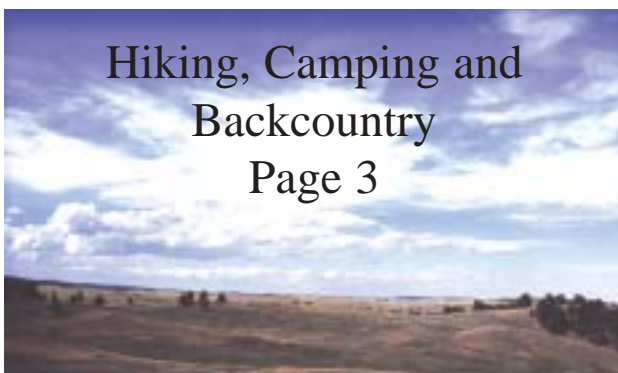




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Visitor's Guide to Wind Cave National Park

2006

## Exploring the Two Worlds of Wind Cave National Park

Wind Cave National Park protects one of the longest, most complex maze-cave systems in the world and contains an amazing amount of the rare formation called boxwork. It is a great place to learn about the unique geology of the cave and to hear about the adventures of cave explorers. However, if you leave having only taken a cave tour, then you've missed half of what makes this park so special.



### Surrounded by a Sea of Grass

Imagine yourself surrounded by a sea of grass, softly illuminated by golden-tinged afternoon sunlight. A gentle breeze brings the sweet vanilla scent of the ponderosa pine. In the distance, a herd of bison silently graze while a nearby meadowlark whistles a pleasant song.

As your eyes scan the prairie, you discover not only its signature grasses, but a wide variety of delicate wildflowers. Creamy-white sego lilies, purple coneflowers, and golden-yellow sunflowers add intermittent splashes of color to the carpet of green and brown grasses. All these experiences and more can be yours when you take time to discover the "sunny side" of Wind Cave National Park.

### Discovering the Past

Wind Cave National Park exists not only to protect its namesake cave but also 44-square miles of mixed-grass prairie and ponderosa pine forest. Thirty miles of trails traverse the prairie and forest ridges allowing for solitude seldom found in our busy world. Hikers may also strike out cross-country through beautiful undulating scenery.

Intrepid backcountry explorers may even come across evidence of former inhabitants. Perhaps a broken piece of a tea cup, an old stove, a scrap of weathered lumber, or a

rusting nail will give you a glimpse of the hardscrabble lives of frontier settlers.

Long before settlers moved into the Black Hills, American Indians called this area home. Although evidence of their presence is rare, a hike through the park may yield the lucky explorer a view of a tepee ring or maybe a small flake of worked chert stone. If you find any artifacts it is important to remember that they are protected by the National Park Service. Removal is prohibited and all historic items, plants, rocks, antlers, bones, and animals are to be left where they are found for the next visitor to discover.

### Exploring the Backcountry

Even for those of us not inclined to explore on foot, beautiful scenery awaits. Visitors can discover the prairie and forest of Wind Cave National Park by embarking on a scenic drive. Roadside exhibits provide an opportunity to learn about the prairie, the forest, and park wildlife. You'll also have time and space to contemplate inspiring vistas and, perhaps, view some wildlife.

Park roads are open to bicycle travel. Bicycling is an exciting way to experience the Black Hills. From the seat of a bicycle, you have the wind in your face, the smells of the grasslands, and maybe the opportunity to race along the roadway with some pronghorn. Please remember to stay on the roads; there is no off-road bicycling permitted in the park.



### Wind Cave – Two Worlds

Wind Cave National Park protects two very different worlds – one deep within the earth, the other a sunlit world of many resources. Deciding to explore both facets of the park is an opportunity not to be missed. It is a place where the scenery, the natural and historic objects, and the wildlife are all protected and waiting for you.



Contacting the park:  
In case of **Emergency** dial 911  
Visitor Center: 605-745-4600  
[www.nps.gov/wica/](http://www.nps.gov/wica/)



## SIMPLE RULES FOR SAFETY AND TO PROTECT PARK RESOURCES

Park resources are for everyone to enjoy. **Do not disturb or remove plants, wildlife, antlers or bones, or any other cultural or natural feature.** These features are all part of the park ecosystem and are important to the park history and to the survival of other animals and plants. They are protected by federal law.

Animals in the park are wild and unpredictable. **Do not feed the wildlife.** When you feed

animals they may become dependent on handouts and fail to survive the winter. They also become attracted to highways where they can be struck by passing vehicles. **Hunting in the park is prohibited.**

Be aware that rattlesnakes are sometimes found in prairie dog towns and other areas of the park. Bison also frequent prairie dog towns. They can run 35 mph and may weigh a ton! Stay a safe distance (at least 75-100 yards from

a bison) from all wildlife.

To protect your pet and park wildlife remember: **pets are not permitted in the backcountry.** They are permitted on the Elk Mountain and Prairie Vista Nature Trails. **Pets may not be left unattended and must be on a leash at all times.** Be aware that ticks are common in high grass. They may affect you and/or your pet.

When driving park roads, **obey all speed limits.** They are strictly

enforced to protect you and the wildlife. Vehicles (including bicycles) must be on the roadways at all times. **Off-road driving or bicycle riding is prohibited.**

Do not leave traces of your visit. Litter is unsightly and spoils the park experience for everyone.



## RANGER PROGRAMS

When planning your visit, plan to attend a ranger-led program. While cave tours are offered all year long, during the summer many other interesting programs are offered. These programs include 5 different cave tours, a ranger-led prairie hike, discovery programs, and evening campfire programs. Topics might include cave history, geology, the relationships of the plants and animals, the importance of fire to the park's ecosystems, or other natural or cultural history topics.

For more information about



park programs, please ask at the visitor center information desk or check out pages 6 and 7 in this newspaper.

