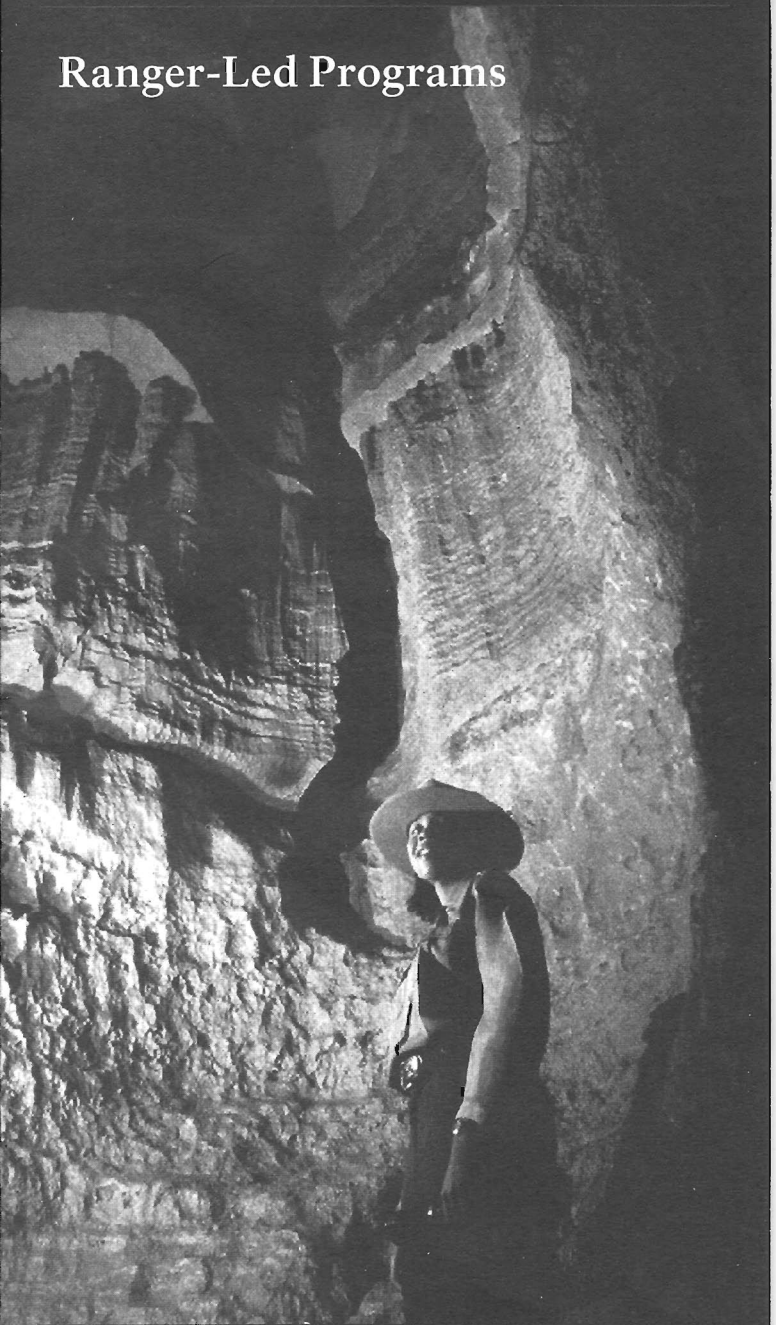


Mammoth Cave

National Park



Ranger-Led Programs



Fall/Winter • 2012



▲ Surface Activities

Underground Tours ▼

All ranger-led surface activities are free of charge!

Mammoth Passage Tour

▷Considered a brief “smorgasbord” of cultural and natural topics, this tour is a perfect short visit into the cave’s largest and most visited entrance area. Includes the Narrows, Rotunda, large trunk passage and a steep outdoor hillside trail to and from the cave’s natural entrance! ▷1¼ hours, ¾ mile. *Tour limit: 40. Total stairs: 160. Elevation change: 160.*▷Includes parts of the *Historic* and all of the *Discovery Tour* routes. *Not available by reservation.* ▷Meets at the Visitor Center. *Difficulty: Easy.*

Frozen Niagara Tour

▷Often the perfect taste of Mammoth Cave for visitors with very small children, elderly family members, or others who cannot walk long distances. Not sure you like close places? Have trouble walking or managing long staircases? This short visit through a decorative area of Mammoth Cave might be best for you. ▷1¼ hours, ¼ mile. *Tour limit: 36. Total stairs: 12, plus an optional 98. Elevation change: 40.*▷Includes parts of the *New Entrance* and *Grand Avenue Tour* routes. ▷Meets at the Visitor Center. *Difficulty: Easy.*

