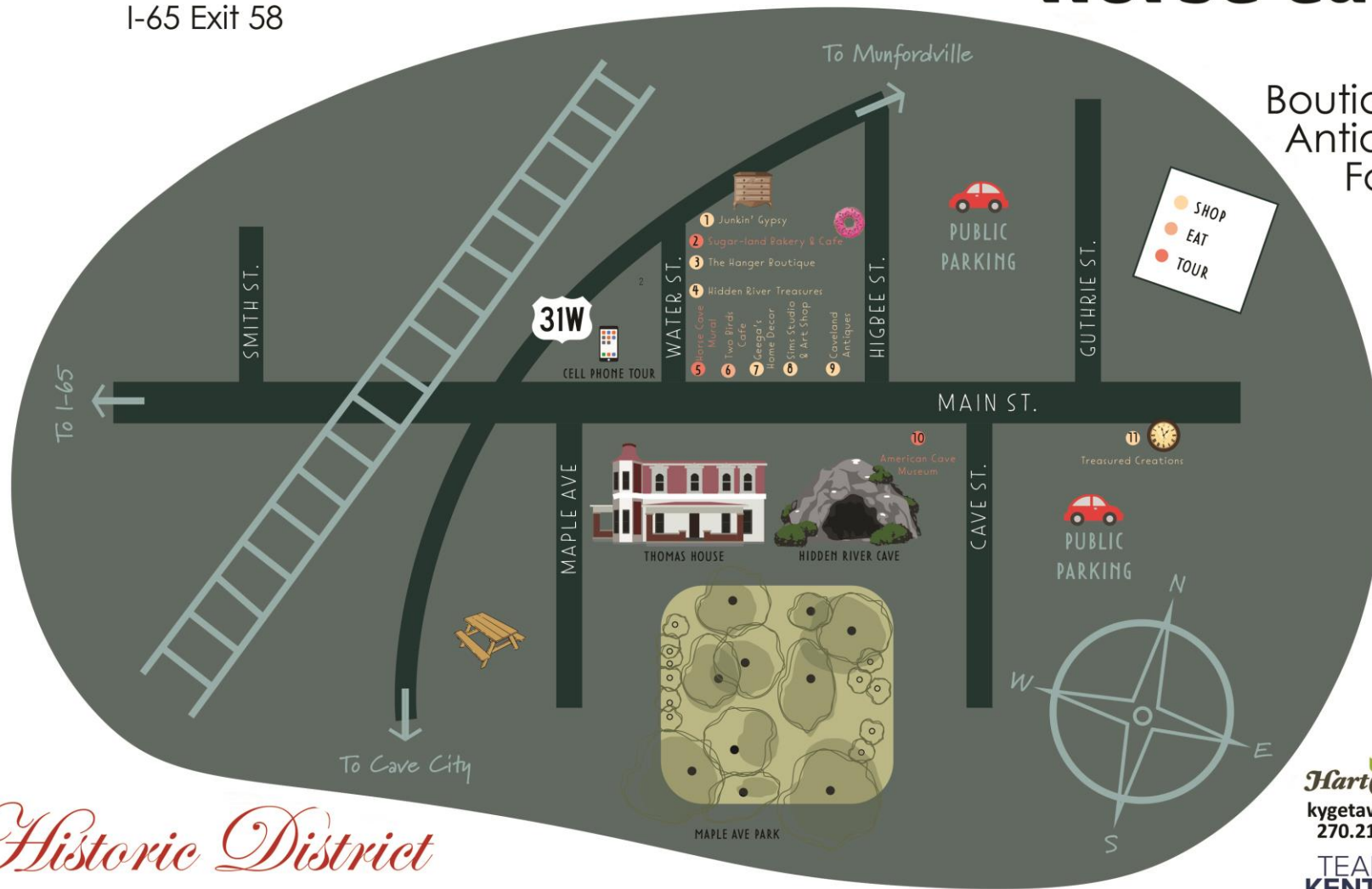


# SHOP Horse Cave

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



Boutiques  
Antiques  
Food  
Art

*Historic District*

**Hart County**  
KY  
kygetaway.com  
270.218.0386

**TEAM**  
**KENTUCKY.**

Paid in part by the Kentucky Department of Tourism



# Shop Horse Cave

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 treasuries 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. Info and hours of operation are available at [hiddenrivercave.com](http://hiddenrivercave.com). Regular cave tour tickets are available at the door. Reservations are required for the Wild Cave Tour, zip, and rappel. Phone 270.786.1466 to reserve your space on those.

1. **Junkin' Gypsy**, 111 Water Street, 270.401.9910. You'll love the antiques, vintage, and primitives in this cute shop that's open 10 am to 4 pm Wednesday through Saturday.
2. **Sugar Land Bakery, Café & Boutique LLC**, 111 Water Street, 270.786.1011 Breakfast & lunch buffets, cakes, desserts, cookies, menu items, donuts, muffins, coffee, lattes, soft drinks, tea, slushies, clothing and gift items.
3. **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.
4. **Hidden River Treasures – Antiques n Collectibles**, 103 Water Street The perfect spot to find vintage collectibles, antique, furniture, and even those unique, individual and hard-to-find gifts for yourself or that special someone who has everything. They have multiple vendors housed within the store. Open 9-4 Tuesday – Saturday and noon - 4 Sunday.
5. **Horse Cave Mural**, corner of Main Street & Water Street This mural, created by local artist Jesse Sims of Sims Studios & Arts Shop, has been created in the fashion of a vintage postcard. Each letter has a story of the history of Horse Cave that can be accessed at [kygetaway.com/blog](http://kygetaway.com/blog)
6. **Two Birds Café & Sawdust Splinters Woodworking**, 108 East Main Street, 270.261.2287 Soul-warming soups and mouthwatering sandwiches. Each bite tells a story of quality using local ingredients from local farms, dairies & groceries. Smoothies, coffees and sweets. Customized and personalized woodwork from book caddies, tables, trees, custom range covers, and so much more! Check their Facebook page for current hours of operation.
7. **GeeGa's Home Decor**, 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 antiques, vintage, collectibles, furniture, glassware, toys, vintage Christmas and so much more.
10. **Hidden River Cave/American Cave Museum**, 110 East Main Street, 270.786.1466 In addition to the activities listed to the left at the beginning of this brochure, this nationally-recognized museum offers a free self-guided tour of their interactive displays focused on history and cave recovery and conservation. Their gift shop has Kentucky souvenirs, fossils, minerals and gemstones of all sizes, one-of-a-kind jewelry, unique home decor, local artisan pieces, t-shirts, books, stuffed animals and more. Open daily year round.
11. **Treasured Creations**, 121 East Main Street, 270.218.0962 Gifts, home décor, engraving, glass etching, t-shirts, caps, and sublimation.