## WEATHER

Wind Cave National Park and the rest of the Southern Black Hills are much warmer and drier than the northern hills. Winter snowfall averages 30 inches annually. The spring and fall can be warm and sunny, or rainy and snowy with a chilly wind. Summer brings warm daytime temperatures with cool evenings.

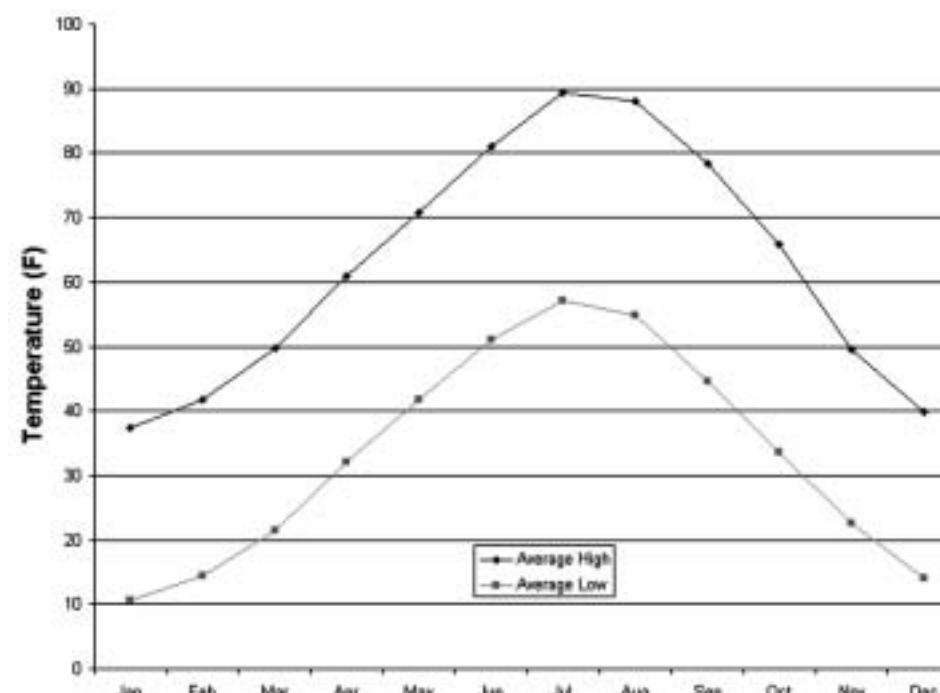
Severe thunderstorms are common in June and July and occasionally in August.

Thunderstorms can be dangerous and visitors should be prepared for them. Large hail is

common and the storms can produce severe lightning.

Slow moving storms can dump large amounts of rain over a small area. The steep canyons, rock cliffs, and small creeks of the Black Hills are prone to flash flooding. Be cautious when camping near a creek bed even if it is dry. Move uphill if flooding starts.

For current forecasts and warnings, listen to NOAA Weather Radio on 162.425 MHz in the southern Black Hills or 162.550 MHz in Rapid City.



## VISITOR CENTER EXHIBITS

The Visitor Center is a great place to start your park visit. Whether you are intrigued with the cave, the prairie, or both, it is easy to discover more about the park by exploring the exhibit rooms.

The upper exhibit room has displays ranging from how the Plains Indians used the bison to how the park manages the prairie. The cave exhibit room explains cave formations, the development of the cave, and the park's colorful history. A movie, *Wind Cave, Two Worlds*, about the cave, the

prairie, and the park is shown in our auditorium.

Stop at the visitor center for information about cave tours, or for maps, exhibits, book sales, backcountry permits, and Golden Age and Golden Access Passports, or National Parks Passes.

This year, through a grant made possible by the **National Park Foundation** and the generous support of **Kodak**, a proud partner of American's National Parks, we will be updating many of our visitor center exhibits with new pictures and information.

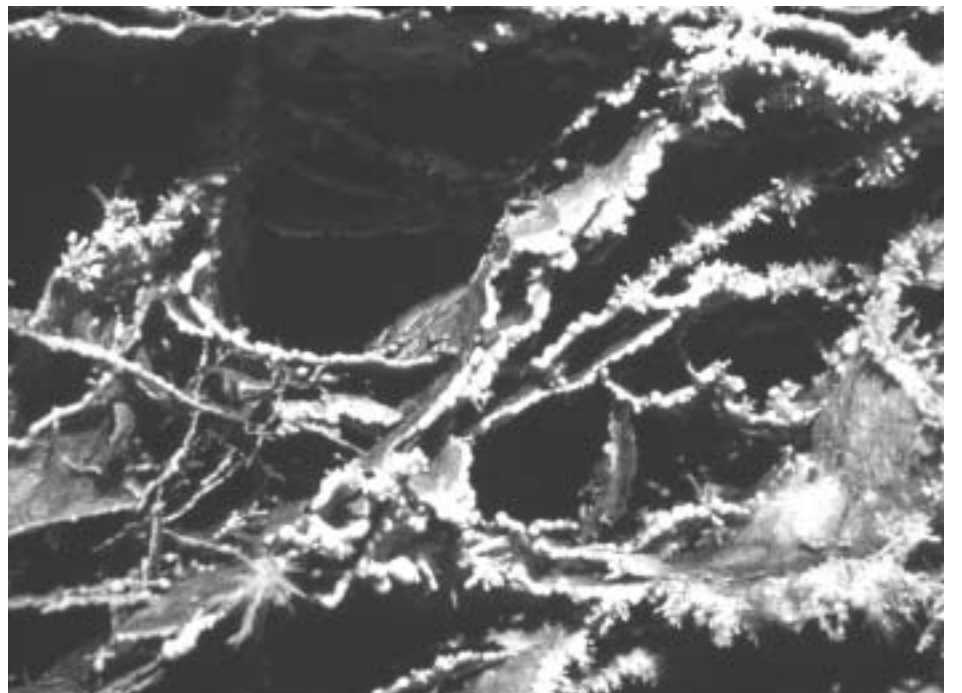
## THE CAVE

Wind Cave is quite different from other caves. Instead of stalactites and stalagmites, the cave is decorated with boxwork. Boxwork is a crystalline formation that predates the cave. It was formed when calcite filled tiny cracks within the limestone. Later, when the cave formed, water dissolved the limestone leaving behind the delicate crystal fins that now decorate the cave walls.

