

THE VILLAGES GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY – Field Trip Information

KENTUCKY

Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum

205 N Walker St, Marion, KY
(270) 965 4263 clementmineralmuseum.org

Clement Mineral Museum exhibits are geared to maximize visitor exposure to the minerals, the mining, and the people involved in the Illinois-Kentucky Fluorspar District.

The Mineral Collection:

The Ben E. Clement Mineral Collection is comprised of a variety of specimens of exquisite beauty from throughout the world. Thousands of the minerals housed in the museum are from the mines of the famous Southern Illinois - Western Kentucky Fluorspar Region. The mineral specimens range in size from a fraction of an ounce to hundreds of pounds. Each specimen is a "rare accidental find" from among regular ore bodies.



The museum also houses an extensive display of the coal plant fossil, L epidodendron as well as samples of petrified wood.

A massive collection of fluorescent specimens, displayed beneath ultraviolet lights, showcases a variety of colors and dazzles the eye.

There are two different collections of gemstone carvings within the museum. One consists of more than 40 carvings and 80 faceted fluorite pieces in a range of colors. These were left by a German family dynasty. The other collection consists of carvings made by a local night watchman, Squire Riley, during the early years of this century.

The Clement Mineral Collection is a world-class collection that can never be duplicated. It was accumulated over a span of more than 60 years.

The Equipment Collection:

The Ben E. Clement Equipment Collection chronicles the companies, and the men, who produced the machines needed to meet the exacting demands of a global industry.

In addition to industrially manufactured equipment, the collection also contains items that were handmade by local craftsmen. Most made for specific mining needs, during the Depression.

This collection consists of fluorspar mining and milling artifacts manufactured prior to 1950. The collection preserves and displays equipment ranging in size from the flints of carbide mining lamps, to a 9-foot-wide flywheel that powered a mill, to a 12,000 pound steam engine.

The Equipment Collection also contains kerosene engines, ore buckets, push-carts on rails, early ultraviolet lights, Geiger counters, ore and stone crushers, drills, blacksmithing forges, hoists, and many personal equipment items that belonged to the local miners.

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Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum (Continued)

The Document Collection:

The Ben E. Clement Document Collection contains information related to the fluorite mining industry. The documents include mining blueprints, maps, contracts, written opinions, abstracts, books, articles, ledgers, ore essays, leases, stock certificates, and letters of correspondence between mine owners, suppliers, geologists, surveyors, authors, bankers, and promoters.

Receipts and checks, photographs and slides, video and audio tapes of miners, drillers, and operators are also included.

The Document Collection systematically lists the location, geology, and history of local mining operations. Where possible, the collection includes samples of the mineral specimens the mines produced, and the current status of the mines.

The Photograph Collection:

The Ben E. Clement Photograph Collection contains hundreds of pictures of mine operations from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. More than a dozen of the photographs from the collection were used by the Illinois and Kentucky Geological Surveys to illustrate their public publications.

The photos in this collection provide a “glimpses into the past”. They capture not only the one-man prospect mines, which at one time dotted the local countryside, but also the giant operations of Alcoa, Inland Steel, Ozark Mahoning, and United States Steel.

Some photos reveal extraordinary architectural design, such as the wooden skyscraper of the Cullen Mine Mill while other show the ravages of winter, with swollen rivers, flooded towns, mills, and mines.

Many pictures detail the enormous effort expended in locating ore, drilling test sites, constructing head frames, sinking shafts, pulling hoists, and building mills.

This historic collection also depicts the hardships of traveling the major highways of the day; model A's, T's, and mule teams with loaded wagons are shown mired to their axles. The construction of the new roads of 1926 and 1927 is chronicled, as equipment and rock from the local mines was used for the upgrade.



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Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum (Continued)

DIGS: - "CAN YOU DIG IT?"

Yes you can! Come to Marion, Kentucky and dig for Fluorite and related minerals during the daytime digs hosted by the museum. Nighttime digs are also offered and are a completely different experience as black lights are used to identify and collect fluorescent minerals.



Dig opportunities begin in April and end on October 31st. Digs will be held rain or shine and no refunds will be made due to inclement weather conditions.

The maximum number of people allowed to go on a public day dig is 30 people. The maximum number of people for a public night dig is 20 people.

There are two types of digs. The first type is the day dig where you will dig for fluorite and related minerals. The second type is a night dig. On this dig you will collect fluorescent minerals using UV lights. These digs are more rugged as it is dark and hard to walk on the mine dump piles. We highly recommend that children under the age of 12 and people with walking, stability, or night-vision problems not go on these digs.

