



MOANING CAVERNS

A D V E N T U R E P A R K

The Expedition Tour is the ideal tour for the adventurous spirit looking to go beyond the developed areas and explore the passageways below the main chamber. The trip begins as cavers take the stairs down 165-ft. to the bottom of the main chamber (*please note that the rappelling option has been unavailable since summer 2017*). From there, cavers descend further by crawling and squirming through small passages, exploring the twists and turns of the lower cavern system. The trip time varies, depending on the group – the more people, the longer the trip, plus the caving ability of the participants will determine how long the trip takes. To exit the cavern, cavers ascend the 235 steps back to the surface.

This trip is offered year-round by reservation. No experience is necessary, however participants do need to be in good physical condition. Those with conditions such as heart and lung problems, pregnancy, impaired mobility, or excessive weight should not attempt the adventure. Participants must be at least 12 years old, and minors (12-17) must be accompanied by an adult. Guides will limit participation to persons they believe to be suitable and fit. Due to the inherent dangers involved in caving trips, all participants and parents of participating minor children are required to sign a waiver of liability. All participants must be able and willing to follow the directions of their tour guide and other cavern staff at all times.

Expedition Preparation:

- We supply the necessary equipment, including a helmet with light, gloves, and knee & elbow pads. Coveralls are not necessary for this trip and are therefore not provided.
- Get a good night's sleep. Caving requires energy and good judgment.
- Eat a good breakfast, but avoid excessive liquids and “problem” foods, since there are no restrooms inside the cavern.
- Dress appropriately – the cavern is fairly warm (61° F, 16° C) year round, with a humidity level around 85%. It is dry during the summer and wet/muddy during the winter.
 - Wear one layer of loose fitting, lightweight clothes with long sleeves and long pants. Your clothes will get dirty and potentially torn, so don't wear anything you care about.
 - Wear sturdy shoes that are enclosed (no sandals), have traction soles and will stay on your feet. (Trail running shoes and/or hiking boots are popular choices among our guides). Keep in mind that they will get dirty and scuffed.
- Bring a complete change of clothes and shoes for afterward, and a bag to put your dirty clothes in. Hot water and showers are NOT available. Some visitors find it handy to bring along some wet wipes and/or a wash cloth to clean up afterward. (You will still be a little grubby, so keep that in mind for the rest of the day).
- You may want to bring something to eat for afterwards. Since no food or drinks are allowed in the cavern, you may be hungry when you get out. We have snack foods (chips, candy, ice cream, etc) and drinks available in our gift shop. *If you have a medical condition that does not limit your ability to do the trip, but does require you to bring food or special equipment into the cavern, let your guide know before the trip begins.*
- Arrive 15 minutes ahead of your tour start time to allow time to check in, use the restroom, find the meeting location, etc. Due to the necessity of keeping our tours on schedule (there is a limited window of time in which we can enter the cavern without disrupting other tours), we are not able to hold the tour for late arrivals.
- Notify us ahead of time if anyone in the group may require special attention or awareness on the part of the guide.