

Preliminary Agenda – Mammoth Cave Outing

Saturday March 27

Depart Riverside 8:00 AM

Arrive Mammoth Cave National Park 6:30 PM (Assumes two 1hr stops)

Set up Camp

Sunday March 28

Take Historic Tour

Duration: 2 hours

Walking Distance: 2 miles

Description: Entering the cave through the Historic Entrance, you will feel the excitement that intrigued the earliest explorers and visitors. Experience the history and the role that Mammoth Cave played during the War of 1812. Large passages invite you to imagine what it would have been like for prehistoric discoverers who walked these passages over 2,000 years ago. Descend into the lower levels of the cave and follow in the footsteps of the first explorers who crossed the Bottomless Pit and squeeze through Fat Man's Misery. Climb 138 stairs up Mammoth Dome and exit through the Historic Entrance.

Sections of the tour have confining spaces and heights. Those with claustrophobia and/or acrophobia may have difficulty.

Landmarks Seen: Natural Entrance, Rotunda, Broadway Avenue, Methodist Church, Salt Petre artifacts, Giant's Coffin, Sidesaddle Pit, Bottomless Pit, Fat Man's Misery, River Hall, Mammoth Dome, Audubon Avenue

Elevation Change: 300 feet

Number of Stairs: 440, including up 138 at Mammoth Dome

Steep Hill Climbs? Yes, trail to and from cave entrance

Special Notice: Limited areas of the Discovery, Mammoth Passage, Broadway, Star Chamber, River Styx and Violet City Lantern Tours are visited on this route.

Other options for the day include:

Hike to Green River Bluffs

Walking Distance: 1.1 miles

The Green River valley opens before you from this bird's-perch view.

Canoe Trip

Within the boundaries of Mammoth Cave National Park, 25 miles of the Green River and six miles of the Nolin River carry boaters past dramatic bluffs, majestic trees, and wildlife. The Green River, dotted with sandbars, islands, and subsurface springs, averages 200 feet wide and 10 feet deep, though its depth may be much greater in places. The Nolin River also averages about 10 feet deep, but its channel is narrower than the Green River.

At normal water levels, the Green River runs at about five miles per hour. The current in the Nolin is slightly slower than the current in the Green. Therefore, both rivers offer pleasant canoeing, even for novices. When the rivers flood, the current can be very swift, but no whitewater conditions exist along the Green or Nolin Rivers in the park.

Monday March 29

Take Grand Avenue Tour

Duration: 4½ hours

Walking Distance: 4 miles

Description: This physically demanding trip will give you an excellent idea of the size and complexity of the Mammoth Cave system. Learn of the natural and cultural history of the cave and how they are interwoven as your journey takes you through some of the most dramatic passages in this "mammoth" cave. Walk through gypsum lined passages,

narrow canyons, underground hills, large rooms, and areas with dripstone formations.

Landmarks Seen: Carmichael Entrance; Cleaveland Avenue; Snowball Room; Boone Avenue; Thorpe's Pit; Mt. McKinley; Grand Canyon; Aerobridge Canyon; Hippodrome; Grand Central Station; Frozen Niagara; Frozen Niagara Tour Route

Elevation Change: 300 feet

Number of Stairs: 670

Steep Hill Climbs? Yes, both up and down! Grade changes abruptly more than 60 feet at several places between 2.5-mile point and exit

Restrictions: No children under age 6; food allowed only at Snowball Room lunch stop; general restrictions apply

Special Notice: The Frozen Niagara Tour route and New Entrance Tour route (except for the near 280 stairs at the entrance through the vertical shafts) are included on this tour. There are two restroom stops. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended for this tour.

Hike or canoe to backcountry and spend night in back country (1st Class and above, maximum of 8 people)

Twelve peaceful and scenic backcountry campsites offer opportunities to find solitude and appreciate the beauty and diversity of Mammoth Cave National Park's rugged hills and majestic woodlands.

Overnight camping is permitted at designated sites and along floodplains more than ½ mile away from ferry crossings or developed campgrounds. Camping on the floodplain is only accessible by boat. Each campsite holds a maximum of 8 people.

All sites except McCoy Hollow have a nearby water source. Boil and treat water before drinking, or carry in your own drinking water.

Tuesday March 30

Visit Corvette Museum

The National Corvette Museum is the largest and most comprehensive nonprofit museum ever dedicated to a single automotive nameplate -- Corvette -- America's premier sports car and an international symbol of U.S. automotive innovation.

The 115,000 sq. ft. building houses more than 80 Corvette models and one-of-a-kind concept cars spanning the history of Corvette. Also on hand are thousands of Corvette related photos, movies and videos, advertisements, scale models and rare memorabilia. Spotlighted are the people who have made Corvette an American icon.

Inside, striking full-scale dioramas show classic Corvette models and famous performance Corvette models in period settings. You'll also find the historic one-millionth Corvette, donated to the museum by Chevrolet.

Tour Corvette Assembly Plant

Watch the fascinating assembly process of America's favorite sports car, the Chevrolet Corvette, in a one mile walking tour. Observe as robots weld the steel structure and our dedicated workforce adds parts in Trim and Chassis. See an engineering marvel as the chassis and body come together in "marriage." Witness the birth of new Corvettes at First Start and the thrilling drive off the end of the line.

Wednesday March 31

Return to Riverside

Background Information

Distance to Mammoth Cave is 401 miles

Average High Temperature for late March is 62 and average low is 40

Sunrise 6:30 AM, Sunset 7:00 PM