Mammoth Cave Discovery Tour

▷Visit the Rotunda, one of the largest rooms in the cave, explore a vast canyon passageway, and learn about 19th-century saltpeter mining operations and the geologic origins of Mammoth Cave on this self-guiding tour. ▷½ hour, ¾ mile. *Total stairs: 160. Elevation change: 160.*▷Includes part of the *Historic* and the full *Mammoth Passage Tour* routes. Offered as visitation warrants. Call the Park the day of your visit to check availability. *Not available by reservation.* ▷Meets at the Historic Entrance. *Difficulty: Easy.*



Historic Tour

▷Been in other more decorative caves, but never in Mammoth Cave? This journey through the natural entrance leads to “classic” Mammoth Cave—landmarks visited by writers, scientists, military figures and celebrities of the 1800s and early 1900s. A great family trip! ▷2 hours, 2 miles. *Tour limit: 120. Total stairs: 440, including 155 at Mammoth Dome. Elevation change: 300.*▷Limited areas of the *Mammoth Cave Discovery*, *Mammoth Passage*, *Star Chamber*, *River Styx* and *Violet City Lantern Tours* are visited on this route. ▷Meets at the Visitor Center. *Difficulty: Moderate.*

Slavery at Mammoth Cave Walk

▷This easy walk uses the ¾-mile Heritage Trail, adjacent to the Mammoth Cave Hotel. The ranger will share stories of the old Mammoth Cave Estate and the challenges presented by both enslavement and freedom. Includes the gravesite of enslaved guide Stephen Bishop. ▷¾ hour, ¾ mile. *Elevation change: 0.*▷This boardwalk is wheelchair accessible. ▷Meets at the Visitor Center. *Difficulty: Easy.*

Sand Cave Almanac

▷A progressive walking and driving tour telling the saga of Floyd Collins, trapped in Sand Cave, in 1925. Meet at the Sand Cave Trailhead, by the Park’s East Entrance. ▷1½-2 hours, ¾ mile. *Elevation change: 0.*▷The caravan will drive 5.2 miles from Sand Cave Trailhead to Mammoth Cave Baptist Church. ▷Meets at the Sand Cave Trailhead. *Difficulty: Easy.*

Porch Talk

▷Join a Park Ranger on the back porch of the Visitor Center for a 15-minute presentation on the Civil War Sesquicentennial and how the war impacted Mammoth Cave. Several Mammoth Cave guides were slaves, armies fought within a day’s ride from the cave entrance, and the Mammoth Cave Hotel was raided by Confederates. Tours continued through the 1860s and many of those visitors were Union or Confederate soldiers. ▷¼ hour. *Elevation change: 0.*▷Meets at the Visitor Center Back Porch.

Campfire Program

▷Join a park ranger for a special program at the wheelchair accessible Park Amphitheatre. Programs generally begin just before dark and interpret a different topic each evening during summer. Programs are offered on Friday and Saturday evenings in spring and fall. Check at the Visitor Center information desk to learn more about available evening amphitheatre programming. ▷¾ hour. ▷Consider carrying a flashlight for added safety on the walkways following the program. ▷Meets at the Park Amphitheatre.



New Entrance Tour

▷A wonderful complement to the Historic Tour, this trip includes a dramatic series of domes and pits, typical large trunk passageways, a short journey through dripstone formations and stairs, stairs, stairs! (Small children may find this trip overly challenging.) ▷2 hours, ¾ mile. *Tour limit: 114. Total stairs: 500, including 280 on initial descent. Elevation change: 250.*▷Includes the complete *Frozen Niagara Tour* route and a portion of the *Grand Avenue Tour* route. ▷Meets at the Visitor Center. *Difficulty: Moderate.*

Grand Avenue Tour

▷This long tour is the one you want if you like a strong physical walking challenge or already experienced shorter Mammoth Cave tours. Focuses on the “ups and downs” of the cave system, including multiple tough hill climbs and lots of geological variety. (Includes a short stop for a purchased box lunch at the one-mile mark.) ▷4½ hours, 4 miles. *Tour limit: 78. Age limit: 6 and older. Total stairs: 670. Elevation change: 280.*▷The *Snowball* and *Frozen Niagara Tour* routes, and portions of the *New Entrance Tour* route, are seen on this tour. This tour is not recommended for visitors who have heart or respiratory illnesses, diabetes or walking difficulties. Hills may rise more than 60’ in places. Food is available at the *Snowball Room*. Box lunch costs \$8.50 (cash only). Visitors may opt to carry their own picnic lunch into the cave. ▷Meets at the Visitor Center. *Difficulty: Strenuous.*

