

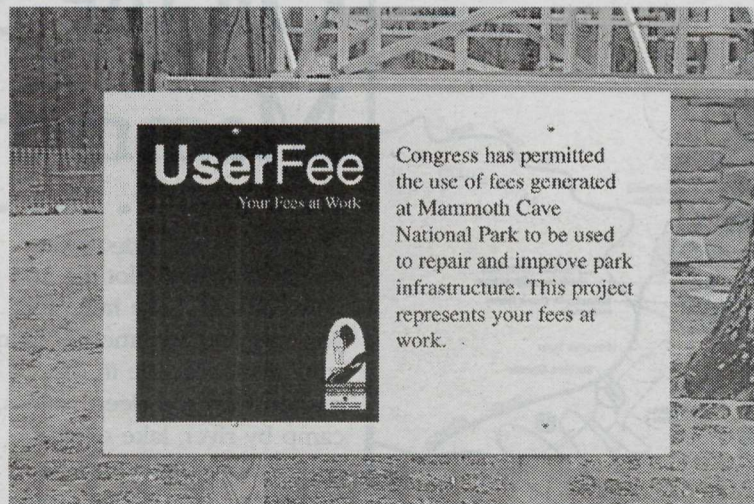
- Allow a significant portion of the fees collected at a public area to be spent directly on behalf of that area for deferred construction projects and/or certain ranger services to support visitor use.
- Allow each agency to develop fair and equitable fee collection programs, whether the public areas are large or small, urban or wilderness, natural or historical.
- Allow each agency to collect fees efficiently and to determine the activities to be covered by fees. In some cases, visitors may have to pay for activities that have never had an associated fee.

We encourage you to participate in recreational activities – such experience will enhance your visit and create memories. The future of these public lands rests with all American Citizens. The actions we take today will reflect the price we are willing to pay to pass these lands to future generations. We need and welcome your support.

### Recreation Use Fees at Mammoth Cave National Park

The new fees will be used here at Mammoth Cave National Park to:

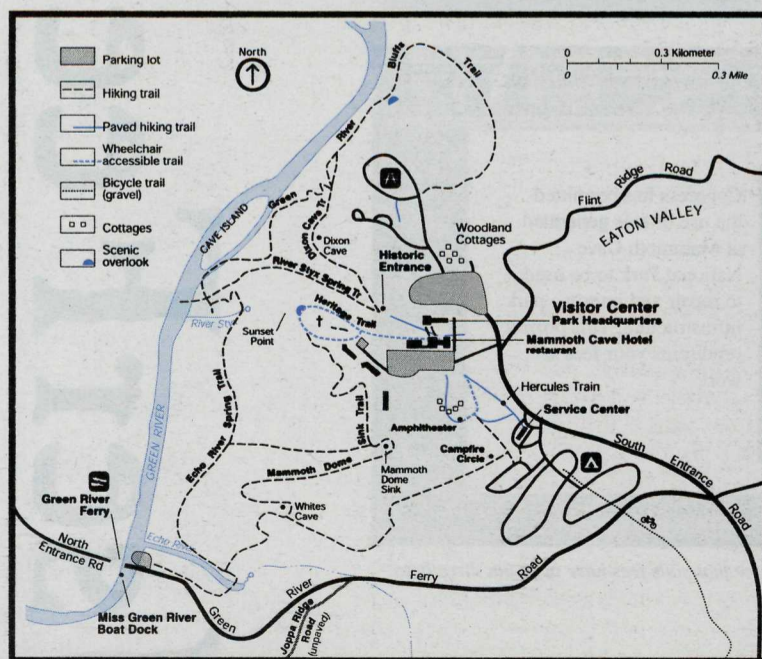
- Provide additional cave tours
- Cover the cost of fee collection
- Rehabilitate and remodel the park Visitor Center
- Enhance access to the cave elevator
- Improve Maple Springs Education/Research Center



*If you see this sign in the park, you will know that your fees have been put directly to work for you at that location.*

## Thank you!

# UserFee Program



Visitor Center Area

## On the Surface of Mammoth Cave National Park

On the **North Side** over a dozen campsites dot the 70+ miles of trail. 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. Drive the scenic routes of Houchins Ferry Road and Little Jordan Road. If you have a large group of friends, camp out at the Maple Springs Group Campground.

On the **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 Joppa Ridge Road and peer into the deep valleys. In the **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 to the underworld. Take a ranger-led walk and get some first-hand knowledge about the animals and plants of the region. Sit in on an Evening Program at the Campfire Circle or the Amphitheatre. 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. See the train *Hercules*. Watch a film, slide show or mini-talk in the Auditorium. 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,

### 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 a licensed livery outside the park. *Double-J Stables and Campground* offers horseback riding in the park: (800)730-HRSE / (270)286-8167
- **Useful guides** to the backcountry include *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, and *Wildflowers of Mammoth Cave National Park*, by Randy Seymour. See page 11 for ordering information.

