

Jewel Cave Proposes to Raise Cave Tour Fees in 2014

Jewel Cave National Monument has begun soliciting public opinion about implementing a cave tour ticket fee increase in 2014. If this proposal is approved by the Director of the National Park Service, ticket prices will increase on (or around) January 1.

However, before any increase is approved or implemented, public comments will be solicited on the National Park Service Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/publicHome.cfm> until September 30, 2013. Select Jewel Cave National Monument from the available documents or use the Search tab to search by keyword, park, state, document status, or document type.

Cave tour fees at Jewel Cave have been unchanged since 2000, yet the costs of doing business have steadily increased over time. Utility and electrical expenses have increased nearly every year. Contractual services, such as cave elevator maintenance, have also risen. And finally, visitors often express interest in high quality publications, such as the park brochure and annual newspaper. Combined together, the operational expenses exceed our expected funding levels in the future.

The proposed fee increase would raise the ticket price from the current cost of \$8 to \$12 for adults on the Scenic and Historic Lantern Tours, which is a \$4 increase. Youth ticket prices for those ages 6 to 16 on the same tours would increase by \$4, from the current \$4 to \$8.

Jewel Cave Tour Fees	2013 Rate	2014 Requested Rate	Fee Auth.	NRRS	New Fee	Proposed Implementation Date
Scenic Tour (Adults)	\$8	\$12	FLREA	Yes		1-1-2014
Scenic Tour (Youth 6 – 16)	\$4	\$8	FLREA	Yes		1-1-2014
Scenic Tour (Child)	\$0	\$4	FLREA	Yes	X	1-1-2014
Historic Lantern Tour (Adults)	\$8	\$12	FLREA	Yes		1-1-2014
Historic Lantern Tour (Youth 6-16)	\$4	\$8	FLREA	Yes		1-1-2014
Discovery Tour (Adults)	\$4	\$8	FLREA	Yes		1-1-2014
Wild Caving Tour	\$27	\$31	FLREA	No		1-1-2014

Although fees for touring Jewel Cave are planned to increase, a cave tour ticket will still remain comparable with, or even less expensive, than many other cave attractions in the Black Hills and surrounding region. Fee increases are a balancing act between an expected level of visitor services (programs, activities, facilities, etc.), while maintaining affordable ticket prices for the general public.

The proposed fee increase will allow visitors to make advanced cave tour reservations online 24/7 and through a national call center with extended hours of operation. This service has been a common request by many visitors over past years.

For more information on the pending fee increases, visitors are welcome to review the Jewel Cave National Monument website at www.nps.gov/jeca within the Management link. Furthermore, interested visitors are also welcome to request information directly from monument staff by phone or mail, and informational packets will be made available according to the appropriate review periods.