Snowball Tour

▷From the craggy breakdown of the Rocky Mountains, enter the beautifully elliptical Cleaveland Avenue, encrusted with gypsum formations in various crystalline shapes and sizes, from sparkling needles to showy mineral “flowers”. Arrive one mile later in the *Snowball Room* and enjoy a bite to eat—just as visitors have done there since the 19th century! ▷3 hours, 2 miles. *Tour limit: 38. Total stairs: 366 (183 in and out). Elevation change: 267.*▷This entire route is seen on the *Grand Avenue Tour*. Food is available at the *Snowball Room*. Box lunch costs \$8.50 (cash only). Visitors may opt to carry their own picnic lunch into the cave. ▷Meets at the Visitor Center. *Difficulty: Moderate.*

Violet City Lantern Tour

▷A traditional trip through classic Mammoth Cave by lantern light. This visit to numerous historic landmarks provides a good physical workout as well as nostalgic insights to the cave’s earliest tours. ▷3 hours, 3 miles. *Tour limit: 38. Age limit: 6 and older. Total stairs: 160, and numerous hills without handrails. Elevation change: 160.*▷Includes parts of the *Historic*, *Discovery*, *Star Chamber*, and *Mammoth Passage Tour* routes. Lanterns may cause some discomfort for visitors with respiratory illnesses. Only adults may carry lanterns. ▷Meets at the Visitor Center. *Difficulty: Strenuous.*



Great Onyx Lantern Tour

▷A great cave activity for returning visitors, this trip includes a bus drive through a forested valley to another historically toured cave within the national park. Gas lanterns illuminate a series of beautifully sculpted decorative rooms and passageways. ▷2¼ hours, 1 miles. *Tour limit: 38. Age limit: 6 and older. Total stairs: 40. Elevation change: 30.*▷This cave is not known to be connected to the greater Mammoth Cave System. Bus ride included in tour duration. Lanterns may cause some discomfort for visitors with respiratory illnesses. Only adults may carry lanterns. ▷Meets at the Visitor Center. *Difficulty: Easy.*

Star Chamber Tour

▷This nostalgic trip into the cave’s natural entrance is reminiscent of the tours of old at Mammoth Cave. Who were the patients who desperately found their way to the short-lived tuberculosis hospital? Who was George S. Gatewood and why are his name and initials seen on the walls of Gothic Avenue? This trip is by lantern light. A great tour for summer campers! ▷2½ hours, 1½ miles. *Tour limit: 40. Age limit: 6 and older. Total stairs: 200. Elevation change: 160.*▷Includes parts of the *Historic*, *Discovery*, *Violet City Lantern*, and *Mammoth Passage Tour* routes. Lanterns may cause some discomfort for visitors with respiratory illnesses. Only adults may carry lanterns. ▷Meets at the Visitor Center. *Difficulty: Moderate.*

Gothic Avenue Tour

▷Some areas of Mammoth Cave just seem magical, and Gothic Avenue is one of those special places. This tour begins at the Visitor Center and enters that now famous entrance, as the ranger interprets areas including the Rotunda, the Church, Giant’s Coffin, and the TB Huts. Gothic Avenue is also seen on the *Star Chamber Tour* that is offered during spring, summer and fall. ▷2 hours, 1 miles. *Tour limit: 40. Total stairs: 230. Elevation change: 140.*▷Includes part of the *Historic*, *Lantern* and *River Styx Cave Tour* routes. A portion of this tour will be seen by lantern light. Lanterns may cause some discomfort for visitors with respiratory illnesses. Only adults may carry lanterns. ▷Meets at the Visitor Center. *Difficulty: Moderate.*

