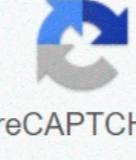


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## Caves to explore near me

Mark Twain Cave and Campground is Missouri's first Show Cave. The cave was first shown in 1886 and is a Registered Natural Landmark. Visit Website Marengo Cave, Indiana's most visited show cave, has been awing visitors with its spectacular beauty for over 120 years. Visit Website Members: The directory is available for download in pdf format under Member Resources. Alabaster Caverns State Park 217036 SH 50A Freedom, OK 73842 580-621-3381 Appalachian Caverns 420 Cave Hill Road Blountville, TN 37617 423-323-2337 Family Owned and Operated Photo from Raccoon Caverns tourRaccoon Mountain Caverns consists of over 5.5 miles of underground passageways. While many caves have small areas of formation growth, Raccoon Mountain Caverns has countless, 100% natural formations and is exceptionally well preserved and considered to be one of the most geologically active caverns in the South. The Crystal Palace Tour is a 45-55 minute guided walking tour through the first 1/4 mile of the cave. This section of the cave has been modified to include lights, pathways, steps, and handrails. Education is the focus of their tours and your guide will explain how caves form, provide a history of the cave, and point out a wide variety of formations such as stalactites, stalagmites, soda straws, and much more, including rare shield and helictite formations! Guests also have a chance to view cave wildlife including bats and salamanders, as well as ancient fossils. Latest COVID-19 Update: As directed by the Hamilton County Health Department, any person entering shall wear a face covering. More information here. Can you enter? Yes is there a tour? Yes, walking tours and cave expedition tours Cost: \$22.95-\$55 for adults, children ages 3-12 are \$14.95, children 2 years of age and under are not able to participate in tours Website: raccoonmountain.com Location: 319 West Hills Drive, Chattanooga, TN. 37419 Skip to content We've rounded up the best caves and mines in Manchester in our... Caves and Mines, Indoor and OutdoorAll Ages5.9 miAges 0-1220.4 mi4.5Caves and Mines, Indoor and OutdoorAll Ages20.6 mi5.0Caves and Mines, Indoor and OutdoorAges 0-1220.7 mi5.0Caves and Mines, Indoor and OutdoorAges 4+21 miCaves and Mines, Indoor and OutdoorAges 0-1221.5 mi5.0Museums and Art Galleries, Indoor and OutdoorAges 0-1228.1 miAges 9+29.9 miAges 13+31.3 miCaves and Mines, Indoor and OutdoorAges 0-1233.3 mi5.0All Ages37.4 miAges 4+37.6 miMuseums and Art Galleries, Indoor and OutdoorAll Ages37.6 miAges 4+44.2 miCaves and Mines, Indoor and OutdoorAges 0-1245.7 mi5.0Ages 4+46 miCaves and Mines, Indoor and OutdoorAll Ages46.1 mi4.0Caves and Mines, Indoor and OutdoorAll Ages48.2 mi Effective June 3, 2021: The day-use portion of Florida Caverns State Park is open daily, 8 a.m. to sunset Central time. The day-use area of the park includes two covered open-air pavilions, a small playground, a one-mile loop trail, and the visitor center with exhibits and a video. The campgrounds are closed for construction. Cave tours are limited to 25 visitors per tour and are provided daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Central time. Call 850-526-2650 for information about cave tours. Please be aware our cave tours can sell out. Call Florida Caverns Gift Shop at 850-526-2650 to inquire about availability. We are excited to announce cave tours are available daily, leaving from the visitor center beginning at 9 a.m. Central time. Groups are limited to 25 visitors per tour. Experience the wonder of the limestone cave system as tour guides take you on a journey through time to see formations that have grown slowly over thousands of years. Cave tours are offered on a first-come, first-served basis, and tickets can be purchased the day of event. Parking is limited. Arrive early: cave tickets can sell out in advance, especially on weekends and holidays. Tour Fees Children 2 and under: No fee. Ages 3 to 12: \$5 per person. Ages 13 and up: \$10.75 per person. What to Expect Before the tour, visitors learn about safety precautions that are needed to participate. These include stooping many times to pass through areas with a ceiling height of 4-1/2 feet for distances as far as 15 feet, narrow passages; 50 descending steps (possibly 50 ascending if the tour is modified due to high water conditions); slippery walkways; and the importance of not touching anything inside the fragile cave environment. Tour the mystic beauty of Florida Caverns State Park Visitors will walk 350 feet to the cave entrance and down 35 steps using a handrail. When entering the caverns, it will take a few moments to become acclimated to the dimly lit environment and year-round 65-degree temperature. The tour moves at a leisurely pace through a dozen cave rooms where visitors learn about the cave's history, early uses, and interesting geological formations such as stalactites, stalagmites, columns and flowstones. Visitors may occasionally encounter animals that inhabit the cave such as bats, mice, cave crickets, salamanders, cave spiders and the occasional snake or frog. As the tour concludes, visitors ascend a 15-degree walkway to emerge into a hardwood forest and enjoy a self-paced walk