



Stalagmite Forest

How the cave got its name: Prior to the State of Alabama purchasing the cave it was owned by Mr. Jay Gurley. Upon viewing the stalagmite forest for the first time, Mr. Gurley's wife said it looked like a great cathedral. This photo is a sample of what she might have seen.

- In 1953, Mr. Jay Gurley began exploring the darkness of Cathedral Caverns; because of the great size, beauty and complex genesis of the cave, soon people came from across the country and from around the world to see what is truly one of our natural wonders.

- The 461 acres of land surrounding the cave is now known as Cathedral Caverns State Park. The park is intended to protect the cave and allow people to explore above and below a mountain landscape.

- Visitors will be introduced to a “karstlands” type of mountain landscape, complete with odd limestone rock formations called “honeycombing,” sinkholes, caves and surface vegetation that is characteristic of shallow soils on top of limestone formations.

- Within the Park’s boundaries are two known caves: Cathedral Caverns and the smaller Gurley Cave (which is a hydrological extension of Cathedral Caverns).

- Cathedral Caverns was designated as a Registered National Natural Landmark in 1972.

- The Cavern entrance is very large and has a high ceiling. In many places the cave is over 100 feet wide.

Location: Cathedral Caverns is hidden beneath Gunter’s Mountain in Northeast Marshall County, Alabama near the town of Grant.

How to get to Cathedral Caverns:

- From Guntersville take highway 431 north to county road 5. Turn right and go through Grant, Alabama. Turn right at the rock sign and follow the signs.

- From Huntsville take highway 72 east to highway 63. Turn right and go until you see the rock sign. Turn left and follow the signs.

- From Scottsboro take highway 72 west to highway 63. Turn left and go until you see the rock sign. Turn left and follow the signs.



**OPEN YEAR AROUND
CLOSED NEW YEARS DAY,
THANKSGIVING DAY AND
CHRISTMAS DAY**

TOUR SCHEDULE

January 2 - March 14

December 1 - 24

Saturday & Sunday

10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00

Monday - Friday

2:00 p.m.

(Groups of 10 or more may schedule tours at other times)

March 15 - August 31, Daily

10:15, 11:15, 12:15, 1:15,

2:15, 3:15, 4:00

September 1 - November 30

December 26 - 31, Daily

10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00

(Tour hours subject to change)

ADMISSION PRICES

13 and Over: \$10.00

6-12: \$5.00

5 and under: Free

SPECIAL SCHOOL RATES

\$5.00 per student

GROUP RATE

(reservation required)

25 people or more

\$8.00 each

(Rates subject to change)

PICNIC FACILITIES AVAILABLE

PRIMITIVE CAMPING AVAILABLE

PAVILION RENTALS AVAILABLE

(By Reservation Only)

