Scenic Walking Tour

CASCADE CAVE

(MUST PURCHASE TICKETS > 15+ MINS BEFORE TOUR STARTS)

TICKETS SOLD AT THE WELCOME CENTER,
SALES STOP 15 MINUTES PRIOR TO TOUR TIME.

ALL TOURS BEGIN AT CASCADE CAVE
LOCATED 3.6 MILES FROM THE WELCOME CENTER.
(Driving directions below.)
TRANSPORTATION IS NOT PROVIDED.

Cascade Cave is one of the largest caves to be found in Carter County. Visitors often remark on its large passageways and on the grandeur of its formations. The walking tour will bring visitors through the "heart" of the cave – Cascade Cave, through a breathtaking section of Cascade Nature Preserve into North Cave, and before departing – over to a 30+ ft. underground waterfall. While on a tour visitors can hope to learn about the cave's geologic formations, cave ecology, and some local history.

MONDAY-FRIDAY: 10:30 AM, 1:30 PM, 4 PM

SATURDAY: 10 AM, 11:30 AM, 1 PM, 2:30 PM, 3:30 PM, 5 PM

SUNDAY : 10 AM, 11:30 AM, 1 PM, 2:30 PM, 4 PM

WALKING DISTANCE
& DIFFICULTY: 3/4 mile with 225 stair steps, some stooping

DURATION: About 75 minutes

TEMPERATURE: 50-60 degrees (variable)

ADMISSION: $10 + tax —age 13 & up
$ 6 + tax—age 3-12
FREE—age 2 & under

DIRECTIONS TO CASCADE CAVE

Cascade Cave is appx. 3.6 miles from the Welcome Center. Leave main parking lot, turn left. At the park entrance turn right onto Rt. 182. In appx. 1.6 miles you will turn right onto Rt. 209. Cascade Cave parking lot will be located appx. 0.6 miles on the left.

Scenic Walking Tour

X CAVE

(SUGGEST PURCHASING TICKETS > 15 MINS BEFORE TOUR STARTS)

TICKETS SOLD AT THE WELCOME CENTER.
ALL TOURS BEGIN IN FRONT OF THE WELCOME CENTER.

X Cave is comprised of two narrow, vertical joint-passageways. These passageways differ so that it seems as if you are walking through two separate geologic creations rather than a singular cave. While inside visitors will learn of the cave's geologic formations, cave ecology, and some local history.

MONDAY-FRIDAY: 10 AM, 11:30 AM, 1:30 PM, 3 PM, 5 PM

SATURDAY: 10 AM, 11:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 1:30 PM 2:30 PM, 3:30 PM, 4:30 PM, 5:30 PM

SUNDAY: 10:30 AM, 12 PM, 1 PM, 2 PM, 3 PM, 4 PM, 5 PM

WALKING DISTANCE
& DIFFICULTY: About 1/4 mile, some stooping

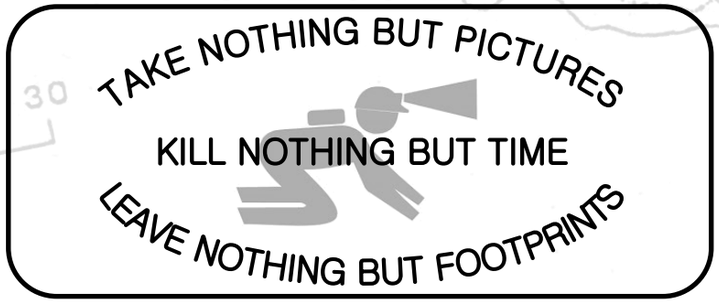
DURATION: About 45 minutes

TEMPERATURE: 45-60 degrees (variable)

DIFFICULTY: Includes 75 stair steps through narrow passages; some stooping; electrically lit.