SPELUNKING ADVENTURES



Trog

▷A kids-only off-trail adventure! Hike through the forest to the Historic Entrance and find out how the surface and subsurface are connected. Put on your hard hat and headlamp (provided) as you travel off-trail. Unlock the secrets of how the animals of Mammoth Cave survive in the deep dark as you hike, crawl and belly-slide through rarely visited passages. ▷2¼ hours, 1½ miles. *Tour limit: 12. Age limit: 8-12 years only. Total stairs: 200. Elevation change: 180.*▷Shorts and t-shirts are recommended for wear under coveralls. Parents, guardians and/or chaperones must attend the first 30 minutes of the tour to assist when children “suit up” with their equipment, and must pick up children promptly at the end of the tour to assist with the shoe decontamination. Coveralls, kneepads, hard hats, and headlamps will be provided. Please bring extra pair of tennis shoes or sandals for use during shoe decontamination at the end of the tour. This tour is not recommended for children with asthma. Requires at least 2 participants. ▷Meets at the Hotel dorms near the tennis courts. *Difficulty: Moderate.*

Introduction to Caving

▷Want to really go caving? Not sure if spelunking is for you? Try this short small-group caving challenge to discover things about the cave, and yourself. Bring your friends or family. ▷3½ hours, 2 miles. *Tour limit: 20. Age limit: 10 and older. Total stairs: 280+. Elevation change: 250.*▷An adult must accompany visitors under age 18. Organized youth groups must have at least two adult representatives accompanying minor children. Chest or hip measurement must not exceed 42 inches; if you are larger, you cannot physically pass through the crawlspaces. High-top, over-the-ankle lace-up boots, with lug or deeply treaded soles, are required. No low-cut hiking or athletic shoes allowed. You will not be allowed to participate in the tour if you are not wearing proper footwear—No exceptions. Gym shorts and t-shirts are recommended for wear under coveralls. Please bring extra pair of tennis shoes or sandals for use during boot decontamination at the end of the tour. All equipment and outerwear provided; no personal caving equipment allowed. Requires at least 2 participants. ▷Meets at the Visitor Center. *Difficulty: Strenuous.*

Wild Cave Tour

▷Face the darkness—and the challenge. Journey with experienced guides and a small adult group through some of the starkly beautiful yet physically demanding “wild” areas of the cave. See places no other tour encounters. ▷6-6½ hours, 5 miles. *Tour limit: 14. Age limit: 16+; proof of age may be requested. Elevation change: 300.*▷An adult must accompany visitors under age 18. Organized youth groups must have at least two adult representatives accompanying minor children. Chest or hip measurement must not exceed 42 inches; if you are larger, you cannot physically pass through the crawlspaces. High-top, over-the-ankle lace-up boots, with lug or deeply treaded soles, are required. No low-cut hiking or athletic shoes allowed. You will not be allowed to participate in the tour if you are not wearing proper footwear—No exceptions. Gym shorts and t-shirts are recommended for wear under coveralls. Please bring extra pair of tennis shoes or sandals for use during boot decontamination at the end of the tour. All equipment and outerwear provided; no personal caving equipment allowed. Food is available at the *Snowball Room*. A box lunch can be purchased for \$8.50 (cash only). Visitors may bring a lunch and/or water bottle—a small fanny pack will be provided. Requires at least 2 participants. ▷Meets at the Visitor Center. *Difficulty: Very Strenuous.*

Sign language interpreters may be provided on cave tours by calling 270.758.2180 at least two weeks prior to the reserved tour(s).

INTRODUCTORY CAVE TOURS

GENERAL CAVE TOURS

GENERAL CAVE TOURS

SPECIALTY TOURS

SPELUNKING ADVENTURES



With more than 392 miles of cave passageways, Mammoth Cave ranks as the longest known cave in the world. Mammoth Cave National Park was established in 1941. In 1981, the park was designated a World Heritage Site, and became the core area of an International Biosphere Reserve in 1990. The park merits this extra protection and special status for its spectacular features on the surface and in the cave, and the way these features illustrate the connection between humans and their environment.

