

THE VILLAGES GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY – Field Trip Information
TENNESSEE

Coal Miners Museum

900A Main St, Whitwell TN
423 658 6868 coalminersmuseum.com

Preserving Our Coal Mining Heritage

Tennessee has a rich and long coal mining history. Coal mining began here in small quantities during the 1840's in counties such as Anderson, Campbell, Grundy, Hamilton, Marion, and Roane. It became a significant Tennessee industry after the end of the Civil War.

Many mines have been operated in Marion over the last century. Some of those mining towns are now no more than a few streets and houses while others still sustain larger communities. It is our desire to preserve as much of the coal mining heritage of Marion County as possible.



The purpose of our museum is to collect, catalog and display as many of the coal mining artifacts as possible from the mines and miners of our county. We are also in the process of compiling an extensive history of coal mining in Marion County.

The Marion County Coal Miners Museum is a community project led and operated by 7 retired coal miners who's rich stories and history bring these artifacts to life. The museum's collection is completely sponsored by the donations of miners and their families and has grown to over 500 pieces which are currently on display. Plans are underway to turn these items into permanent exhibits chronicling the history of coal mining in Marion County.

THE VILLAGES GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY – Field Trip Information
TENNESSEE

Cumberland Caverns

1437 Cumberland Caverns Rd, McMinnville TN
931 668 4396 cumberlandcaverns.com

We invite you to discover Cumberland Caverns!

With more than 32 miles of caves and underground passageways, incredible underground rock formations, beautiful underground waterfalls, gleaming pools, there is plenty of fun and adventure for everyone!



We've got Daily Walking Tours & Adventure Trips, Overnight Adventure Trips, and we're proud to be home to the world-famous, Bluegrass Underground!

Bluegrass Underground

Watch amazing concerts from America's top bands and artists live on stage at Bluegrass Underground

Cumberland Caverns is home to the award-winning PBS concert series, Bluegrass Underground. Incredible concerts monthly live from over 333 feet underground!

Bluegrass Underground is a monthly concert series recorded live, for radio, in the Volcano Room of Cumberland Caverns, more than 333 feet underground. Audiences enjoy the underground setting just as much as they enjoy the talented acts on the stage. This amazing concert series has been featured on NBC and is recorded live several days throughout the year by PBS Arts.



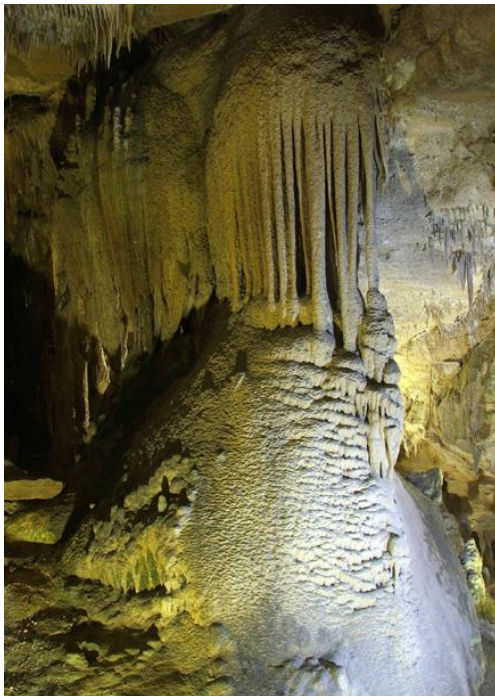
THE VILLAGES GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY – Field Trip Information
TENNESSEE

Raccoon Mountain Caverns

319 West Hills Dr, Chattanooga TN
423 821 9403 raccoonmountain.com

Raccoon Mountain Caverns is Tennessee's highest rated cave and is located just outside of Chattanooga, Tennessee. We invite you to tour our nationally recognized cave system, pan for gemstones or relax by a campfire while taking in the spectacular views of both Lookout Mountain and Raccoon Mountain.

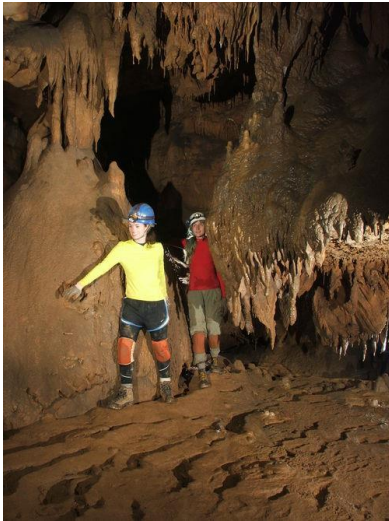
Raccoon Mountain Caverns consists of over 5.5 miles of underground passageways. While many caves have small areas of formation growth, Raccoon Mountain Caverns has countless, 100% natural formations along the lighted walking trail on the Crystal Palace Tour. Our cave is exceptionally well preserved and is considered to be the most geologically active in the South. We are pleased to offer two distinctly different types of tours:



The **Crystal Palace Tour** is a 45 minute guided walking tour through the front portion of the cave and covers slightly over one-quarter mile. Education is the focus of our tours and your guide will explain how caves form, provide a brief history of our cave, and point out a wide variety of formations including stalactites, stalagmites, soda straws, flow stone, natural bridges, and much more! The cave is always a comfortable 58 degrees. Reservations are not required, except for large groups. Picture taking is encouraged however you must keep up with the group.

THE VILLAGES GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY – Field Trip Information
TENNESSEE

Raccoon Mountain Caverns (Continued)



Wild Cave Expeditions are our famous “get muddy” tours which require participants to wear gloves, pads, lights, and helmets -- all of which are provided for your use. Please note the wild cave tours require some physical exertion including crawling, pulling and pushing yourself forward using arms and legs, a 15' rope climb and on the longer tours extensive crawling. The minimum age is 6 for the Canyon Crawl, 8 for Fossil Crawl, Echo and Waterfall tours and 10 for the



Gypsum Flower tour. The Canyon Crawl Tour has no minimum height but all other wild cave tours have a 56" height minimum to be able to safely navigate the cave. Reservations are required for all wild cave expeditions. Please click [here](#) for more information on the Wild Cave Expeditions.

Panning

Enjoy the thrill of finding a variety of semi-precious gemstones, arrowheads, emeralds, or fossils the old-fashioned way by using a screen in an authentic water sluice. Gems you may find include amethyst, aventurine, quartz, peridot, ruby, raspberry quartz, topaz, rose quartz, quartz crystal points, sapphire, obsidian, citrine, emeralds, and many more. We also offer the chance to pan for arrowheads, emeralds or ancient fossils.





THE VILLAGES GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY – Field Trip Information
TENNESSEE



Additional Places of Interest

Tennessee Valley Rail Road

4119 Cromwell Rd, Chattanooga, TN

423 894 8028

Tvrail.com

Forbidden Caverns

455 Blowing Cave Rd, Sevierville, TN

865 453 5972

Forbiddencavern.com

Tuckaleechee Caverns

825 Cavern Rd, Townsend, TN

865 448 2274

Tuckaleecheecaverns.com