

### ADVENTURE TOURS

Choose from 2 unique Adventure Tours and prepare yourself for the unexpected. The rough trail through the caverns is the same path created by the original explorers. As our experienced staff guides you through the cavern it will give you a true sense of appreciation for what its like to explore the unknown. The paths wind across the floor of the cave and are covered with loose rocks, mud, and some formations. Tours include walking, climbing and crawling. We provide the caving gear, including harness, helmet, headlamp, rappelling gear, spare batteries, spare light, and water. Advance reservations are required for the Adventure Tours.

**DISCOVERY ADVENTURE TOUR:** The Discovery Adventure Tour passage has been virtually unchanged since discovery more than 45 years ago and retraces the path the discoverers took in early 1960. This spectacular journey begins under the Natural Bridge and continues through the commercially developed area in the Discovery Passages where guests encounter the nationally renowned Sherwood Forest, Castle of the White Giants and other immense chambers.

The trail then leads to the “wild cave” where guests negotiate various obstacles, often through thick mud. Included on the tour is a 25-foot free climb up a mud-covered slope, a 40-foot belly crawl through a tunnel named the “Birth Canal” and finally to Belayman’s Bluff, the same point at which the discoverers concluded their first journey. The Discovery Adventure Tour is offered to guests of a recommended minimum age of 10. The tour takes approximately 3 hours and is 1.25 miles.

**HIDDEN PASSAGES ADVENTURE TOUR:** In 1967, an additional ½ mile of cavern was discovered and named the Hidden Passages. The special conditions existing in the Hidden Passages have allowed delicate, hollow formations called soda straws to grow to astonishing lengths. Many are 6 to 10 feet long! In fact, the third longest soda straw in North America is 14 feet long-and you will see it on your Adventure tour through the Hidden Passages. Another remarkable feature of the Hidden Passages is the purity of the limestone crystals. In fact, because of the clarity and size of the crystals, light shines through solid rock!

The Hidden Passages Adventure Tour takes approximately 3 to 4 hours and is one mile long (½ mile of cave, in and out). There are two possible entrances: a 160-foot shaft or a walk-in tunnel. The shaft entrance is the same entrance used by the discoverers. Guests are lowered on rope by a winch through the 160-foot long by 22-inch wide shaft down into the cavern. The shaft entrance takes approximately five minutes. The other entrance option is the walk-in tunnel. The walk-in entrance takes guests through the Jeremy Room to the bottom of the Shaft Entrance. The wild cave tour begins at this point. We offer the Hidden Passage Adventure Tour for guests age 13 years old or older.