

Carter Caves State Resort Park



TRAIL MAP

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
parks.ky.gov



Carter Caves State Resort Park

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Explore Carter Caves State Resort Park

Nestled in the hills of Eastern Kentucky, Carter Caves is 2,000 acres of a mixed deciduous forest rich in plants, animals and geologic formations, both above and below ground. The Park offers year round guided tours of some of the region's most impressive cave systems, including tours of Cascade Cave and X-Cave.

Laurel Cave, seasonally, and Horn Hollow Cave, year round, are two undeveloped caves visitors can explore by permit. Call the park for more details on regulations and permits.

The park has over 30 miles of trails highlighting many fascinating geological features, including natural bridges, arches, caves, sinkholes, cliffs and a boxed canyon. The trail system supports over 15 miles of multi-use trails that offer hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders a place to escape. There is a designated area for experienced Rock Climbers and Rappelers to "get on rope" while at the park.

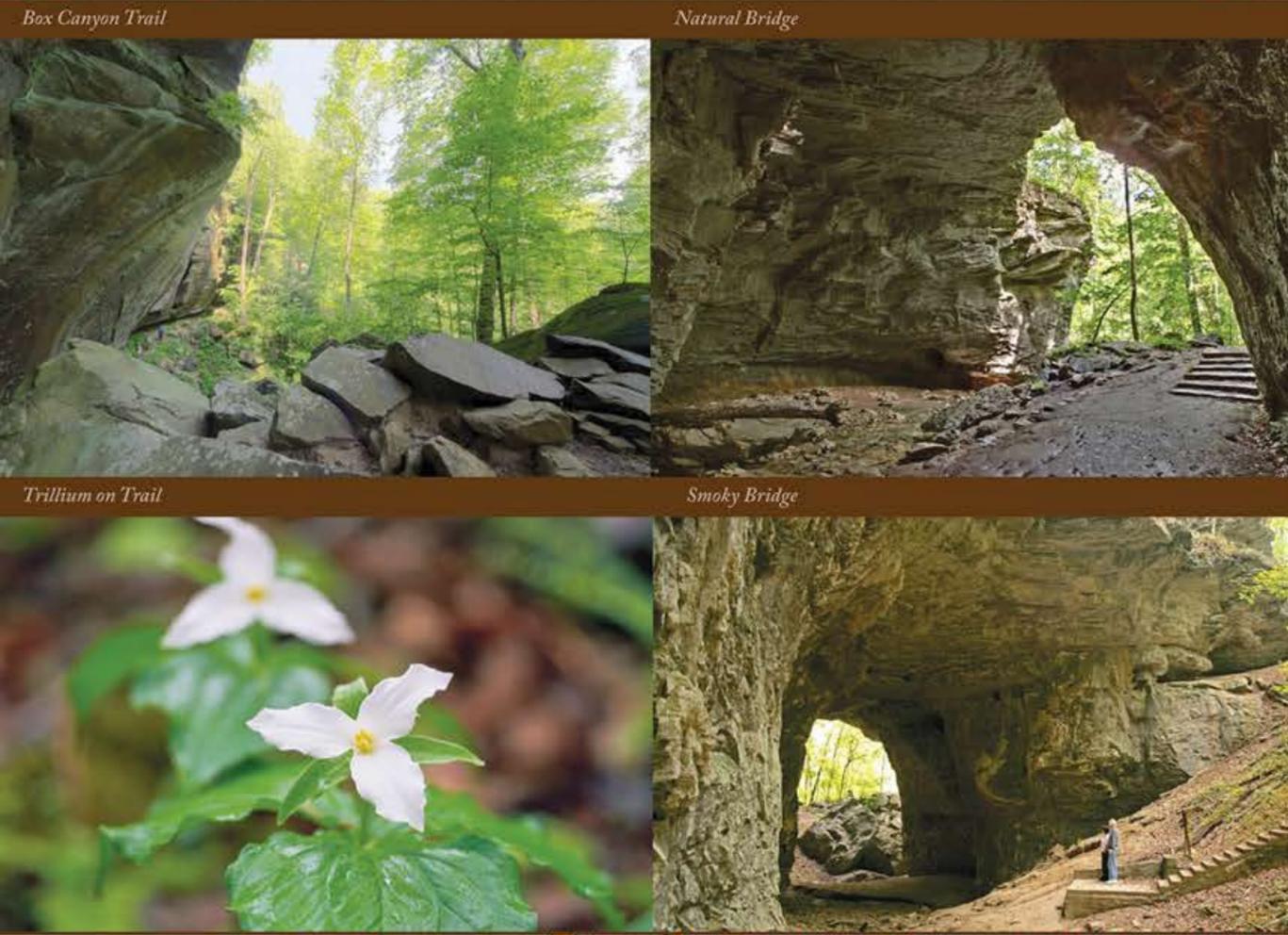
Paddlers and anglers can enjoy some good water time on either the secluded 45-acre Smoky Valley Lake or along a stretch of Tygarts Creek, that borders a portion of the park. Other day amenities include playground areas, tennis courts, a basketball court, picnic areas, and shelters.

Seasonally, visitors can enjoy guided horseback riding, a swimming pool with a diving well, a gem mine attraction, an 18-hole miniature golf course, guided Smoky Lake canoe trips, and summer recreation and interpretive naturalist programs. Special events are regularly scheduled throughout the year, including Winter Adventure Weekend, Pioneer Life Week, and the Fraley Mountain Music Festival.

Staying over for several days is made easy with several overnight accommodations available, including a 28 room field stone lodge, 11 modern two-bedroom, and 1 modern three-bedroom vacation cottages. The campground provides many overnight options including RV sites, tent sites, bunkhouses and equestrian campsites. Tierney's Cavern restaurant, open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner, offers a wide variety of sandwiches and country dishes.

Trail Regulations

Trails are managed as part of the natural environment. Visitors must be prepared to meet and accept nature on its own terms. All plants, animals, and natural park features are protected by state law against removal, destruction and injury. For your safety, please stay on designated trails, wear proper footwear, and avoid hiking alone. All trails close at dusk.



HIKING TIPS

All of the park's trails are hilly, and many pass near high cliff areas. For your safety, stay on the marked trails and walk the trails only during daylight hours. Hiking at night is not permitted. Parents should accompany children at all times. For safety, wear comfortable shoes with textured soles, since all trails have natural surfaces that may be rocky or uneven. On the longer trails, a water supply may be needed since there are no water sources on any of the trails. Snakes are rarely encountered, but if they are, leave them alone. Carter Caves is home to two venomous snakes, the Northern Copperhead and the Timber Rattlesnake. It is illegal to harm any animal in the park, including snakes. Be aware of poison ivy; it is a common plant.