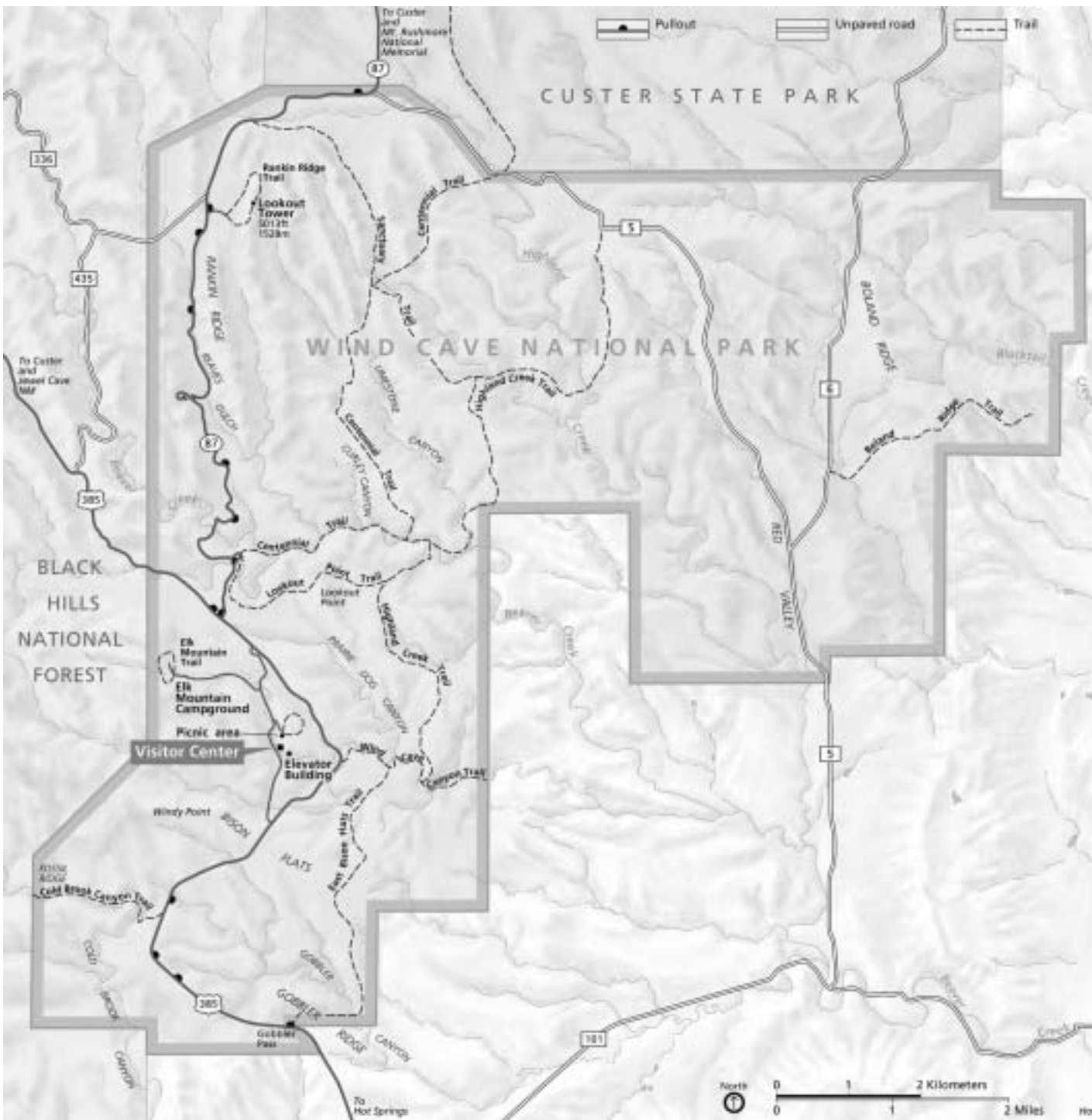
Wind Cave is also known for its length and the maze-like configuration of its passageways.

All of the known cave passageways lie beneath a land area of about one-square mile. As of March 2006, the cave was 120 miles long making it the fourth longest cave in the world. A few caves are longer, but none are as complex as Wind Cave.

To see the cave, stop at the visitor center where all cave tours begin. Cave tours are offered daily (except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day) throughout the year. Tour schedules vary throughout the year. The schedule is listed on page 7.







## CAMPING

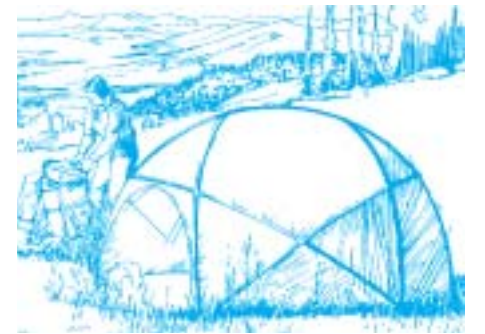
Wind Cave National Park maintains a developed campground one-mile north of the visitor center. The campground has 75 sites and is open all year, weather permitting.

Occupancy is on a first-come, first-served basis; however the campground rarely fills. Each site accommodates up to eight people. There are two sites accessible for campers with disabilities.

Restrooms have cold water and flush toilets, but no showers, electrical hook-ups, or dump stations. Firewood is available for campers.

The fee for camping is \$12.00 per night. In the off-season when facilities are limited, the fee is \$6.00 per night. Visitors holding a Golden Age or Golden Access Passport pay half price.