#### 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 \$20 per night and require reservations. For reservations, call the (270)758-2328. 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 horse liveries outside the park. Inquire at the Visitor Center or call 1-800-346-8908.

### South Side

#### Hints and regulations:

- The **Joppa Ridge Motor Nature Trail** is open seasonally. Inquire at the Visitor Center before visiting Joppa Ridge.
- **Ask for the South Side Guide** at the book sales area in the Visitor Center. This guidebook will lead you to all the sights on the South Side and explain the intricate workings of the natural systems south of the Green River.

### Visitor Center

#### 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 three campgrounds. Houchins Ferry camping area has 12 primitive campsites and is open year-round, \$5 per night. The other two camping areas are open March through November. The main visitor center campground has 109 sites, \$13 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), \$20 per night. The visitor center area and Maple Springs campgrounds will be closed December through February. All park campgrounds have toilets, grills, picnic tables and potable water. Campground reservations can now be made by calling the National Park Reservation System at (800)967-2283, or online at [reservations.nps.gov](http://reservations.nps.gov).

### 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 three licensed liveries outside the park: *Green River Canoeing, Inc.*: (800)651-9909 / (270)597-2031 *Barren River Canoe Rentals, Inc.*: (270)796-1979 *Mammoth Cave Canoe and Kayak*: (270)773-3210
- **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 day-use area 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 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.



# ABOVE

# Trails

With nearly 80 miles of hiking trails, Mammoth Cave National Park offers plenty of space to stretch your (or your horse's) legs. Pick up a trail guide, a trail map, and perhaps a topographic map at the Visitor Center and get to know the "other half" of your park (the upper half) first hand.



A hiker explores the park's inviting trails.

Vickie Garson

## North Side Trails

Trail	Begins At	Length
Blair Spring Hollow Trail	Collie Ridge Trail at Raymer Hollow	1.2 mi./1.9 km
Buffalo Trail	Maple Springs Trailhead	4 mi./6.4 km
Collie Ridge Trail	Lincoln Trailhead	4.3 mi./6.9 km
First Creek Hollow Trail	Temple Hill Trailhead	6.7 mi./10.7 km
Ganter Cave Trail	Maple Springs Trailhead	1.8 mi./2.9 km
Good Spring Loop Trail	Maple Springs Trailhead	7.9 mi./12.7 km
McCoy Hollow Trail	Temple Hill Trailhead	6.3 mi./10 km
Raymer Hollow Trail	Maple Springs Trailhead	4.7 mi./7.5 km
Sal Hollow Trail	Maple Springs Trailhead	8.7 mi./13.9 km
Turnhole Bend Trail	Maple Springs Trailhead	3.2 mi./5.1 km
Wet Prong-McCoy Hollow Spur	Wet Prong Trail	0.4 mi./0.6 km
Wet Prong Trail	First Creek Trailhead	4.9 mi./7.9 km
White Oak Trail	Little Jordan Road	2.7 mi./4.3 km

## South Side Trails

Trail	Begins At	Length
Cedar Sink Trail	Cedar Sink Trailhead, Hwy. 422	0.8 mi./1.3 km
Sand Cave Trail	Sand Cave Trailhead, Hwy. 255	0.1 mi./0.2 km
Sloan's Crossing Pond Trail	Sloan's Crossing Pond Trailhead, Hwy. 70	0.4 mi./0.6 km
Turnhole Bend Nature Trail	Turnhole Bend Nature Trail Trailhead, Hwy. 70	1 mi./1.6 km

## Visitor Center Area Trails

Trail	Begins At	Length
Campground Trail	Campsite 11, Loop A	0.5 mi./0.8 km
Dixon Cave Trail	Historic Entrance	1.2 mi./1.9 km
Echo River Spring Trail	Green River Ferry	0.4 mi./0.6 km
Echo River Trail	Sunset Point	2.2 mi./3.5 km
Green River Bluffs Trail*	Visitor Center Picnic Area	1.1 mi./1.8 km
Mammoth Dome Sink Trail	Heritage Trail	2 mi./3.2 km
River Styx Spring Trail*	Historic Entrance	0.6 mi./1 km
Heritage Trail	Mammoth Cave Hotel	0.3 mi./0.5 km

Self-guiding trail brochures are available for trails marked with an asterisk (\*)

# Services

**For park information:** 1-270-758-2328

**For cave tour, campground, and picnic shelter reservations:** 1-800-967-2283

**For accommodations within the park:** 1-270-758-2225

**For accommodations and attractions outside the park:** 1-800-346-8908

Check out our  
World Wide Web  
site at:

[www.nps.gov/maca/](http://www.nps.gov/maca/)

## 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

## 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

## SHOWERS & LAUNDROMAT

Service Center at Headquarters  
Campground. Hours vary by  
season.

## FIRST AID

Visitor Center

## LOST AND FOUND

Ticket Sales Area, Visitor Center,  
758-2328

## 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

# Accessibility

## 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.

## 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.

## Heritage Trail

This level offers all visitors a  
leisurely stroll and has been  
specially designed to accommo-  
date 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 historic "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 foot-  
bridge near the Mammoth Cave  
Hotel.

## Ranger Activities

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

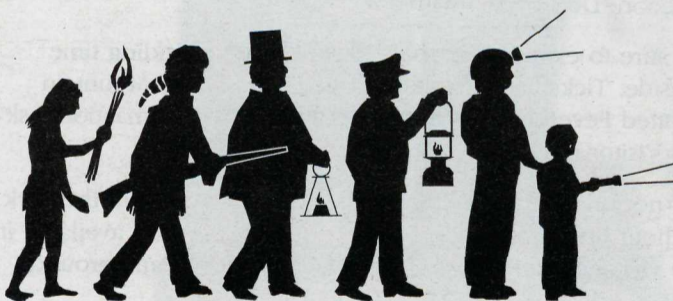
## Hotel & Restaurant

The hotel provides access for  
visitors in a wheelchair. Four

fully accessible overnight  
accommodations and two fully  
accessible sets of restrooms are  
available.



Clip out and send



## Friends OF MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK

P.O. Box 8 · MAMMOTH CAVE, KY 42259  
TEL: 270.758.2254 · FAX: 270.758.2349

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

The Friends of  
Mammoth Cave  
National Park is a  
nonprofit organization  
whose purpose is to  
further education,  
science, and resource  
protection in Mammoth  
Cave National Park. All

### Membership Levels

#### Personal

- Friend  \$25
- Student  \$15
- Family (2 persons)  \$45
- Supporter  \$100
- Associate  \$500
- Life Member  \$1000

#### Corporate

- Corp. Friend  \$200-\$999
- Corp. Supporter  \$1000-\$1999
- Corp. Associate  \$2000-\$4999
- Corp. Partner  \$5000 and up

proceeds from the  
Friends' activities benefit  
the Park.

To join, fill out this form  
and mail, with your  
check, to the address  
shown at left.

**Yes!!**  
I want to help!

More Information



# Safety

“This is a national park.  
Nothing bad can happen  
to me here, right?”

The National Park Service is constantly looking for ways to make the park safer, but remember – you are in a natural resource and a public place and you must always look out for your own safety. Here are some tips to help ensure that your visit is a safe one:

## Underground

Take a little time to ensure that the activity you have chosen is the best one for you. All cave tours and nature walks are strenuous, so be sure you understand what will be required of you before the start of your activity. If you are unsure, ask a park ranger to explain what will be required of you. NEVER let someone talk you into doing an activity if you feel uneasy about it.

Cave and surface trails are uneven and slippery so be sure you have the proper footwear and always look before you step. Camera tripods and monopods and child strollers are prohibited in the cave because they present a tripping hazard.

## Outside

When leaving your car at the Visitor Center or a remote trailhead, always lock the doors and store all items out of sight. When possible, park in an open, well-lit area.

Do not approach or feed animals. All animals in the park are wild, and feeding them harms their well-being. All animals can be dangerous, even the most harmless-looking deer, squirrel or raccoon. Do not approach.

Be sure to examine yourself for ticks after spending time outside. Ticks can carry diseases such as Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Lyme disease. For more information, ask at the Visitor Center.

Do not drink from rivers, ponds, lakes or springs in the park without first treating the water ... potable water is available in the visitor center area and at Houchins Ferry Campground.

When you begin a trail hike, always leave word. Sign in at trailhead registers where they are available.

Use caution on rocky or slippery trails.

Swimming in the Green River is at your own risk, and is *not* recommended.

Carry a flashlight if you hike in late evening.

Report any suspicious activity to a park ranger right away.

