



MAQUOKETA CAVES STATE PARK

9688 Caves Rd, Maquoketa, IA 52060

Welcome to Maquoketa Caves State Park, one of the biggest attractions in Jackson County. Maquoketa Caves is a great place for spelunkers and hiking enthusiasts. The caves in the area were formed after millennia of water erosion on the limestone bedrock. The park itself covers 370 acres nestled among hardwood trees and high bluffs. The park began taking shape in the 1930s when the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) built a lodge and cave walkways. With approximately 6 miles of trails and 13 caves, a great experience awaits you at this interesting and unique state park.

PARK AMENITIES/POINTS OF INTEREST/THINGS TO DO

Maquoketa Caves has seven miles of trails that wind throughout the park and bring you to cave entrances and passages known for their crawling capability and unique flowstone and dripstone formations. These trails run through the eastern valley past the Natural Bridge up toward several caves including Up-n-Down and Hernando's Hideaway. Then the trail curves around bringing you back to the highlight of Maquoketa Caves State Park -- Dancehall Cave.

Dancehall Cave is approximately 800 feet long with three entrances -- upper, middle and lower. Dancehall is the largest cave within the park and allows a person to walk upright most of the way through it. The cave opens up into a very large room in the lower entrance where dances were once held, giving the cave its name. Dancehall also has several examples of flowstone formations and growing stalactites, and is home to the brown bat during winter months.

After visiting Dancehall, hike along the trails through the western valley of the park. These trails lead to more of the highlighted caves of the park, such as Rainy Day, Ice and Barbell. The trail then continues further west, with a hike up to the restored prairie with its vast array of plant life.

An interpretive center is located in the park with information about the geology of the cave formations and park history, as well as relics of the park's early Native American inhabitants.

If you decide to stay longer than a day, the park has a beautiful campground with several sites -- half with electrical hookups. There are modern rest rooms located at the campground and throughout the park. There are also shelter houses and a playground that are perfect for a family reunion or picnic at the park. Maquoketa Caves is a popular park among scouting groups and other youth organizations and has three designated sites for such groups. Each accommodates 40 people.

SPECIAL PARK RULES

No rock climbing, repelling or mountain biking is allowed at the park. Pick up the rules/regulations booklet for more information on general park rules.

LOCAL EVENTS/ATTRACTIONS

The Maquoketa River is within one mile of the park, and there are local vendors who rent inner tubes and canoes to float the river. Visitors to the area can take in Timber City Days (last Saturday in June), Jackson County Fair (end of July) and the Festival of Trees (mid-November).

LOCAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Park Office: 563.652.5833

Park Ranger: Scott Dykstra

Park Technician: Ryland Richards

For emergencies, please call 911.

SEVERE WEATHER

Park staff delivers severe weather announcements through the park vehicle's PA system. The shower building in the campground may be used as an emergency shelter.