Group camping is available by reservation. For information contact the park at 605-745-4600.



## HIKING TRAILS

Wind Cave National Park includes 28,295 acres of prairie grasslands and ponderosa pine forest. The park is a fascinating combination of ecosystems where eastern habitats meet west-



ern ones. They support a diverse assortment of life. Hiking any of the 30 miles of trails can help visitors better understand the park. You may even want to leave the trails and travel cross-country along the ridges, through the canyons, or across the rolling prairie. A topographic map is recommended and can be purchased at the visitor center.

### CENTENNIAL TRAIL

An excellent example of the diversity of the park can be seen by hiking Wind Cave's six-mile section of the Centennial Trail. This trail crosses the prairie, climbs the forested ridges, and explores the wetter, riparian habi-

tat of Beaver Creek. The 110-mile Centennial Trail meanders from Wind Cave National Park north through the Black Hills.

### NATURE TRAILS

There are three nature trails in the park. The Rankin Ridge Nature Trail leads to the highest point in the park where the views are spectacular. The Elk Mountain Nature Trail explores an ecotone, or meeting zone, where the grassland and forest converge. The Prairie Vista Nature Trail starts at the visitor center and explores the prairie grasslands. Booklets are available at the trailheads. Each trail is about one mile in length.

## FOOD, LODGING AND GASOLINE

The park operates one campground and has limited food and beverage vending services in the Visitor Center. There are no lodging, gasoline, grocery, or restaurant services available in the park. These services are available in the nearby towns of Hot Springs (15 minutes south) and Custer (25 minutes north).

For information regarding services in Hot Springs, call 605-

745-4140 or 800-325-6991. In Custer, call 605-673-2244 or 800-992-9818.

Custer State Park, bordering Wind Cave National Park to the north, has campgrounds, restaurants, motels, and some grocery services. Information about Custer State Park is available by calling 605-255-4515. For information about state park lodging, please call 800-658-3530.



## BACKCOUNTRY

Wind Cave National Park's backcountry offers visitors an excellent opportunity to experience and enjoy the abundant resources of the park. Backcountry camping is permitted in the northwestern part of the park. Within this area are several habitats and a variety of plants and animals.

Backcountry campers must have a permit. Permits are free and can be obtained at the visitor center or at either of the Centennial Trailheads. For the protection of park resources and for your safety, follow all regulations during your stay. Leave no trace of your visit by packing out what you pack in. Pets are not permitted in the backcountry.

## CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

If you are planning your visit or doing a project about Wind Cave, look for us on the Internet at [www.nps.gov/wica/](http://www.nps.gov/wica/). Our website has almost anything you might want to know about the park, the cave, the animals, or the plants. We have even included some animal sounds! If you want to know what's happening in the park, this is the place to be.



## A Behind the Scenes Look

Protecting wild places and the animals living there has a long history in our country. This year is the 90th anniversary of the passing of the Organic Act which created the National Park Service. Before the National Park Service was created, we had many national parks – Yellowstone, the first, in 1872 and Wind Cave National Park (the first to protect a cave), was the 8th in 1903. However, management of our national parks was haphazard and unorganized.

The creation of the National Park Service defined the purpose for our parks “... to conserve the scenery, the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner ... to leave them unimpaired for future generations.”

Protecting a national park goes beyond setting the lands aside. While it is wonderful to watch herds of bison grazing peacefully on the seemingly endless prairie, the behind-the-scenes effort to protect that and other scenes is a complex combination of research, public involvement, and resource management.

It is the responsibility of the park’s Resource Management Division to determine the best methods to protect these natural resources. The resource team provides scientific expertise, research, and in-depth analysis of information that provides direction for managing the park. These specialists study and/or coordinate the study of such things as the effects of exotic plants on native vegetation, the ratio of animals to range, and they collect baseline information about small mammals, birds, insects, and plants.

Using this information, management plans are written to protect the



*Bison on Wind Cave prairie*

animals, plants, and their habitats. An important part of the development of these plans is a comment period allowing the public and outside experts an opportunity to provide input.

The goal is to ensure that park resources are managed in a scientifically sound manner. This work is integral to protecting our National Parks. Maintaining and conserving the scenery and all the other special aspects of the park is a complex task, but knowing that we and future generations will be able to watch the elk, bison, prairie dogs, or just hike across the peaceful prairie makes it worth the effort.

