

## Take the scenic “back door” route to Mammoth Cave

One of Hart County's best-kept secrets is the "back door" entrance to Mammoth Cave National Park. If you're in a hurry, this is not for you. But if you have 30 minutes to travel the sunlight-dappled, tree-lined road less traveled, you'll never forget it!

Your 12-mile adventure begins just off I-65 Exit 58 (Horse Cave) in southern Hart County and ends in the nation's second oldest tourist attraction, Mammoth Cave National Park. You will avoid the traffic and noise of the busy highways as you wind past cornfields, sawmills and Amish farms. Watch out along the way for deer, wild turkeys, Amish buggies and slow-moving farm implements.

For generations, visitors have brought their families to Mammoth Cave. Make this a special trip for your family. Step away from the crowd into a real Kentucky adventure!

I-65 Exit 58 at Horse Cave	Your adventure begins here.
KY 218 West	This road loops to the southwest and becomes Flint Ridge Road. Watch out for sharp turns!
2-3 miles	Amish farms on both sides of the road
5.2 miles	Pass through Northtown, one of Hart County's oldest settlements south of Green River. The pavement changes as the road changes from a state to a county road.
7.1 miles	The road skirts the edge of Mammoth Cave National Park. The park boundary sign is on your right.
7.3 miles	Notice Dennison's Ferry Road to your right. This leads to Green River.
8.3 miles	At the intersection with Park Ridge Road, take the right fork into Mammoth Cave National Park.
8.5 miles	Notice Floyd Collins Crystal Cave Road to your right. Crystal Cave, Colossal Cave in the woods to your left, and Great Onyx Cave (see mile 10.3) were once all privately owned and shown to the public.
9 miles	Adwell Cemetery is on your left. When property was purchased in 1941 for Mammoth Cave National Park, several cemeteries were included. In the spring when you see clumps of jonquils (March lilies, daffodils) they indicate the site of an old home established before the land became Mammoth Cave National Park.
10 miles	The cemetery at Mammoth Cave Church on your right has the grave of Floyd Collins (large brown headstone near the church). Notice the poems on the Shackelford stone inside the fence.
10.3 miles	The fenced area at Great Onyx Road on your right once enclosed the park's water system. Water comes from outside the park now. The road begins to wind more here down the hill. In the spring watch for wildflowers along this section of the road between Flint Ridge and Mammoth Cave Ridge.
12 miles	At the intersection with Park Road, the Visitors Center is to your right and Mammoth Cave Hotel is to your left.