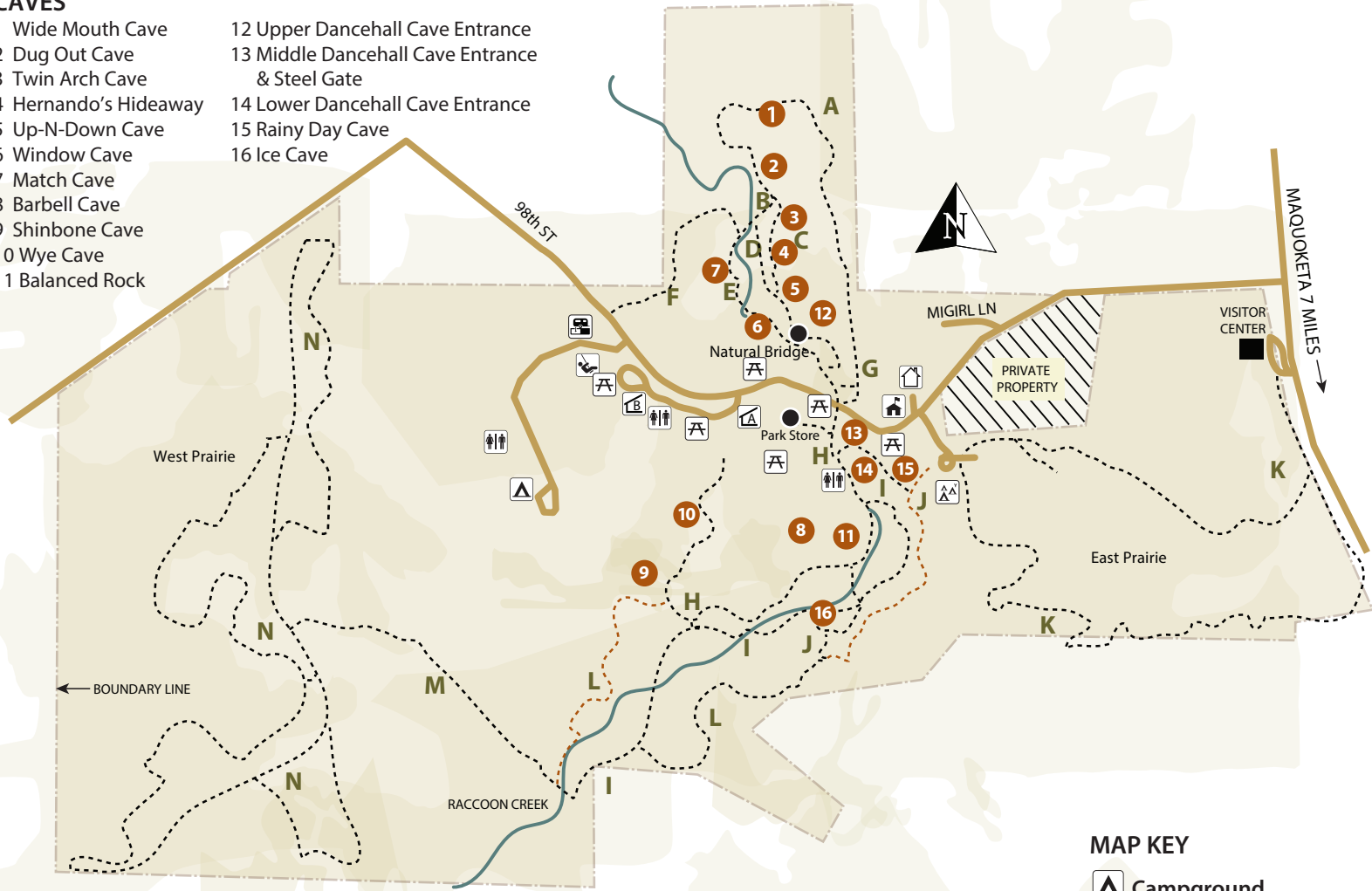
For reservations, visit: <http://iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com> or call 877.427.2757



MAQUOKETA CAVES STATE PARK

CAVES

- 1 Wide Mouth Cave
- 2 Dug Out Cave
- 3 Twin Arch Cave
- 4 Hernando's Hideaway
- 5 Up-N-Down Cave
- 6 Window Cave
- 7 Match Cave
- 8 Barbell Cave
- 9 Shinbone Cave
- 10 Wye Cave
- 11 Balanced Rock
- 12 Upper Dancehall Cave Entrance
- 13 Middle Dancehall Cave Entrance & Steel Gate
- 14 Lower Dancehall Cave Entrance
- 15 Rainy Day Cave
- 16 Ice Cave



MAP KEY

- Campground
- Youth Group Camp Area
- Dump Station
- Park Office
- Park Residence
- Picnic Area
- Play Structure
- Restrooms
- Shelter

- Trail
- Upper Trail
- Road
- Park Boundary
- Points of Interest

TRAIL INFORMATION

| Trail Name | Trail Activity | Length | Level of Difficulty | Estimated Hike Time |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------|---------------------|---------------------|
| A Woodland Trail | Hike | 0.49 mi. | Moderate | 30 minutes |
| B Woodland Walk | Hike | 0.03 mi. | Easy | 5 minutes |
| C Caves | Hike | 0.1 mi. | Easy | 5 minutes |
| D Dancehall | Hike | 0.19 mi. | Easy | 30 minutes |
| E Raccoon Creek | Hike | 0.21 mi. | Easy | 10 minutes |
| F Campground | Hike | 0.19 mi. | Moderate | 5 minutes |
| G North Trails | Hike | 0.06 mi. | Easy | 5 minutes |
| H Dancehall South | Hike | 0.42 mi. | Easy | 10 minutes |
| I Valley | Hike | 0.57 mi. | Moderate | 15 minutes |
| J Valley Overlook | Hike | 0.38 mi. | Moderate | 15 minutes |
| K Youth Camp | Hike | 1.3 mi. | Easy | 30 minutes |
| L Outer Loop | Hike | 0.7 mi. | Moderate | 15 minutes |
| M Upland Prairie Trail | Hike | 0.31 mi. | Moderate | 15 minutes |
| N Firebreak | Hike | 2.23 mi. | Easy | 45 minutes |

Walking times are figured at a rate of 2 mph.