

# MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK

Distance	98 miles from Vanderbilt
Directions	Take I-65 North up into Kentucky. Get off at Exit 48 and turn left at the bottom of the ramp onto route 255. Follow the signs for Mammoth Cave National Park. At Route 70 turn left. Go to entrance sign and turn right. Follow the road back to the visitors' center.
Description	This park was established as a cave system that includes Mammoth Cave, the scenic river valleys of the Green and Nolin rivers, and a section of South Central Kentucky. It is the longest recorded cave system in the world with more than 336 miles explored AND mapped. Peak season is in June, July, and August. January brings the least number of visitors for each year. The schedule varies by season, so visitors and cavers should call for current information as well as to make reservations and get a required but free permit.
Hiking	There are six miles of trail near the Visitor Center, four short trails on the south side of the Green River, and 60 miles of trail on the north side of the Green River.
Caving	Visitors can either take a guided tour of the caves or use Ganter Cave for spelunking. The tours require fees while spelunking in Ganter Cave involves strict requirements and check-in with park rangers. Guided tours last from 45 minutes up to 6 ½ hours. <b>RESERVATIONS ARE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED</b> for both types of caving.
Campsites	Camping and lodging are available. There is a hotel, for those less adventurous types, as well as backcountry camping for those more adventurous types. Reservations and permits are required for hotels and camping, respectively.
Other Activities	Canoeing and fishing are two other activities that may interest visitors to the park. Fishing does not require a permit. There are other scheduled activities throughout the year.
For More Information	Find the Mammoth Cave National Park page at <a href="http://www.nps.gov">www.nps.gov</a> , for schedules and rates. The main phone number at Mammoth Cave is (502) 758-2328. For hotel rates call 502-758-2225. For lodging outside the park call 1-800-346-8908. Also, check out the book <u>Guide to the Surface Trails of Mammoth Cave National Park</u> by Stanley D. Sides.