Cathedral Caverns State Park

(256) 728-8193

637 Cave Road, Woodville, AL 35776

CAVE MOTTO

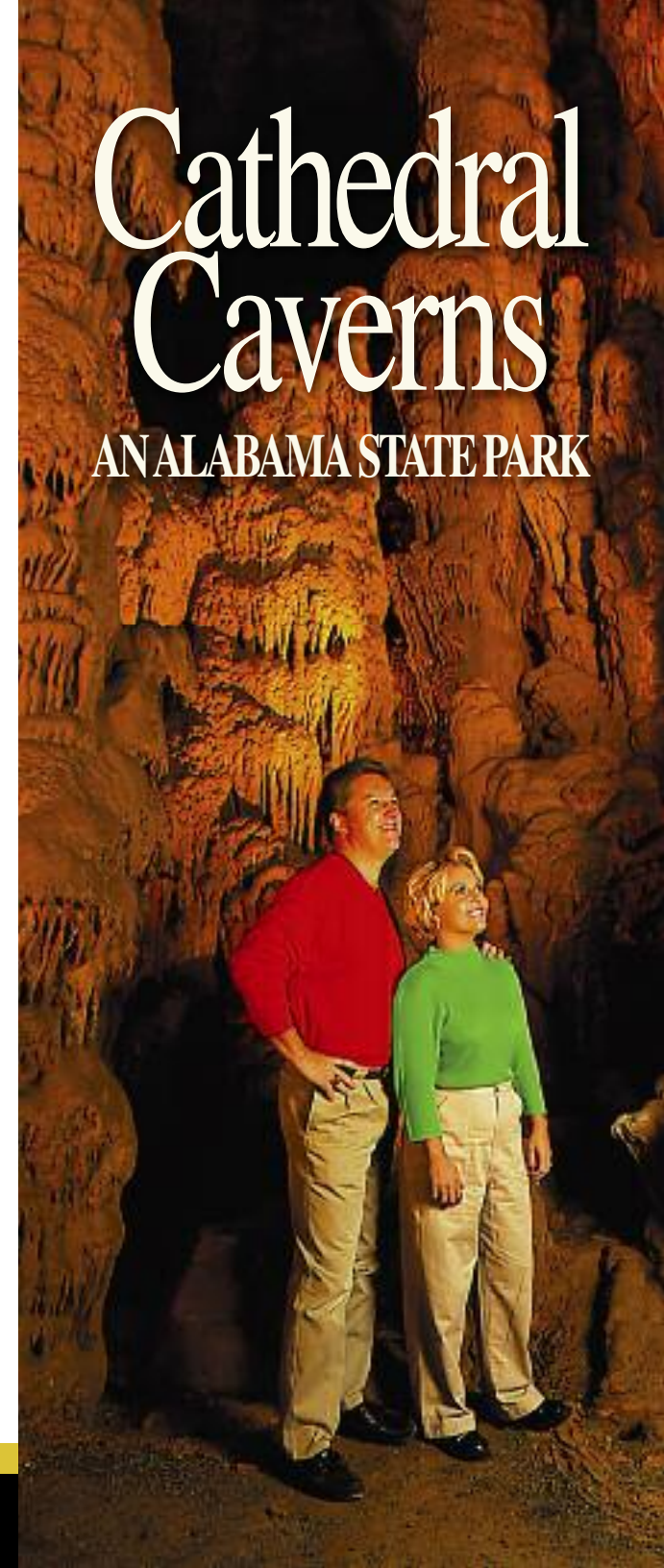
TAKE NOTHING BUT PICTURES

LEAVE NOTHING BUT FOOTPRINTS,

KILL NOTHING BUT TIME.

Cathedral Caverns

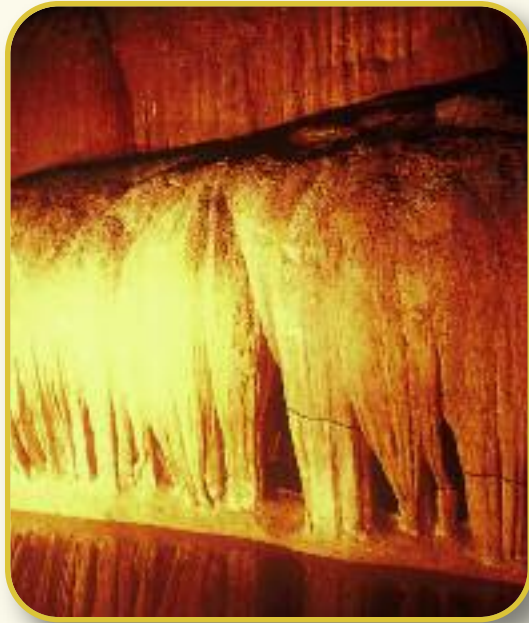
AN ALABAMA STATE PARK



CATHEDRAL CAVERNS STATE PARK

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION VISIT:

www.outdooralabama.com



Frozen water fall

If you have a sense for adventure and you marvel at the many natural wonders there are throughout the world, then have we got something for you!

Cathedral Caverns is without a doubt one of the most beautiful caverns you will ever have the opportunity to visit. From the moment you first lay your eyes on the cave's huge entrance, that measures 126 feet wide and 25 feet high, you will know you are in for a treat and are viewing one of the true natural wonders of the world. Soon after the grand entrance you will find a shark's tooth embedded in the ceiling of the cavern. Proof that Alabama was once covered with ocean water. Experience the beauty of the stalagmite formations with special lighting that further enhances their natural beauty, all with names that fit their shapes and size. Hear the gurgling sound of water as Mystery River crosses the caverns from east to west as you stand high above on a bridge designed by the Alabama Department of Transportation.



