

Adventure Tour Rules & Disclaimers

Please READ thoroughly. You will be responsible for following these rules and failure to comply can result in you being barred from participation with ZERO refund.

1-This is an adventure tour, which means we will be off the normal walking trail, crawling, climbing, squeezing, slithering like a snake and more. We will get muddy, dirty and bruised but it will be a memory for a lifetime. If you are not prepared to have a workout, or you have on clothes/shoes you don't want to get dirty, please reconsider this tour.

2-All who are going on this tour must be able to fit through the test box (12" x 33"). If you can't fit through a space this size, you won't fit in those small spaces in the cave after an hour or so of hard caving. No, we can not tell you if you will fit based on your weight and height. Everyone carries their weight differently and some who are taller and heavier can fit through spaces that shorter and lighter people can't. The size restriction is more than a physical requirement, for some it can be a mental challenge that you must be able to overcome. The spaces in our cave that are that small are never more than a body length. Some spaces are done best on your back, and some spaces are done best on your side.

3- **Caver Rules of Three:** a) You must have a min. of 3 people going into the cave. (So your guide and two people is the MIN. We can NOT take a tour of one person) b) You must let someone outside the cave know the 3 W's (Who, Where and When). (Our giftshop lead is this person). c) Maintain 3 points of contact at all times for safety d) Always have 3 sources of light (Your guide has lights)

4-You must stay behind your guide at all times, and you must stay together as a group at all times. This is a guided tour and you can not wander and explore off the path I lead. Your guide has had a lot of training and knows these cave passages very well. They have led a variety of people of different sizes, shapes & ages in this cave. Please trust them and listen to their instruction at all times.

5- CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS: GLOVES are required to wear, you will NOT be allowed to participate without them. The best kind of gloves are gardening gloves or mechanics gloves. Those latex-dipped knit gloves are great. Long pants are required (no shorts). Lace-up boots or hiking shoes are required (there will be BOOT SUCKING mud on some tours and shoes that come off easily will be stolen by the mud, not to mention it can be a safety issue when climbing slippery slopes). A t-shirt or *THIN* long sleeve shirt is required. The cave is 56° with 99% humidity. The strenuous workout of caving will probably have you sweating, so nothing too heavy. Knee pads and elbow pads are not required, but HIGHLY recommended. If you don't wear them be prepared to be wearing some pretty bruises and scabs for a few weeks after your adventure (especially for adults).

6-No food or drink allowed on the adventure tour, only pure water. Your guide carries some special food items in case of diabetic or other emergency.

7-No gum! If you have gum spit it out BEFORE the tour starts. No one wants to crawl through your chewed gum when you accidentally lose it during a crawl or climb.

8-You can not leave the tour. We all travel as a group. If you decide you need to end your experience there is only one way out- back through the cave! That means we all have to exit together. Sometimes the fastest way out is to continue forward. Please let your guide know by shouting (or telephone game, if big group) the safe word: HELP!

9-In the Rules of 3 you may have noticed we told someone the 3 W's. This means if we don't get out in a reasonable time they will be sending a rescue team! There will be plenty of time to take photos if you choose but we can not allow it to let us fall behind! Not only will this cause a false emergency response, it will also delay your guide being able to lead their next tour!

10-Adults are responsible for making sure the children they are responsible for follow ALL rules. EVERYONE needs to hold their party accountable as ONE person failing to follow the rules can cause the ENTIRE group to have their tour ended early and ejected from the cave. We are going through as a team- let's all help each other and keep each other accountable.

11-Cave Softly!!! This cave is NOT a playground. It is a natural environment, a home to many special animals! We are enjoying this space with their permission. We go by the CAVERS MOTTO! **"Take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints, kill nothing but time!"**. Let's break that down and go over WHY we care. **"TAKE NOTHING BUT PICTURES"**- We are a cave NOT a mine! If you want to mine for gemstones or collect rocks we have a gift shop or you can go visit a mine. Take pictures though! Those memories last a lifetime, but pictures help too! A cave is not the place for this. **"LEAVE NOTHING BUT FOOTPRINTS"**-Do NOT carve your name into the wall, don't pick up mud and throw it, don't build sculptures in the mud, leave the cave the way we found it! This cave has been heavily visited for over 200 years! LONG before we opened to the public. Prior to us giving tours there was a LOT of damage. We are trying to preserve what is left along these routes so that you can return with your children and grandchildren, and they with theirs. Also, even FOOTPRINTS matter. Stay on the path at all times. An ill-placed step can KILL small cave animals or DESTROY small cave formations. **"KILL NOTHING BUT TIME"** Some of these animals are small and like to hide. EVERY animal in here is critical. If you kill a cave cricket you may have indirectly caused the death of another cuter cave animal. The cave environment is sensitive, with no plants EVERY PIECE of FOOD matters!

12-Most importantly, Let's have fun experiencing REAL caving and learning about the cave today! This is a great opportunity to get started learning about the natural underworld! If you fall in love with this experience see your guide at the end! We have other tours to recommend and may be able to recommend resources so you can go caving other places too!