back to the visitor center. A video of the cave tour and hiking trails before Hurricane Michael are offered in the museum of the visitors center for those who would rather enjoy the tour from the comfort of the theater. Originally called Mammoth Cave, California Cavern was California's first show cave and is its longest cavern system. Depending on the season, the guided cavern walk tour can be 45 minutes to 80 minutes long featuring an enchanting trail with beautiful crystalline cave formations in historical and recently discovered pristine areas. The cavern walking tour takes you through several passageways into multiple chambers on a trail system. On the way, you'll see a wide variety of beautiful white, cream and caramel colored crystalline cave formations including stalactites, stalagmites, cave popcorn, flowstones and helictites, while also learning about the cavern's fascinating discovery and early uses. California Cavern tour Courtesy of KQED Cavern tours usually include the lights being turned off for a moment to experience total darkness. Ask your guide to notify you when this is about to happen so you can hold on to your young children if they are likely to get scared. One outstanding feature of this cave is its extensive labyrinth of wild, unlit passageways and crawl-ways which you can explore on two different extended cave expeditions. These trips are not recommended for the claustrophobic, but for those who don't have a problem with tight spaces they are incredibly fun and distinctively unique. California Cavern: Wild Cave Trips The 2-hour Mammoth Cave Expedition available for ages 8 and up is a favorite with scout groups, and features off-trail cave exploring with only cave helmet lights to illuminate the way. It's a fun adventure and the perfect introduction to the sport of caving. The more challenging 4-hour Middle Earth Expedition available for ages 16 and up is a true immersion in the sport of caving. Experience mud in a way you never have before, while traversing through cavern passageways and chambers decorated with sparkling crystalline cavern formations in the ceiling above. In your small, guided group, far beyond the walking tour trails, you'll feel like an intrepid explorer in this unique, underworld environment, carved out and decorated by geological forces. It's an experience you'll never forget! Both of these caving expeditions are available by reservation in advance and have recommendations for preparation that you will receive with your reservation paperwork. If you're already in the area, sometimes you can be added to a group on the day you call, but we recommend making your reservation at least a week in advance to be sure of a spot. For holiday weekend spots, much earlier reservations are recommended. A beautiful cave, with an incredible history from California's famous Gold Rush onwards, California Cavern is a state gem and one of the few showcaves in the United States that offers wild caving expeditions. John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club visited in the 1800s and obviously enjoyed his exploration of the cave, writing about it in lyrical detail in his book "Mountains of California" published in 1894. California Cavern - Additional Activities Above ground, a popular activity for kids and families is gold panning and gemstone mining in their flume system right next to the visitors center and gift shop which features fantastic nature-store-style merchandise, fun, educational and enjoyable for the entire family. One of our favorite items is a collection of geodes, which you can purchase and crack right there in the gift shop. Be the first person to see the crystals inside one of the ancient rocks! While you're in the visitors center, say "hi" to the enormous, genuine, ancient cave bear skeleton. Related links: Moaning Cavern Adventure Park | Mercer Caverns | Black Chasm Cavern | California Cavern Gift Shop | Moaning Cavern Zip Lines Blogs featuring California Cavern: Plan this: Romantic Getaway in the Sierra Foothills | Happy Kids on Vacation | Adventure Alert! Are You Crazy Enough for Spelunking? | Kid Favorites in Calaveras | Calaveras Fall Itineraries | Where to Pop The Question in Calaveras | Calaveras Wine & Adventure Itineraries | How to Beat the Heat? Head Underground... | Fly-In for a Unique View of Calaveras County Related articles: Summer hit list: Treasures in the Mother Lode | Baluert on Outdoors: Exploring caves can be a fun activity | A weekend getaway in Gold Rush Murphys | Reading Time: 4 minutes Imagine not being able to see your hand when it is only an inch from your face. This is what you will experience at Alabaster Caverns State Park and it's a unique experience for kids (and their parents). Caves generally bring a sense of awe mixed with apprehension. They are the stuff of legend and home to infamous flying mammals, bats. But you know what our family likes best about caves? They offer a very welcome break from the summer heat—and they are just plain fun! Here are the two best places to explore caves with kids in Oklahoma. Alabaster Caverns State Park in Freedom, about two and a half hours northwest of Oklahoma City COVID-19 Update - The park office reopened on May 1, but will be limited to 10 guests at a time. Wild caving and cave camping will reopen