Ranger-Led Activity Schedule • Fall/Winter 2012

	Fall	Winter
	September 3 – November 4	November 5, 2012 – March 15, 2013
Cave Tours	Departures	
Mammoth Passage Tour*		9:15
Frozen Niagara Tour	(9:00 Sat-Sun only), 10:30, 12:15, 1:00, 3:30	9:00, 3:00
Mammoth Cave Discovery Tour*	Offered Saturdays in October and as visitation warrants.	
Historic Tour	9:30, 12:15, 2:15, 3:00	10:30, 12:30, 2:15
New Entrance Tour	10:00, 12:45, 3:00	9:30, 11:30, 1:30, (2:30 Nov. 23-24 only)
Grand Avenue Tour	11:00 (Sat-Sun)	10:00 (November 23-24 only)
Snowball Tour	11:30 (Sat-Sun)	10:30 (November 23-24 only)
Violet City Lantern Tour	9:00	
Star Chamber Tour	5:00 pm	
Great Onyx Lantern Tour	1:30	
Gothic Avenue Tour		8:45 (Sat only)
Trog	9:30 (Sat only)	
Introduction to Caving	1:15 (Sat only)	12:30 (Sat only)
Wild Cave Tour	9:00 (Sat-Sun)	9:00 (Sat-Sun only)
Surface Walks & Programs—Free!	Departures	
Sand Cave Almanac	2:00 (Fri-Sat)	1:00 (Sat only January 19-February 17, 2013)
Slavery at Mammoth Cave Walk	(9:15 Sat-Sun), (3:15 Sat-Sun)	
Campfire Program	7:30 pm (Fri-Sat)	
Porch Talk	(10:30 Sat-Sun), 1:30	9:45
Visitor Center Hours	8:30a.m. – 5:15p.m. Central Time	8:30a.m. – 4:30p.m. Central Time



*Not available by reservation. Tickets may be purchased at the Visitor Center on day of tour only.

Note—Certain tours have age limits! Please review the tour descriptions on the reverse side of this brochure before selecting your tour. Youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult 18 years or older on all tours.

For full park information, go online to www.nps.gov/maca or call 270.758.2180.

Cave Tour	Adults	Youth ¹	Special Access ²	Educational ³
Mammoth Passage Tour*	\$5.00	\$3.50	\$2.50	
Frozen Niagara Tour	\$10.00	\$8.00	\$5.00	
Mammoth Cave Discovery Tour*	\$4.00	\$2.50	\$2.00	
Historic Tour	\$12.00	\$8.00	\$6.00	\$5.00
New Entrance Tour	\$12.00	\$8.00	\$6.00	
Grand Avenue Tour	\$24.00	\$18.00	\$12.00	
Snowball Tour	\$14.00	\$9.00	\$7.00	
Violet City Lantern Tour	\$15.00	\$11.00	\$7.50	
Star Chamber Tour	\$12.00	\$8.00	\$6.00	\$5.00
Great Onyx Lantern Tour	\$15.00	\$11.00	\$7.50	
Gothic Avenue Tour	\$11.00	\$8.00	\$5.50	\$5.00
Trog	n/a	\$14.00	n/a	
Introduction to Caving	\$23.00	\$18.00	\$11.50	
Wild Cave Tour	\$48.00	n/a	\$24.00	

¹Youth is 6-12 years of age. ²Special access prices are for visitors presenting Golden Age, Golden Access, and America The Beautiful Senior and Access Passes. ³Educational prices apply to Kindergarten-College groups. Please call the park at 270.758.2180 to schedule your educational group.

Interested in a second cave tour?

A \$3 second-tour discount may apply to Historic, New Entrance, Frozen Niagara, and Mammoth Passage tours if purchased in person at the park for tours on the same day only. Note: The entire Frozen Niagara Tour route is seen on the New Entrance Tour. Parts of Mammoth Passage Tour are seen on the Historic Tour.

Getting Here

Mammoth Cave National Park is located near Interstate 65 in southcentral Kentucky, about 90 miles from both Louisville, KY and Nashville, TN. From the north, take exit 53 (Cave City); from the south, take Exit 48 (Park City). Signs will direct you to the park Visitor Center. Our address is 1 Mammoth Cave Parkway, Mammoth Cave, KY 42259

We're in the Central Time Zone!

►The following items are not permitted on Cave Tours: Tripods, strollers and infant backpack carriers ►Walking sticks and canes are permitted on cave tours *only when sufficient need is demonstrated.* ►The following items are not permitted on cave tours or in the visitor center: Any type of weapon (clubs, batons, brass knuckles, etc.), pepper spray/mace, sharp instruments (box cutters, scissors, etc.), knives, firearms. Secure these items in your vehicle, or in one of the lockers provided at the bus loading area.

►White Nose Syndrome Alert: In order to minimize the spread of White Nose Syndrome, a fungus that has resulted in the death of millions of bats in the United States, Mammoth Cave National Park has instituted stringent decontamination procedures for all off-trail spelunking tours. ►Participants on standard on-trail walking tours will be required to undergo minor decontamination measures upon exiting the cave. ►Clothing, footwear, and handheld items that have previously been worn or carried into caves or mines may not be brought into Mammoth Cave on any tour. For more information, call 270.758.2180, look for the latest information on the park website at www.nps.gov/maca/whitenoise.htm, or inquire at the Information Desk upon arrival at the park Visitor Center.