UV Lights – The museum has two UV lights that can be used during the night dig. However, if you are a serious collector, it is best to bring your own light. Night digs last two hours after we reach the dig site.

For the collector's convenience, we offer both the day and night dig on the same Saturday. For each dig, you will meet at the Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum.



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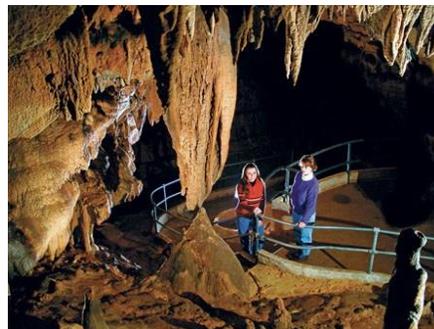
KENTUCKY

Diamond Caverns

1900 Mammoth Cave Pkwy, Park City, KY
270 749 2233 diamondcaverns.com

In 1859, Three Forks was a sleepy village with 75 inhabitants. It was the departure point for the eight mile trip to Mammoth Cave. One and a half miles north of Three Forks, very near the road to Mammoth Cave, a slave of landowner Jessie Costs discovered a pit in the rocky bottom of the valley on July 14, 1859. Lowered on a rope into the cave, this first visitor thought sparkling calcite formations resembled diamonds and the name for the cave was born.

For over 154 years Historic Diamond Caverns has offered tours of Kentucky's most beautiful cave. Presented by state-of-the-art lighting Diamond Caverns features intricate drapery deposits lining the halls in cascades of naturally colorful calcite. Thousands of formations decorate the cathedral-like chambers



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Lost River Cave

2818 Nashville Rd, Bowling Green, KY
270 39 007733 lostrivercave.org

Lost River Cave is a seven-mile cave system located in Bowling Green, Kentucky. The Lost River originates outside of the cave and flows into it. Lost River Cave contains one of the largest natural entrances in the Eastern U.S. Boat tours are available during the summer in the cave. The river is listed by Ripley's Believe it or Not as the "Shortest, deepest river in the world" because the blue hole is over 427 feet deep, while the river itself is only 350 feet long. In fact, the blue hole is only 10 feet deep, but is linked to a further underground river.

Plan to spend about 45 minutes to an hour on this two-part tour.

The Cave Boat Tour begins with a leisurely stroll in the valley as your guide shares the tale of the blue hole and disappearing Civil War soldiers.

When you arrive at the massive cave entrance, prepare to board Kentucky's only underground boat tour. Duck your head for just a moment as you glide under the famous wishing rock. Touch the cool limestone ceiling before the passage opens into a cathedral-like cavern. Sturdy shoes recommended



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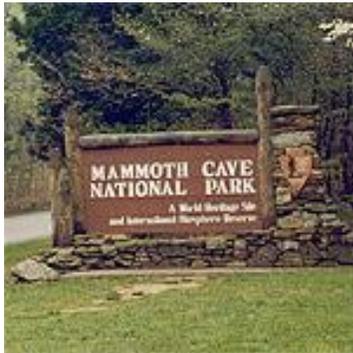
Mammoth Cave National Park

1 Mammoth Cave Pkwy, Mammoth Cave, KY
(270) 758-2180 nps.gov/maca/index.htm

Mammoth Cave National Park is a U.S. national park in central Kentucky, encompassing portions of Mammoth Cave, the longest cave system known in the world. The official name of the system is the Mammoth-Flint Ridge Cave System for the ridge under which the cave has formed. The park was established as a national park on July 1, 1941. It became a World Heritage Site on October 27, 1981, and an international Biosphere Reserve on September 26, 1990.

Mammoth Cave National Park preserves the cave system and a part of the Green River valley and hilly country of south central Kentucky. This is the world's longest known cave system, with more than 400 miles explored. Early guide Stephen Bishop called the cave a "grand, gloomy and peculiar place," but its vast chambers and complex labyrinths have earned its name – Mammoth

The mysteries of the underworld beckon at Mammoth Cave National Park, but that's not all ... in addition to the many cave tours, you can hike, bike, ride your horse, canoe and kayak, enjoy a campfire program, and more.





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Additional Places of Interest

Barthell Coal Camp (Located in the Daniel Boone National Forest)

PO Box 53, Whitley City, KY

606 376 8749

Barthellcoalcamp.com

David A, Zegeer Coal - Railroad Museum

Main St, Jenkins, KY

606 832 4676

ci.jenkins.ky.us

Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area

USDA Forest Service

238 Visitor Center Dr, Golden Pond, KY

270 924 2000

Landbetweenthelakes.us

Natural Bridge State Resort Park

2135 Natural Bridge Rd, Slade KY

606 663 2214

Parks.ky.gov