ADMISSION: $8 + tax—age 13 & up
$5 + tax—age 3-12
FREE—age 2 & under

CAVER'S CREED



Historical Walking Tours

SALTPETRE CAVE

(SUGGEST PURCHASING TICKETS > 15 MINS BEFORE TOUR STARTS)

TICKETS SOLD AT THE WELCOME CENTER.
ALL TOURS BEGIN IN FRONT OF THE WELCOME CENTER.

Saltpetre Cave is considered by many historians to be the site of the earliest industry in the area. The cave was used during the War of 1812 as a source of the major ingredient in making gunpowder. The site is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Discover a fascinating segment of Kentucky's history as you take a step back in time over 200 years ago.

MONDAY-FRIDAY: 1 PM

SATURDAY: 11 AM, 1 PM, 4 PM

SUNDAY: 11 AM, 1:30 PM, 3:30 PM

WALKING DISTANCE: 1/2 mile

DURATION: About 60 minutes

TEMPERATURE: 47-49 degrees (jacket recommended)

DIFFICULTY: 30 stairs leading into the cave, flat walking, some stooping. The cave is dry and dusty, electrically lit.

ADMISSION: $8—age 13 & up
$5—age 3-12
FREE—age 2 & under

SALTPETRE LANTERN TOUR

This tour follows the same route as our lighted tour, however by the light of oil lanterns, more of the fascinating history of Saltpetre Cave is discussed. Definitely a tour for history buffs, *not recommended for young children.*

SATURDAY: 2:00 PM

DURATION: About 90 minutes

DIFFICULTY: Same as above in low light conditions

ADMISSION: $8 flat—Adult or Child

Adventure Cave Trips

BAT CAVE "Walking" Excursion

Bat Cave is the longest cave found within the park. It's passages are undeveloped (no defined walking paths or handrails). Although named the "walking" tour participants will spend some time stooping and "duck-walking." Unlike the "next level" tour you will **NOT** be required to crawl on this route through the cave. In order to participate you **must** be at least 6 y.o. and an adult **must** accompany those under 16 y.o. Guardians will need to be present to sign waivers for children under 18 y.o.

DURATION: About 2.5 hours (includes prep and clean up)

TEMPERATURE: 50-60 degrees (variable)

DIFFICULTY: Walking distance—about 2 miles, 40 yard "duck walk", prolonged bent walking, slick/ uneven surfaces, up to knee deep water/ mud

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT: Closed-toe shoes with good tread.
PROVIDED EQUIPMENT: Helmet with headlamp.

THURS., SAT., & SUN.: 2:30 PM

ADMISSION: **$15 + tax** (ages 6 and up)

"Next Level" Adventure Tours

These tours are exactly as described—intended to introduce you to the "next level" of caving. Whether it is a small, dusty squeeze through Saltpetre Cave, or, a sloppy, muddy slide through Bat Cave—you'll spend most of your time low to the ground exploring passageways only the bravest of adventurers tackle. In order to participate you **must** be at least 8 y.o. and an adult **must** accompany those under 16 y.o. Guardians will need to be present to sign waivers for children under 18 y.o.

DURATION: About 2.5 to 3 hours (includes prep and clean up)

DIFFICULTY: These are extremely strenuous tours which require good physical stamina. A large portion of your time inside these caves will be spent on your hands/ knees or in a bent position. You may encounter tight passageways, water/ mud, and traverse over slick/ uneven surfaces.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT: Closed-toe shoes with good tread.
PROVIDED EQUIPMENT: Helmets, headlamps, kneepads & coveralls for ages 13 & up.

SALTPETRE "Crawl" - SATURDAY: 10:30 AM

BAT CAVE "Crawl" - SUNDAY:10:30 AM

ADMISSION: **$30 + tax** —age 13 & up
$15 + tax—age 8 - 12 (coveralls not included wear pants)

There is a minimum of 3 participants required before this tour can go. **Before purchasing tickets all participants must attend a Wild Caving pre-trip discussion beginning 15 mins. before tour time—held on the front porch of the Welcome Center. (REFUNDS ARE NOT PERMITTED FOR ANY REASON)**

White-Nose Syndrome & Cave Tours

White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) is a disease that is killing 70-100% of hibernating bats in infected caves. WNS does not have any effect on humans, livestock, or pets, only hibernating bats. WNS was first noted in some caves across the park in February 2013.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Do not wear the shoes, clothing, or carry objects that you had with you while on a cave tour at Carter Caves into another cave system outside of Carter Caves area. This may prevent spreading the disease to a new location.