**If you set aside a little time to think about safety, your visit to Mammoth Cave National Park will be remembered as an enjoyable time that you will want to experience again.**

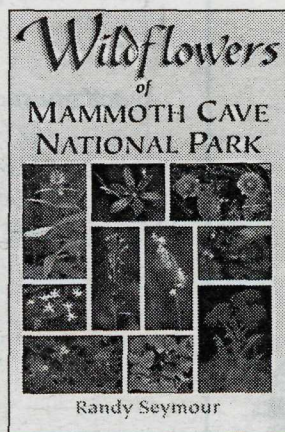
**Wrong.**



Serving America's National Parks  
and other Public Trusts



**W**ildflowers of Mammoth Cave National Park provides an in-depth field guide to 400 wildflowers found along the trails and roads within the park, nearly all of them species found throughout Kentucky and in neighboring states. Each wildflower is represented by a brilliant full-color photograph and accompanied by a text that identifies its characteristics: colors, floral and leaf forms, flowering time, and native or introduced status, as well as the plant's folklore, past herbal or medicinal use, and myriad other myths and historical facts. For those enthusiasts eager to search for new discoveries, the appendixes provide tables showing the observed flowering period, a flower hunting planning guide, and an index of flowers by trail. Here is an indispensable book for the amateur enthusiast and the professional botanist alike.



Eastern National is a non-profit organization. All proceeds are used by the association to support interpretive, historical, scientific, and educational activities of the National Park Service.

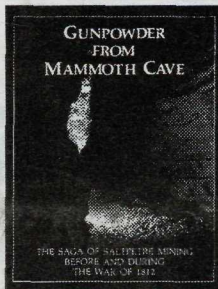
**"The illustrations are superb. They alone are worth the price of the book."**

—John W. Thieret, Botanist

### Gunpowder From Mammoth Cave

Duane DePaepe

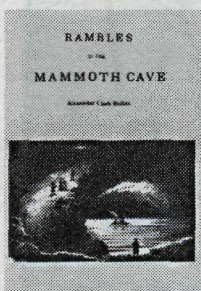
Every year thousands of visitors enter the dark portals of Mammoth Cave's Historic Entrance and file past a disarray of 180-year-old hewn timbers. Little do the visitors realize they are seeing the remains of what was once an important mining operation before and during the War of 1812. This book sheds a scholarly yet very readable light on a darkened time in American history.



### Rambles In The Mammoth Cave

Alexander Clark Bullitt

Originally published in 1844, *Rambles* takes the reader on a tour with one of the legendary guides of Mammoth Cave during the era of Dr. John Croghan, the cave's owner. Vivid descriptions of places, sights, sound and conversation bring vintage Mammoth Cave to life.



### Trapped!

Robert K. Murray & Roger W. Brucker

"The story of Floyd Collins' entrapment in a Kentucky cave makes for chilling and exciting reading in what will probably stand as the definitive study of the 1925 tragedy."

—Library Journal



### The Longest Cave

Roger W. Brucker & Richard A. Watson

This is the gripping and suspenseful story of the magnificent achievement that has been compared to the conquest of Everest – the final connection between the Flint Ridge and Mammoth Cave systems.



#### To Order:

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- Gunpowder From Mammoth Cave \$3.75
- Rambles in the Mammoth Cave \$5.95
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**Prices subject to change. These prices effective as of 12/01/99. Please call (270)758-2344 to verify your order before mailing.**

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Mammoth Cave National Park  
P.O. Box 33  
Mammoth Cave, KY 42259

Bookstore

# MAMMOTH CAVE GUIDE

Mammoth Cave National Park • Volume VI, No. 1 • 2000



Detail from *Spring House*, by Dwight Williams. Winner, Best of Show, 1998 Karstlands Juried Arts Exhibition

## HOW TO RESERVE CAVE TOUR TICKETS

# Call 1-800-967-2283

**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 in advance, no later than 24 hours before you wish to tour the cave.

In addition to cave tours, campground and picnic shelter reservations may also now be made using the National Park Reservation Service. Visitors may reserve sites in Headquarters Campground and in Maple Springs Group Campground. One shelter in the park's picnic area is available for reservation.

### FOR RESERVATIONS

By Phone: (800)967-2283  
By Fax: (301)722-1174  
TDD (hearing impaired): (888)530-9796  
International: (301)722-1257  
Online: [reservations.nps.gov](http://reservations.nps.gov)

### CALL CENTER HOURS

9:00 am – 9:00 pm Central Time, 7 days a week

### PAYMENT



Checks and money orders through deferred payment only. Visitors who reserve using deferred payment must do so no less than 20 days in advance of their arrival at the park.

### CANCELLATION

All changes of reservation will be considered a cancellation and charged \$1.50 per tour ticket. Cancellations made less than 24 hours in advance of the tour will not receive a refund.



U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Mammoth Cave National Park  
P.O. Box 7  
Mammoth Cave, KY 42259