Cathedral Cavern's new welcoming center

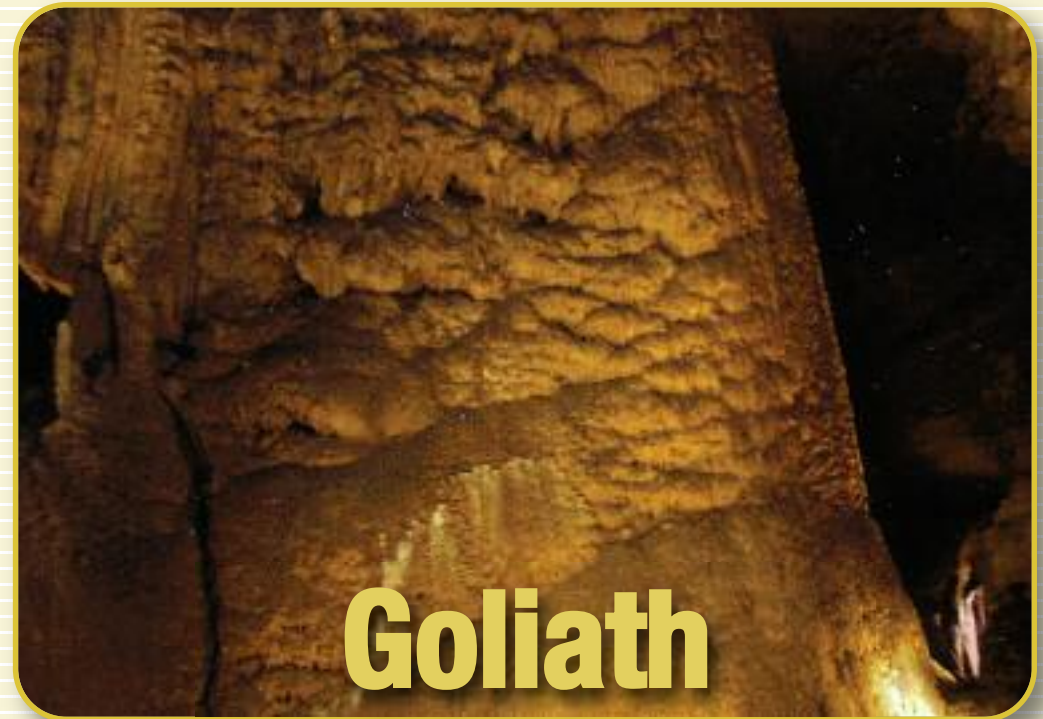
The cavern will carry you 3,559 feet from the time you enter the cave until reaching the end of the tour. However, you will see from the path's end the cave itself does continue. There is a second stalagmite forest just as pretty and spectacular, if not more so, than the first. Only experienced cavers are allowed to go beyond the developed trail. There are several other small rooms and passages off of the main cave. The total explored and surveyed length of all passages in Cathedral Caverns comes to 11,012 feet, over 2 miles.

Field trip destination:

Located in Marshall County in northeast Alabama, Cathedral Caverns is an excellent destination for your next field-day trip. Easily accessible from north and central Alabama in one day, Cathedral Caverns is the perfect day trip for your youth or senior groups. Call in advance for special group rates.

Sound like fun?

The cave is 60 degrees all year long. The tour takes approximately 1 1/2 hours and the trail is approximately a 1 1/2 mile concrete walkway. It is wheelchair accessible if you have an electric one or bring a strong friend for the push. So grab a light jacket and get ready to view one of the world's true natural wonders.



Alabama Governor Bob Riley is shown standing at the base of this massive formation

Goliath is believed to be the world's largest stalagmite column inside a commercial cave, standing 45 ft. tall and 243 ft. around. Estimates make this formation billions of years old.