## Too Much of a Good Thing?

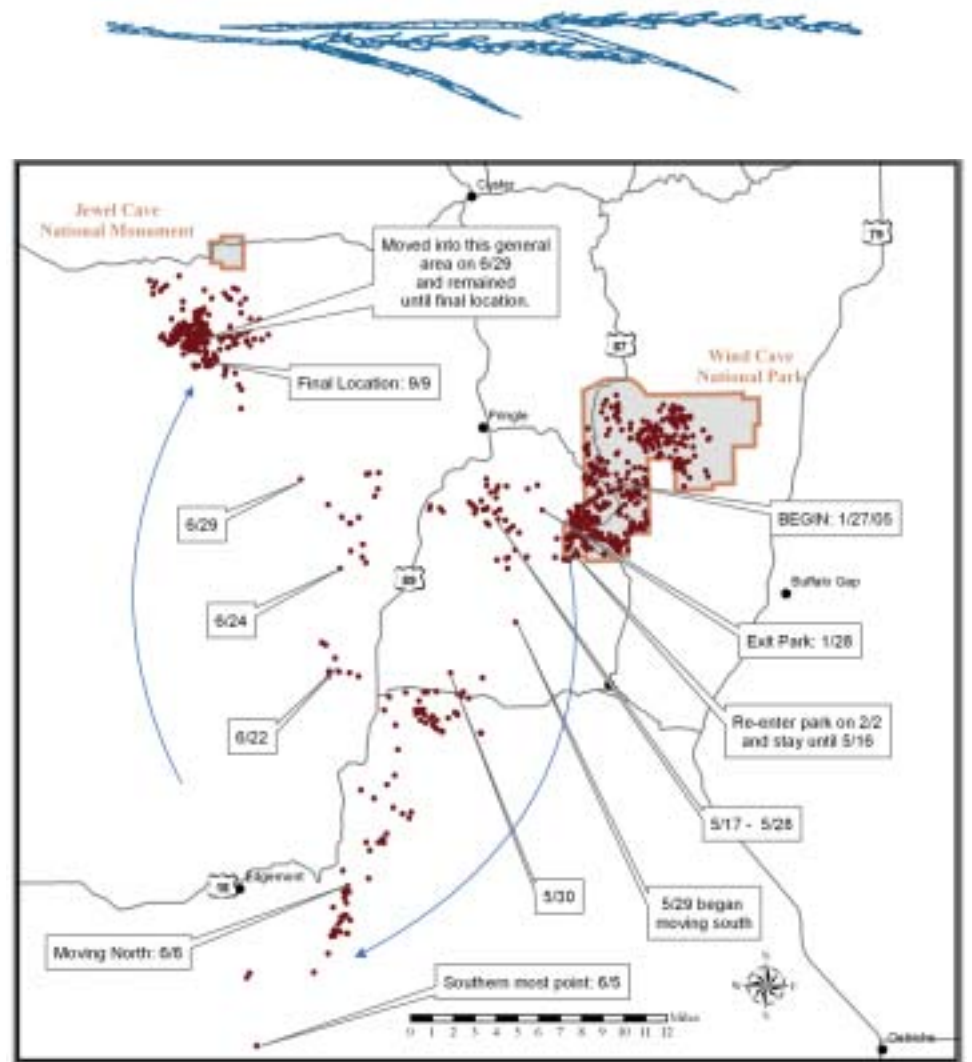
Seeing wild animals in their natural habitats is one of the thrills of visiting a National Park. Protecting these animals and their habitat is a primary goal for Wind Cave National Park. However, it is possible for the numbers of some animals to grow so large that they harm the ecosystem that supports them. How many Rocky Mountain Elk should utilize the park and the methods used to maintain that population is the subject of an on-going study at the park. The information gained will be the basis for the park’s Elk Management Plan.

There is much to learn about these elusive animals before the plan can be finalized. In 2005, park biologists and the US Geological Survey initiated a study to investigate the movements of elk in the Southern Black Hills.

In January of 2005 and again in 2006, 32 different female and 21 different yearling male elk were fitted with GPS (Global Positioning System) collars. An additional 54 animals will be collared in 2007. The collars supply information about the elk’s location every 7 hours and occasionally every 15 minutes. This data helps biologists determine when the animal travels to features such as water or different types of vegetation and even when they leave the park.

In November or December, biologists remotely release the collars using a radio signal. The collars are collected and the data is downloaded into a computer. This information will help resource managers:

1. Generate seasonal maps showing the geographic extent and distribution of activity for elk captured in Wind Cave National Park.
2. Relate elk activity to landscape features (vegetation, roads, trails, water sources, land ownership and management practices, etc.).



*Travels of one adult male elk from capture and release on 1/27/05 to 9/09/05. Each dot is a location indicator for that one elk.*

3. Develop monthly estimates of the frequency, duration, and extent of elk movements in and out of the park.
4. Estimate the number of elk using the park with seasonal home ranges that cross park boundaries.
5. Determine the responses of elk to hunting outside of the park.
5. Provide information to estimate population growth rates and hunting mortality rates for elk that once wintered within the park.

Thus far, researchers have discovered that elk captured in Wind Cave National Park may only spend brief periods of time within park boundaries. Many elk move in and out, sometimes several times a year. GPS collars tracked elk that were captured in the park traveling as far as 50 miles away.

This information is essential in helping the park develop the Elk Management Plan. In turn, implementation of the plan will allow all of us to continue to enjoy the thrill of seeing these majestic animals in the wild while ensuring that the park habitats remain healthy.





## Countering the Alien Invasion

**W**ind Cave National Park is located at a crossroads – a place where the prairie meets forest, and eastern and western grasslands merge. This convergence allows for a great diversity of native plant species and a large variety of wildlife. However, lurking among these native plants are aliens who do not belong. These are not invaders from another planet but plant species from other parts of our very own earth.

Research conducted by Cornell University estimated that in dollars alone, one alien plant, the European purple loosestrife, costs the U.S. economy \$45 million in loss of food for grazing animals and in attempts to control its spread. Alien plants spread rapidly because the animals, diseases, and competing plants that keep them in check in their native lands are missing.

At Wind Cave National Park, the costs are more than economic. These invasive species can out-compete native plants for water, sunlight, and nutrients. When this happens, the populations of native

plants are reduced and the animals that depend on those plants struggle for survival. This invasion of alien species reduces the diversity of the prairie; the aliens take over parts of the prairie creating monocultures where once dozens of native plants species thrived.

Park biologists are constantly waging battles against these alien species. Some methods used to combat them include manual control (hand pulling or mowing), biological controls (using natural enemies of non-native plants such as insects), prescribed fire, and, in a few cases, herbicides.

If you see staff from the resource management team mowing the prairie or working on a prescribed fire, you are witnessing how we are working to accomplish the National Park Service’s mission of preserving the natural plant and animal communities. Keeping invasive plant populations in check is vital to that mission.

## Exploring Unknown Worlds

**H**ave you ever contemplated the diversity of life on Earth? Perhaps diverse ecosystems provoke images of steamy tropical rainforests or colorful underwater coral reefs.

Few of us think of damp, dark caves as cornucopias of life, but studies done in caves throughout the world prove just that. For example, Lechuguilla Cave at Carlsbad Caverns National Park provides a habitat for close to 1,200 microscopic life forms.

