



Accessibility Guide

In the Cave

The self-guided Big Room Route is partially accessible to visitors using wheelchairs. The non-skid trail is paved with a mixture of emery chips and epoxy. The route, which is about one mile (2 km), begins at the Underground Rest Area. About 2/3 of the Big Room Route is wheelchair accessible, with assistance. Use the map on the reverse side of this brochure as a guide. **Visitors using wheelchairs should go into the Big Room only with assistance.** Both the map and barriers on the trail define areas open to wheelchair users. Some areas are closed due to steep grades and narrowness of the trail.

Please do not take wheelchairs into closed areas or leave them unattended.

Information is provided by rangers, exhibits, and the Caverns Audio Guide. Accessible restrooms are available in the Underground Rest Area.

To access the elevator lobby from the Underground Rest Area, use the phone with the accessibility symbol mounted on the kiosk counter. Dial 3156. The ranger will notify the elevator operator who will open the revolving doors for you.

Note: The self-guided Natural Entrance Route, Kings Palace, and caving tours are not accessible to visitors using wheelchairs. Exhibits and photographs of these areas are offered in the visitor center.

On the Surface

Parking

Accessible parking is marked with blue reserved signs. The visitor center, theater, book store, gift shop and restaurant are on the same level, with ramps from the parking lot. Automatic doors are available at the main entrance.

Cave fees

Golden Age and Access Passport holders, their spouses, children and parents receive free entry into the self-guided areas of the cave, which includes the Big Room. Golden Age Passports are available for \$10 to US residents 62 years of age or older. Golden Access Passports are free with proof of permanent disability. Both passports are applicable for a lifetime.

Bat Flight Program

Reserved, accessible parking is available in the lower parking lot near the cavern entrance, where the bat flight program takes place. The top of the bat flight amphitheater features a reserved area for visitors using wheelchairs. A family-style accessible restroom is available.

Picnic Areas

Accessible picnic tables near the visitor center are located at the far end of the south parking lot and just west and north of the restaurant.

A few tables are found along Walnut Canyon Drive, the paved road from the park entrance.

Nature Trail

A section of the self-guided nature trail near the visitor center is partially accessible to people using wheelchairs. The trailhead is located in the east parking lot. Check at the information desk for more details.

Rattlesnake Springs Picnic Area

Located about 15 miles from the visitor center, this grassy area features picnic tables and cooking grills under large cottonwood trees. One accessible picnic table and accessible restrooms are available.

Desert Drive

A one-hour drive through the Chihuahuan Desert, this low-speed, 9.5 mile (16 km) gravel road is suitable for most vehicles except motor homes and cars pulling trailers. The road starts near the visitor center. A brochure is available for purchase at the bookstore.

Roadside Exhibits

Interpretive signs and bulletin boards are located at pullouts along the park entrance road. Most are readable from your vehicle.