

# 230728 MEM BRA

## Mammoth Cave Visit

### Educational

Cave city, Kentucky

Mammoth cave is located near Cave city Kentucky. It is the world's longest surveyed underground cave system. At 426 miles far surpasses any other cave in the world for length.

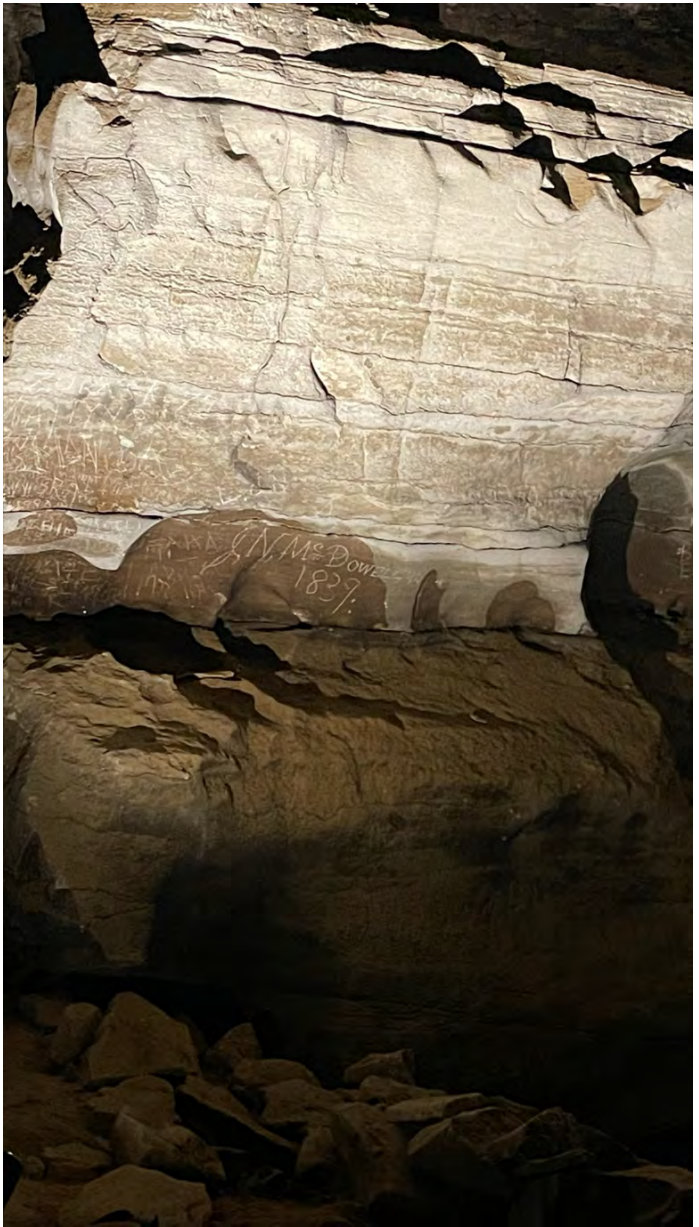


But Mammoth Cave is unique. It does not have stalagmites or stalactites. This is because mammoth caves is mostly dry. But because it is dry, it is also the longest cave in the world.



Mammoth cave was formed 10 million years ago when the area was covered by an inland sea. This led to the deposit and accumulation of limestone rock. Then, for millions of years the area was a large Delta stand peninsula. This led to the deposit of

sediment and the formation of shale. The shale rock prevented the vertical migration of water. This generally protected the upper cave system from deterioration by erosion. The erosion would typically have collapsed the upper cave system, leaving on the deeper caverns intact.



At mammoth caves as the green river, into which the underground, rivers migrate, cut deeper into the earth, lowered its path to the ocean, additional tributaries of underground rivers formed. These were shared by vertical shaft of water, which are seen on the surface as sinkholes. So, as millions of years, progressed ever increasing lower levels of water, tributaries formed, went dry, and added to the

labyrinth of underground caves we enjoy today.



The mammoth cave system is compact. The entire known 426 mile cave system is located in a 7 x 7 mile area. Regardless, it has five levels which go down to 250 to 300 feet.

An additional educational adventure was the exploration of these abandoned underground water networks. This was part of the national park service tour. Educational trips like this promote a deeper understanding of the natural world. It was wonderful to see how younger generations reacted and rose to the challenge of spelunking and underground exploration.

---