Wind Cave could also house an amazing number of life forms, but the inventory and study of microbial life in this cave is in its infancy. To date, we have identified 12 divisions and subdivisions of bacteria and 2 divisions of microbes known as *archaea*. Heading this research project is Dr. John Moore from the University of Northern Colorado. Currently, he is looking at the microbial communities found along the cave tour routes and observing how human visitation affects the creatures living there.

Many of the life forms discovered in recent years, from thermophiles in the hot springs of Yellowstone to the microbial life found in the ice of Antarctica, have shown that life on this planet is as diverse as the communities that support them. Part of the mission of the National Park Service is to protect all native life forms living within the parks. It is difficult, if not impossible, to protect something you don’t know about. The inventory within the depths of Wind Cave may reveal new life forms and provide a better understanding of how to protect them and their environment.

This study of microbial life within Wind Cave is important not only in terms of helping the park fulfill its National Park Service mission, but also because the cave could harbor microbes beneficial to people. At Lechuguilla Cave, microbiologists isolated a microbe that may prove useful in the treatment of cancer. Microbes with similar uses may exist within Wind Cave, but until a thorough inventory of the cave is completed we may never know.



## World of the Night

**W**ind Cave National Park is a great place to see large wildlife. Often, however, visitors forget about the smaller, but equally important, mammals that make this park their home. Among these “forgotten” mammals are the Black Hills’ 12 species of bats.

Bats make up nearly eighteen percent of the more than sixty mammal species living in the Black Hills. Despite their presence, biologists know little about them. In 2002 the park initiated a survey of local bat populations. Utilizing electronic bat detectors, mist nets, and habitat inspections, biologists hope to gain new insights into the dynamics of local bat populations. In particular, they seek to determine which bat species are present in the park and in what numbers; what habitats they use for foraging and roosting; and what effects management practices (like prescribed fire) have on them.

The information gathered from this study will help to develop better bat protection and management policies here at Wind Cave National Park. Without this vital information it would be hard to accomplish National Park Service mandates to protect all the native inhabitants of the park.





## WALKS AND TALKS

### PRAIRIE HIKE

Take a hike with a ranger! Explore the park's varied habitats with this 2-hour summer activity. The daily hike begins at the visitor center before the group drives to a nearby trailhead. Bring drinking water and wear hiking boots or sturdy shoes. Check at the visitor center for details.



Topics may include wildlife, plants, geology, cave exploration, park management, and history. The programs last about 45 minutes.

### DISCOVERY ACTIVITY

Daily, during the summer, ranger talks or demonstrations take place at the visitor center. These programs explain some facet of the park. Topics may include local wildlife, plants, geology, area history, and cave surveying. Check at the visitor center for meeting place and topic.

### CAMPFIRE PROGRAM

Become better acquainted with Wind Cave National Park by attending an evening campfire program. These talks are presented nightly during the summer at the Elk Mountain Campground Amphitheater.

## JUNIOR RANGERS

The Junior Ranger Program is an exciting opportunity for children and their families to learn about the park. Becoming a Junior Ranger helps youngsters understand the park's ecosystems, the cave, and the animals. It also helps them learn how they can help protect all parts of our environment. Junior Ranger booklets are available for \$1.50 at the bookstore. There are activities for

children up to age 12.

This year through a grant made possible by the **National Park Foundation** and the generous support of **Kodak**, a proud partner of American's National Parks, we will be taking photographs of the accomplishments of our Junior Rangers. These youngsters will then be able to share their pictures and adventures with families and friends.

## CAVE TOUR INFORMATION

### CAVE TOUR INFORMATION

All cave tours are ranger-guided and leave from the visitor center. The cave temperature is 53°F (11°C) year round. A jacket or sweater is recommended. Good walking shoes are required. Sandals are not recommended. Tickets are sold at the visitor center. Tickets must be purchased at least five minutes before tour times.

### NATURAL ENTRANCE TOUR

This tour includes a visit to the only known natural entrance of Wind Cave giving visitors the opportunity to see how the cave got its name. Participants enter the cave through a man-made entrance and journey through the middle level of the cave. Wind



Cave's famous boxwork is abundant throughout this trip. Most of the 300 stairs along this route are down. This moderately strenuous tour lasts 1¼-hour and exits the cave by elevator.

### GARDEN OF EDEN TOUR

This 1-hour tour is the least strenuous with only 150 stairs. It is a wonderful sample of Wind Cave. Small amounts of all of the beautiful cave formations – boxwork, popcorn, and flowstone – are seen along the ¼-mile trail. The tour is for people with limited time or abilities. This tour enters and exits the cave by elevator.

### FAIRGROUNDS TOUR

This 1½-hour tour explores both the upper and middle levels of Wind Cave. Boxwork is abundant along the trail in the middle level of the cave. In the upper level, the trail winds through large rooms and into areas where popcorn and frostwork can be seen. This is the most strenuous walking tour. The tour enters and exits the cave by elevator. There are 450 stairs along the route with one flight of 90 steps up.

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Wind Cave offers a variety of wonderful opportunities to learn about the natural resources of the park. Ranger guided hikes, cave tours, or campfire programs provide interesting information about many different aspects of the park. Exploring the visitor center, participating in the Junior Ranger Program, or hiking in the park are also great ways to discover what is special about this national park.

Teachers wanting an educational opportunity for their students can participate in regular cave tours or the park's *Connections* program. *Connections* allows students to explore the park with a ranger and is offered in May.



The park also has a teaching unit and trunk titled *Water in the Environment*. This program is available from the park or on the website at [www.nps.gov/wica/](http://www.nps.gov/wica/). The environmental education programs and the trunk are free. For more information call the park at 605-745-4600.



## SPECIALTY CAVE TOURS

### CANDLELIGHT TOUR

Experience the cave by candlelight. This tour takes place in a less developed, unlighted part of the cave. Each participant will carry a candle bucket. Shoes with non-slip soles are required. No sandals! This tour is limited to 10 people and the minimum age is 8. This strenuous tour covers 1 mile of rugged trail and lasts 2 hours. Reservations are strongly recommended. Reservations are accepted beginning one month before the tour. Please call the park at 605-745-4600 for more information.