on May 15, with interpretive cave tours resuming on June 1. In order to accommodate as many guests as possible and to avoid confusion, park management is requesting guests call the park office and make tour reservations in advance of arrival. Group size may be limited. Park Entrance Fee: None Tour Required: Yes Tour Fee: Adult, \$10; Youth (6-12), \$7; Seniors (62+), \$8; Active Duty Military (current ID required), \$8; Children under 5, free. Tour Length: 45 minutes General Information: This state park gets its name from the material from which the caves is made: alabaster. Alabaster is a fine-grained, translucent and rare form of gypsum and this is the world's largest natural gypsum cave open to the public. There are a lot of ways to explore these amazing caves and some fun events celebrating the caves' most notorious inhabitant, bats. Tour Information: The cave tour is less than a mile and includes 330 stairs. Needless to say, you are a little winded at the end. The cave is cool and damp (even in the summer) so plan accordingly by wearing a jacket and wearing closed-toe shoes to handle the narrow steps more safely. Tours are offered daily at the top of every hour from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and tour groups are capped at 40 visitors. The tour path is well-lit but the lights are on timers. The tour moves through the cave as the lights go on and off. To keep the tours timely, the following items are prohibited: cell phones, flashlights, cameras and baby strollers. Photo Tours: These tours are designed to give participants optimal opportunities to photograph this beautiful and unique natural wonder. Tours occur every day at 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Lantern Tours: Be a part of living history in a whole new way by exploring Alabaster Caverns by lantern light. These tours will give a peek into the history of the caves. These tours occur the first and third Saturdays of the month in the summer through Labor Day starting at 7 p.m. The cost is \$20 per person. Spelunking (wild caving): There are four separate caves that you can explore on your own. Permits can be purchased at the park office from April 1 through Sept. 30. These caves are closed October through March to protect the hibernating bat habitat. Lodging: There is camping available at this park but if you are feeling daring, you can even camp inside the cave! Call the park for more information or to make a reservation. Make a weekend of it! There is a lot to see this in this area of the state. Here are a few suggestions: Woodward - Located nearby, this small town is full of charm and ready to explore. Check out the Plains Indians and Pioneers Museum and Crystal Beach Park, complete with splash pad and miniature train. Boiling Springs State Park - Beautiful oasis in the middle of the prairie. Best known for wildlife viewing, fishing and newly-renovated swimming pool. Sod House Museum - The museum preserves the only remaining sod house built by a homesteader. It is located about four miles north of Cleo Springs. Glass Mountain State Park - Be prepared for hiking and amazing views. There is no camping available but it is the perfect place for a pit stop on the way out to Alabaster Caverns depending on your route. Robbers Cave State Park in Wilburton, two hours and 40 minutes east of Oklahoma City Exploring Time: 1-2 hours Park Entrance Fee: None Tour Required: No, cave can be explored independently. Tour Fee: \$4 Tour Length: Varies General Information: This is a stunning area of the state and some of the best views in Oklahoma can be found at top of the Robbers Cave trail. Robber's Cave itself is about 50 feet long and does not require a flashlight as plenty of sunlight can enter through the large opening. The whole side of the mountain containing Robbers Cave is full of caves and rock formations perfect for climbing and exploring. Plan for time to explore! Before heading to the cave, stop by the Park Office/Nature Center to pick up a map and visit the exhibits. The Nature Center offers a quick look at the natural history of the area and examples of native wildlife. There is a cave tour every day at 9:30 a.m. Lodging: There are campgrounds, cabins and a lodge at Robbers Cave State Park but this is a very popular park and they fill up fast. Another option is to camp at Arrowhead Area at Lake Eufaula State Park and make the 45-minute drive to Robbers Cave. If you don't like crowds, this is a good option and the views are equally beautiful. There is a lot to see and do at this state park. Visitors wanting to make a weekend of it will enjoy equestrian trails, a campground, rappelling, miniature golf, bike rentals and a playground. A swimming pool is open Memorial Day through Labor Day. Here are a few other can't-miss attractions at the park: Lake Carlton - This lake features a swimming area, boat ramp, canoe and paddleboat rentals and fishing. Lake Wayne Wallace - This is the largest of the three lakes at Robbers Cave. Besides beautiful views, this lake offers a boat ramp and fishing. Belle Starr Express - Experience Robbers Cave State Park on a 30-minute miniature train ride. This is a great way to see the park if your time is limited or if you're not up for hiking.

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