

## ***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!***

**I**n 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 a natural wonder. When Mr. Gurley's wife viewed the cave for the first time she said it looked like a great cathedral, and that is how it got its name.

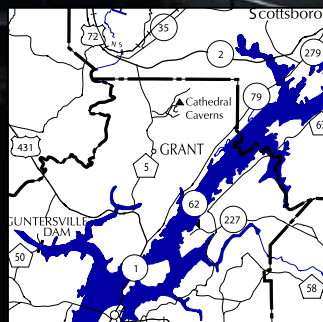
Cathedral Caverns is without question one of the most beautiful caverns you will ever have the opportunity to visit. From the moment you first lay your eyes on the cave's huge entrance, that measures 126 feet wide and 25 feet high, you will know you are in for a treat. The entrance to the cave is very large and has a high ceiling. In many places the cave is over 100 feet wide.

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 sizes. 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. Upon reaching the rear of the cave, 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. The cave is 60 degrees all year long. A tour of the cave takes approximately 1½ hours and is also wheelchair accessible, so grab a light jacket and get ready to view one of the world's true natural wonders!

### **Location and Directions:**

- 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**

September 1 - March 14, Daily  
10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00

March 15 - August 31, Daily  
10:15, 11:15, 12:15, 1:15,  
2:15, 3:15, 4:00

Groups of 10 or more may schedule tours at other times. Hours and rates subject to change without notice.

**Picnic, pavilion, and primitive camping is available (By Reservation Only)**

#### **CALL FOR PRICING**

Age 5 and under: Free

#### **SPECIAL SCHOOL RATES**

Available

#### **GROUP RATES**

Available  
(25 people or more require a reservation)

#### **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.**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION VISIT:**

**[www.alapark.com](http://www.alapark.com)**

Access to Alabama State Parks and State Park programs is available without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, or sex.

# Cathedral Caverns

AN ALABAMA STATE PARK



*Come  
Brave  
The  
Cave*

“It looks like a great cathedral!” – Mrs. Jay Gurley

## The Park

The 461 acres of land surrounding the cave is 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 park provides a welcome center, picnic pavilions, and a playground.

## The Welcome Center

The ticket office, restrooms, gift shop and snacks are available at the welcome center. The center is a beautiful open air building with large porches and a breeze way. Rocking chairs are available for your enjoyment as you wait for the beginning of the next cave tour.

## The Pavilions

The park provides two large picnic pavilions for families and tour groups to enjoy while visiting Cathedral Caverns. To rent a pavilion call the park prior to your visit and make a reservation.

## Primitive Camping

Primitive camping is available at Cathedral Caverns State Park. Call the park prior to your visit for information and directions regarding camping.

## Perfect Field Trip Destination

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

## Cathedral Caverns Mining

Ever been prospecting for gems and minerals? You can now at the Cathedral Caverns Mine. Visitors can sift through bags of mined material searching for those precious gems found in the mine, our newest attraction.