### TOURS FOR VISITORS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The visitor center and the cave are accessible to people with limited mobility. Please call ahead to make special arrangements or ask at the information desk for a special tour. Limited areas of the cave are accessible to wheelchairs. The fee for the tour is \$5.00 for adults and half price for Golden Age or Access Passport holders. Please call the park at 605-745-4600 for more information.

### WILD CAVE TOUR

Explore the cave away from the developed trails. On this 4-hour tour visitors will be introduced to basic, safe caving.

Wear old clothes and gloves, as much of the trip will include crawling. Long pants, long sleeved shirts, and sturdy, lace-up boots or shoes with non-slip soles are required. The park provides hard hats, lights, and kneepads.

Please do not bring jewelry, watches, or other valuables on the tour. Clothing worn on the Jewel Cave Wild Cave Tour is not permitted in Wind Cave since this clothing could be covered with manganese.

This tour is limited to 10 people and the minimum age is 16. We require a signed parental consent form for participants 16 and 17 years old. Reservations are required. Reservations are accepted beginning one month before the tour. Please call the park at 605-745-4600 for more information.



## TOUR FEES\*

Tickets must be purchased at least 5 minutes before tour time.

	Garden of Eden	Natural Entrance	Fairgrounds	Candlelight	Wild Cave
Age 17-61	\$7.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	****\$23.00
Golden Age**	\$3.50	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$11.50
Age 6-16	\$3.50	\$4.50	\$4.50	***\$4.50	****Not Permitted
Under 6	Free	Free	Free	Not Permitted	Not Permitted

\* Holders of a Golden Access Card receive a 50% discount on tours.  
 \*\* Person must possess a Golden Age Passport to receive the discount.  
 \*\*\* Minimum age for Candlelight Tour is 8.  
 \*\*\*\* Minimum age for the Wild Cave Tour is 16. The fee is \$23.00.



## CAVE TOUR INFORMATION & SAFETY

All tours are ranger-guided and leave from the visitor center. Tickets are sold on a first-come, first-served basis, except for the Candlelight, Wild Cave Tours and groups (see *Reservations* below.) During peak summer visitation, long waits may be encountered. To avoid waits, the best time to visit the cave is during the early hours of the day. During the summer, weekends are good times to visit; Tuesdays and Wednesdays are the busiest days. Reservations for school and organized groups are available (see *Reservations*.)

A light jacket or sweater is recommended for all cave tours, as Wild Cave is 53°F (11°C) throughout the year. Good walking shoes are required on all tours. Cave trails are dimly lighted and trail surfaces may be uneven, wet, and slippery. Do not wear sandals. Ceilings may be low,

requiring some bending.

For the protection of the cave, do not touch or remove rocks or formations and do not step off the trail. There are no restrooms in the cave. No eating, drinking, chewing tobacco or gum is allowed in the cave. Photography is permitted, but no tripods. Pets are not allowed in the cave.

Cave tours are moderately strenuous. Persons with claustrophobia, heart or respiratory conditions, or other physical limitations should reconsider. A tour is available, by request, for visitors with special needs. Call 605-745-4600 or ask at the information desk.

Do not leave your pets in your vehicle while visiting the cave or for any length of time. The temperatures inside a vehicle can become extreme, putting your pet in grave danger. Kennel space is available in Hot Springs or Custer.

## RESERVATIONS

Most cave tours are first-come, first-served; however, reservations are accepted for schools or large groups. Reservations are strongly recommended for the

Candlelight Tour and required for the Wild Cave Tour. Reservations are accepted beginning one month before the tour. Please call 605-745-4600 for reservations.

## PROGRAM SCHEDULE



### April 8 - April 29, 2006

Visitor Center 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
 Garden of Eden Tour 9:30, 11:30, 1:30, and 3:30

### April 30 - May 26, 2006

Visitor Center 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
 Natural Entrance Tour 9:00, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, and 4:30

### May 27 - 29, 2006, Memorial Day Weekend

Visitor Center 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
 Garden of Eden Tour 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, and 5:00  
 Natural Entrance Tour 8:40, 9:20, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, and 4:30  
 Fairgrounds Tour 10:00, 12:00, 2:00, and 4:00  
 Campfire Program 8:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

### May 30 - June 10, 2006

Visitor Center 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
 Garden of Eden Tour 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, and 3:30  
 Natural Entrance Tour 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, and 5:00

### June 11 - August 19, 2006

Visitor Center 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
 Garden of Eden Tour 10:40, 12:40, 2:40, and 4:40  
 Natural Entrance Tour 8:40, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 5:30, and 6:00.  
 Fairgrounds Tour 9:30, 10:20, 11:40, 12:20, 1:40, 2:20, 3:40, and 4:20  
 Candlelight Tour 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.  
 Wild Cave Tour 1:00 p.m.  
 Ranger-led Hike 9:00 a.m.  
 Campfire Program 9:00 p.m.

### August 20 - September 4, 2006

Visitor Center 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
 Garden of Eden Tour 10:30, 1:40, and 3:40  
 Natural Entrance Tour 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, and 5:00  
 Fairgrounds Tour 9:30, 11:20, 12:20, 1:20, and 3:20  
 Candlelight Tour 1:30 p.m.  
 Wild Cave Tour 1:00 p.m. Weekends Only Aug. 19, 20, 26, 27, and September 2 and 3  
 Campfire Program 8:00 p.m.

