

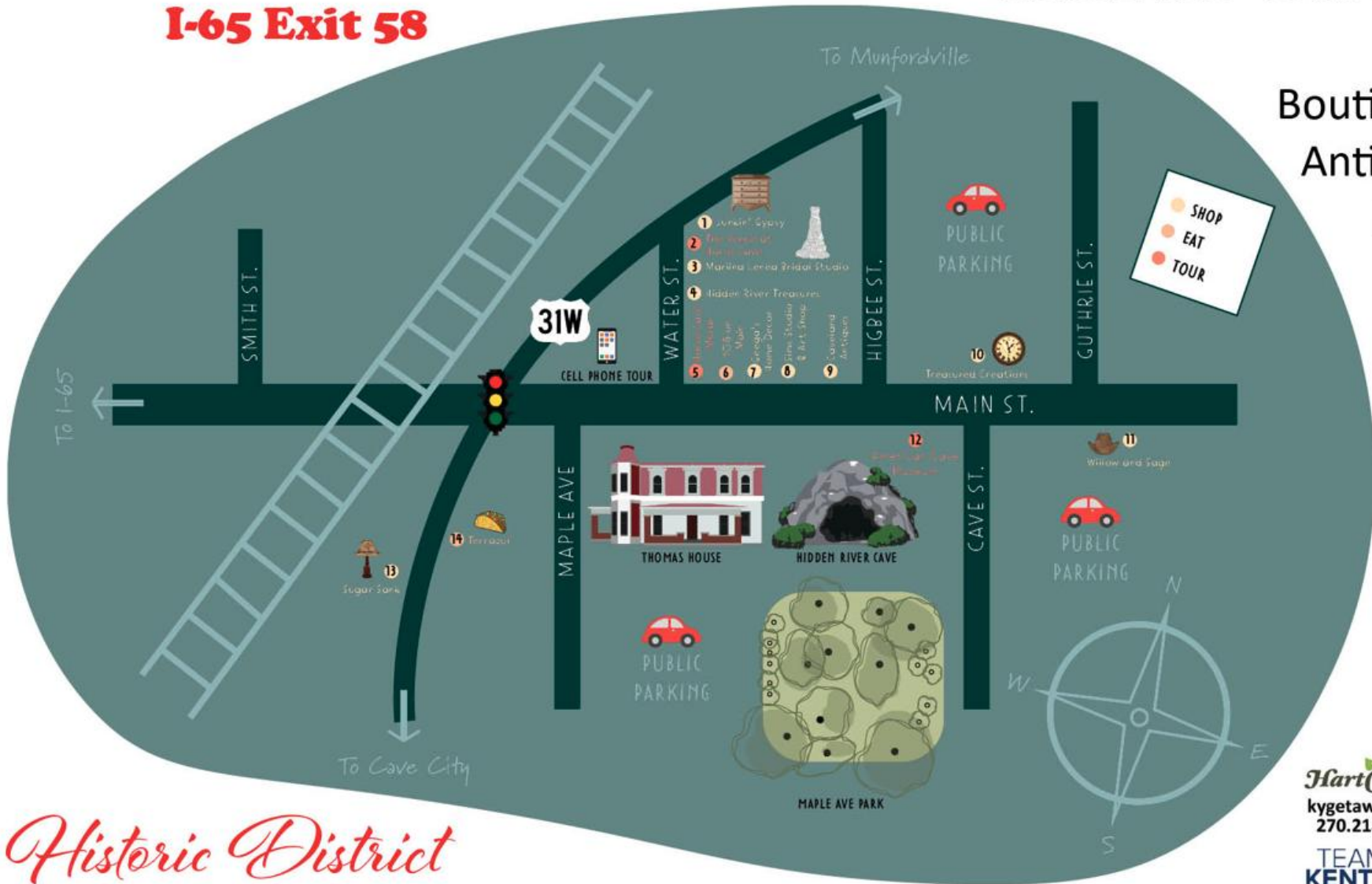
A perfect Kentucky small town adventure!
 Cute little shops and a gorgeous cave right
 on Main Street as a dramatic centerpiece to
 a National Register of Historic Places District.
 Just 10 miles from Mammoth Cave National Park.

SHOP

Horse Cave

I-65 Exit 58

Boutiques
 Antiques
 Food
 Art



Historic District

HartCounty
 kygetaway.com
 270.218.0386

TEAM
KENTUCKY.

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 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. 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** and a **rappel** down the cave's limestone face.

Above ground, the pathway of the cave is traced on the sidewalk in exposed aggregate. There's even an award-winning **Horse Cave Stories cell phone tour** that tells in locals' voices the story of a town that grew on top of a cave.

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 suggested for the rappel by phoning 270.786.1466 .

Shop Horse Cave

- Junkin Gypsy**, 111 Water St, 270.401.9910 You'll love the antiques, vintage, and primitives in this cute shop that's open 10am to 4pm Wednesday - Saturday.
- The Venue at Horse Cave**, 111 Water Street, 270.218.0962 Newly-renovated venue for meetings, receptions, birthday parties, anniversaries, and other events.
- Marlina Lenea Bridal Studio**, 107 Water Street, 270.261.1201 Special occasion, prom, formal and bridal wear.
- Hidden River Treasures - Antiques n Collectibles**, 103 Water Street, 270.261.1201 Vintage, antiques collectibles, furniture and gifts. Multiple vendors within the store. Open 9-4 Tuesday - Saturday.
- Horse Cave Mural**, corner of Main Street & Water Street .This perfect photo op mural, by local artist Jesse Sims of Sims Studios & Art 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
- 108 on Main**, 108 East Main Street. Located on the first floor beneath Hidden Station short-term rental, this charming cafe has breakfast and lunch sandwiches, sweets, coffees, and drinks.
- GeeGa's Home Décor**, 110 East Main Street, 270.361.8291 A large variety of home décor, antiques, and vintage household & boutique items.
- 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, individual lessons, art supplies, and framing.
- Caveland Antiques**, 114 East Main Street, 270.786.3200 Full of antiques and vintage treasures from around the region.
- Treasured Creations**, 120 East Main Street, 270.218.0962 Gifts, home décor, engraving, glass etching, t-shirts, caps, sublimation, and party supplies.
- Willow & Sage** 141 East Main Street, western-themed apparel, clothing, home décor, and books.
- Hidden River Cave/American Cave Museum**, 119 East Main Street, 270.786.1466 Daily cave tours, free self-guided museum tours. The gift shop has Kentucky souvenirs, fossils, minerals, and gemstones, one-of-a-kind jewelry, unique home decor, local artisan pieces, t-shirts, books, stuffed animals. Open daily year round.
- Sugar Sank**, 103 North Dixie Street, 270.537.4122 Vintage, modern, farmhouse, and antique shop in a historic downtown Horse Cave building.
- Terrazul Mexican Grill**, 103 South Dixie Street, 270.786.2400 Find your favorites and something new including draft and bottled beers, margaritas, and more. Open Mon - Wed 11-8:30, Thur - Sat 11-9, Sun 11-8.