

SHOP

Horse Cave

Boutiques
Antiques
Books
Food
Art

A perfect Kentucky small town adventure!
Cute little shops and a gorgeous cave right
on Main Street as a dramatic centerpiece to
a National Register of Historic Places District.
Just 10 miles from Mammoth Cave National Park.

I-65 Exit 58



Historic District

HartCounty
TOURISM
kygetaway.com
270.218.0386

Kentucky
UNBROKEN SPIRIT

Paid in part by the Kentucky Department of Tourism



Hidden River Cave is the centerpiece of the beautiful National Register of Historic Places Commercial District in tiny downtown Horse Cave, Kentucky, just about 10 miles from Mammoth Cave National Park. The impressive entrance is the largest natural entrance in Kentucky's cave area. It lies directly adjacent to Main Street, and the cave runs beneath the town's streets and sidewalks.

Famed naturalist John Muir described Hidden River Cave on his 1867 A Thousand Mile Walk to the Gulf. "The entrance seems like a noble gateway to the birthplace of springs and fountains and the dark treasures of the mineral kingdom. This cave is in a village ... which it supplies with an abundance of cold water, and cold air that issues from its fern-clad lips. In hot weather crowds of people sit about it in the shade of the trees that guard it. This magnificent fan is capable of cooling everybody in the town at once."

The cave was the source of water for Native Americans and early settlers. Later the energy of the rushing river was harnessed, making the tiny town the first in the state outside of Louisville to have electricity. In 1916, a half mile-long section of Horse Cave was opened to the public for tours. As part of a promotion, owner Dr. H.B. Thomas ran a local contest to rename the cave, and the name "Hidden River Cave" was chosen for tourist use. Pollution closed the cave to visitors in the early 1940s for about four decades, but what has been called one of the greatest cave recoveries in history has transformed Hidden River Cave from one of the most polluted to one of the most biologically diverse cave ecosystems in the world.

The cave reopened to visitors in 1993 and today visitors can learn about the cave's history and recovery at the adjacent American Cave Museum, and they can take a tour across the **world's longest underground cave suspension bridge** to view the huge **Sunset Dome**. The more adventurous can opt for an off-trail **Wild Cave Tour**, a **zip line** across the mouth of the cave, and a **rappel** down the cave's limestone face. There's even an award-winning **Horse Cave Stories cell phone tour** that traces the pathway of cave beneath your feet past the cute shops in the historic district.

The cave is open year-round. Tickets and hours of operation information are available at hiddenrivercave.com. Regular tour tickets are also available at the door. Reservations are required for the Wild Cave Tour, and we also suggest phoning 270.786.1466 ahead for zip and rappel availability.

Shop Horse Cave

1. **Turtlelini's Pizza & Pasta**, 103 South Dixie St, 270.786.8686 This locally-owned casual restaurant features delicious homemade pizza, pasta, sandwiches, salad bar, and more. Daily buffets. Beer available.
2. **C&J Café**, 101 North Dixie Street, 270.786.2654 Country cooking with daily specials; meatloaf, catfish, burgers and more.
3. **The Bookstore**, 111 Water Street, 270.786.3084 Take time to browse through the extensive collections in this locally-owned bookstore. The Bookstore also hosts Jammin' on the Porch Every Thursday Night from 6pm -9pm CST.
4. **The Hanger Boutique**, 107 Water Street, 270.261.1201 This women's apparel store that offers affordable clothing that gives women confidence through trending styles and designer brands. Their merchandise is new, overstock, and heavily discounted.
5. **A Walk Through Time**, 103 Water Street, 270.361.1233 Antiques and collectibles of all kinds: glassware, local dairy, local advertising, toys, tools, and vintage fire fighter items.
6. **Savannah K's Cottage Café**, 108 East Main Street, 270.401.9910 A delicious menu with daily specials and specialty coffees, iced coffee and amazing cakes, pies, muffins, and cookies.
7. **GeeGa's Home Décor**, 110 East Main Street, 270.361.8291 A large variety of home decor, antiques and vintage household & boutique items.
8. **Sims Studios & Arts Shop**, 112 East Main Street, 270.218.1067 The working art studio of Jesse Ray Sims and Jennifer Bruton Sims, where they create art, offer painting parties and well as individual lessons, art supplies and framing.
9. **Caveland Antiques**, 114 East Main Street, 270.786.3200 Full of treasures from around the region
10. **All Things By Mel**, 120A East Main Street, 270.361.9246 This boutique carries Simply Southern, Natural Life, Puravida, specialty foods and gourmet truffles from the Sweet Shop.
11. **Hidden River Cave/American Cave Museum**, 110 East Main Street, 270.786.1466 In their gift shop you can find a great souvenir of your trip, a t-shirt, book, stuffed animal, jewelry and more.
12. **Cave Country Shoes**, 121 East Main Street, 270.786.5052 Brand-name shoes perfect for outdoor adventuring and safety shoes including: Carhart, Wolverine, Totes, Dryshod Air, Merrill & Twisted X, Timberland, Battle BOPS and more.