### September 5 - September 23, 2006

Visitor Center 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
 Natural Entrance Tour 9:00, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, and 4:30  
 Evening Program 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday

### September 24 - October 14, 2006

Visitor Center 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
 Cave Tour 9:30, 11:30, 1:30, and 3:30

### October 15 - Early April, 2007

Visitor Center 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day  
 Garden of Eden Tour 10:00, 1:00, and 3:00

**Tour schedules are subject to change. Please call 605-745-4600 to confirm tour times. Programs are subject to cancellation during severe weather.**

**IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY**  
 dial 911 or  
 contact any park ranger or call the  
 visitor center at 605-745-4600.





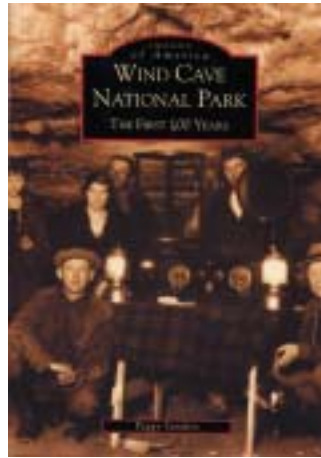
## The Park Bookstore

The Black Hills Parks & Forests Association sells books, maps, and other park related publications in visitor centers at Wind Cave National Park, Jewel Cave National Monument, Custer State Park, the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands, and Black Hills National Forests. The association publishes books and materials about these areas.

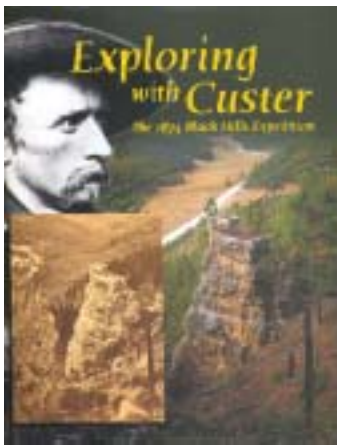
Cooperating associations are non-profit, tax exempt organizations authorized by Congress to promote educational and scientific activities within national parks. All profits from association sales support the educational, interpretive, and research activities of these agencies.

Many different types of publications are available in the bookstores including books specific to Wind Cave National Park and others about local natural and human history. These publications, maps, and items are available at the bookstore, by mail order, or from the association web site, [www.blackhillsparks.org](http://www.blackhillsparks.org), fax: 605-745-7021, or email [bhpf@blackhillsparks.org](mailto:bhpf@blackhillsparks.org). Membership in the Black Hills Parks and Forests Association supports the organization and entitles members to a 15% discount on all purchases. The membership is \$29.95 per year. For more information call 605-745-7020.

**Wind Cave: An Ancient World Beneath the Hills** - In this wonderful, easy-to-read book, Art Palmer explains the geology of Wind Cave, how it is related to the Black Hills, and how the boxwork formed. The charts and graphs help make the topic easily understood by people unfamiliar with geology. The pictures of the unusual Wind Cave boxwork alone make this book well worth the investment. \$8.95

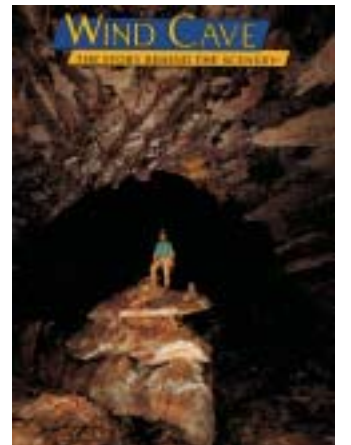


**Wind Cave National Park: the First 100 Years** - In 1903, Wind Cave National Park became the eighth national park in the nation and the first created to protect a cave. Peggy Sanders encapsulates the park's 100 year history in over 200 vintage images. Travel through time with the early cave and animal management teams, through the Great Depression, and into the present with a collection of classic pictures and stories. \$19.95

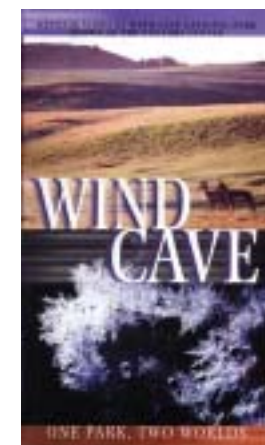


**Exploring with Custer - The 1874 Black Hills Expedition** - Custer's expedition to the Black Hills was better documented than any other of the Old West. William Illingworth photographed superb views and several diaries brimming with vivid detail remain. Grafe and Horsted's book blends past and present day photos with diary excerpts. Together they paint a portrait of life on the trail. The maps, directions, and GPS readings lead you to campsites, photo stops, and sometimes, ruts left by Custer's wagons. \$34.95

**Wind Cave, The Story Behind the Scenery** - If you are interested in learning more about the ecosystems, wildlife, and history of Wind Cave National Park, this book by Ron Terry is an excellent choice. It contains outstanding photographs and information about the cave and its unusual boxwork formation. This book goes beyond the cave, including photos and insights about the park's incredible prairie. This book is part of a series that explores the natural, geological, and cultural history of the national parks. \$9.95



**Trails Illustrated Map, Black Hills Southeast** - If you are interested in hiking in Wind Cave National Park or Custer State Park, this is the trail map to have. This tear-proof, waterproof map details the hiking trails, campsites, roads, elevations, and many other standard features of a topographic map. Wind Cave National Park is illustrated on one side and Custer State Park and the Black Elk Wilderness are on the other side. The map is part of a series of National Geographic Trails Illustrated Maps. There is also a Black Hills Northeast map detailing the Black Hills National Forest. \$9.95



**Wind Cave: One Park, Two Worlds** - takes viewers on a journey into two vastly different landscapes of uncompromising beauty - the prairie and the cave. This 20 minute movie tells the dramatic stories of Wind Cave National Park's natural and human history, including the story of Alvin MacDonald - the first explorer of this subterranean world and the story of the bison - the symbol of the Great Plains. Through breathtaking photography this video captures the spirit, mystery, and beauty of one of America's oldest National Parks. \$19.95

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Hot Springs, SD 57747

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