PROHIBITED ON CAVE TOURS

Because of the possibility of WNS contamination, the following are ***prohibited on cave tours:***

⇒ **Pets** (service animals allowed)

⇒ **Bags** of ANY type - including purses, fanny packs, diaper bags, camera cases, backpacks etc.
Bags containing necessary medical supplies ARE permitted.

REQUIRED POST-TOUR DECONTAMINATION PROTOCOL

All CCSRP cave tour participants will be *required* to participate in a post-tour WNS decontamination procedure. This procedure will insure that the bottom of both shoes of each participant are treated with a mixture of Lysol and water. This process has been proven to help prevent the spread of the spores which cause WNS. **NOTE:** Please review these *required* post-tour procedures before the purchase of any cave tour tickets—refunds are NOT permitted.

LAUREL & HORN HOLLOW CAVE

(SELF-GUIDED CAVE EXPLORATION)

PERMIT REQUIRED - (OBTAINED AT THE WELCOME CENTER)

Laurel & Horn Hollow Cave systems are the only self-guided cave exploration opportunities available at the park. To enter these caves visitors must first obtain a **FREE** permit from the Welcome Center - issuance is weather dependent. Permits are available inside of the Gift Shop from the start of business until 1.5 hours before closing. Visitors must exit the caves and return their permits to the Gift Shop before close of business.
Horn Hollow is accessible year-round.
Laurel Cave may be entered Memorial Day—Labor Day **ONLY**.

Visitors found entering either cave without a permit are subject to prosecution.

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS: Visitors must have at least one other person in their group, wear closed toe shoes, and provide their own working flashlight (no cell phones). More information available at the Welcome Center.

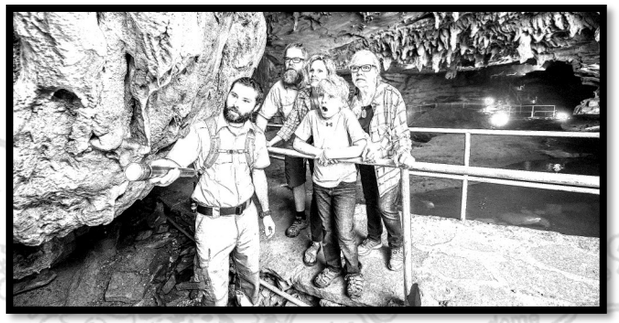
Kentucky UNBRIDLED SPIRIT

344 Caveland Drive
Olive Hill, KY 4116
(606) 286-4411

KENTUCKY STATE PARKS "the nation's finest"

CARTER CAVES STATE RESORT PARK

CAVE TOUR SCHEDULE



LATE SUMMER

Aug. 12–Sep. 2, 2019

Founded in 1946, Carter Caves State Resort Park is home to an expansive system of natural caves. Some of these caves are open to the public for viewing and exploration at various times throughout the year.

Look inside this schedule for tour descriptions, tour times, and prices! Additionally, check out our weekly recreation schedule for other interpretive program opportunities, including special events/ tours.

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Visitors may purchase cave tour tickets inside of the Gift Shop at the Welcome Center. Tickets are sold by day—no reservations or advance sales.

Cave tour tickets are non-refundable.

View current and future tour schedules online at PARKS.KY.GOV

Carter Caves - Important Phone Numbers

Front Desk:	(606) 286-4411
Welcome Center:	(606) 286-7010
Office of Interpretation:	(606) 286-7009

TOUR SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE