



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATURAL BRIDGE CAVERNS UNVEILS THE WATCHTOWER CHALLENGE

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Natural Bridge Caverns has opened a new climbing tower, named “The Watchtower Challenge,” that stands 50 feet tall and features two climbing surfaces along with two 350-foot zip lines, allowing guests to glide from the top of the structure to the ground in a matter of seconds.

Brad Wuest, president of Natural Bridge Caverns, said The Watchtower Challenge is named after the tallest formation in the Caverns, The Watchtower, which also is 50 feet tall.

“We are really excited to offer The Watchtower Challenge to our guests as another adventure at The Caverns. Instead of climbing underground, The Tower allows our guests to climb skyward and the zip lines are the next best thing to flying,” said Wuest.

The climbing surfaces are built along two sides of the tower allowing five climbers to participate at the same time on two different climbing surfaces. Multiple routes on each climbing surface offer a variety of challenges for beginners and experts alike. Each climber is fitted in a harness and secured from above with a belay line.

Josh Tod of Rope Works near Austin, the company that built The Watchtower Challenge, said it is the largest public outdoor climbing tower and zip lines in Texas.

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“The front of the tower is 16 feet wide and has an increasing progression of difficulty, including an overhang and negative to positive slope where the climber has to climb out from the surface,” said Tod.

“The side of the climbing tower is 12 feet wide featuring a positive slope and more frequently placed handholds, making it easier for first-time climbers,” he said. Tod added there are more than 200 rock handholds along both climbing surfaces.

At the top of The Watchtower Challenge, which overlooks the rolling Hill Country landscape, there are two parallel zip lines that extend more than 350 feet, in the opposite direction from the front of the structure. Once hooked onto a zip line, the participant steps off the platform and takes off, gliding to the furthest point of the ride.

The Watchtower Challenge is the latest adventure at Natural Bridge Caverns, which is the largest cavern in Texas and attracts more than a quarter of a million guests each year. It is located between San Antonio and New Braunfels, eight miles west of IH-35 on Natural Bridge Caverns Road (Exit 175 - FM 3009).

In April, Natural Bridge Caverns was named by USA Today as one of America’s “10 great places to get nature on film” and was the only Texas location selected.

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