

DEEP DARKNESS



A Caving Expedition

Pre Trip Packet

Journey far below
Indiana Caverns
like the cavers who survey the vast cave system

Our new cave exploring adventure will get your adrenaline pumping! The demanding trip requires climbing on belay both up and down an 93-foot ladder to reach the lower level, unseen until 2009.

Once underground, you continue your downward descent on a steep **underground mountain** to the **subterranean river** nearly 200 feet under the earth. From there, your team will splash upstream with no trails or modern improvements.

Gradually, as the water deepens, you take **kayaks** to paddle and explore further up river. If the water is clear, you may see the large population of blind cavefish and other animals who have adapted to living in the perpetual darkness.

On the way out, you will break in the vast **Pipe Organ Room** for a well-deserved snack.

► PREPARE FOR YOUR EXPEDITION

You will get wet so layered dress is important. Use the "Expedition Preparation" checklist for suggestions.

Everyone is furnished a helmet-mounted caving light, kneepads, small pack and a life jacket for the kayak trip. Wear old clothes appropriate for caving through mud and water. High top shoes or boots are required to provide ankle support.

Because of the physical demands of this trip, you must be in good physical condition and capable of climbing a long ladder on belay. Persons with a history of back problems, a heart condition or any other serious health or injury issues should not attempt this trip.

With the inherent risks associated with a cave exploring trip of this difficulty, everyone is required to sign a waiver and release of liability before being allowed to participate.

► ADVANCED RESERVATION

Advance reservations and a deposit are required to schedule a trip.

Reserve by phone weekdays by calling 812-734-1200 or online 24/7.

IndianaCaverns.com



DEEP DARKNESS

An Epic Adventure

RESERVE YOUR EPIC ADVENTURE!

Call 812-734-1200

Monday-Friday 9am-4:30pm
EDT and EST

Preliminary reservation online at

www.IndianaCaverns.com

Minimum Advance Notice:
10 days

Weekly Saturday Open Trip: 1pm. Open registration until 3 days prior. If less than 3 people are signed up with deposit, trip will be cancelled on Thursday prior to trip.

**A date or time chosen doesn't guarantee availability until your trip is confirmed by phone. Payment by credit or debit card in advance required.*

Trip Cancellation Policy: Trips must be cancelled a minimum of 10 days in advance to receive a full refund. Later cancellations are subject to a \$45 per person cancellation fee.



AVAILABILITY

Daily year round by advance reservation with a minimum of four. Reservations and payment must be made at least 10 days in advance.

All trips are subject to cancellation in event of major rainfall events that might result in the trip being too hazardous.

AGE REQUIREMENT

Minimum for the trip is 16 (with a parent accompanying) otherwise all participants must be 18 or older.

PHYSICAL CONDITION

All participants must be in good physical condition and capable of climbing an 93-foot ladder on belay. Anyone with a history of heart or back problems or any other significant physical limitation definitely should not attempt this trip.

Absolutely no refunds for opting out after arrival.

For safety, Indiana Caverns reserves the right to disqualify anyone weighing over 250 lbs who is not in top physical condition.

PRICE & GROUP SIZE

Regular Cost: \$95 per person.

Groups: with 6 or more paid for by one person are \$85 per person.

Maximum Group Size: 9

Minimum Group to Confirm Trip: 4

Minimum to reserve a *private trip* is 6. With 5 or less, other individuals may be added to your group.

Saturday 1 pm "Open" trip:

Saturday trip allows individuals or small groups of less than 6 be combined with others to reach the minimum number required for safety.

TRIP DURATION

4 hours. Participants should *arrive a minimum of 30 minutes prior to scheduled departure time*. Plan on being at Indiana Caverns a minimum of 5½ – 6 hours from arrival to departure.

OVERNIGHT LODGING

Overnight lodging is available within 5-10 minutes of the cave. Camping at O'Bannon State Park is just 20 minutes west of cavern.

PREPARING

Indiana Caverns provides helmet with light, knee pads, gloves, small pack, life jacket and climbing harness.

- ▶ Everyone is required to wear high top shoes or boots for ankle stability.
- ▶ Participants should dress in layers to help keep warm.
- ▶ Thermal underwear or polypro tops or bottoms are ideal. Wool and polypro clothing preserves body heat when wet. Cotton holds water and wicks away body heat. Loose fitting rugged pants or jeans and a long sleeve wool or flannel shirt over thermal top works for most people. Do not wear outerwear that you expect to be completely clean again.
- ▶ All participants should bring a candy bar or snack and a drink in a plastic bottle.
- ▶ All participants are required to have a signed Awareness of Risk and Waiver of Liability form (those under age 18 must have the form signed by a parent) in order to participate in the expedition.

Group Name _____ Participation Day _____ Date _____

INDIANA CAVERNS DEEP DARKNESS CAVING EXPEDITION

Statement of Awareness – Assumption of Risks and Release of Liability

Name _____ Phone _____

Minor Child's Name (if under 18) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Section 1: Acknowledgment of Risks

(Please put your initials in the spaces provided below)

I am aware that in signing this document on my behalf, or on the behalf of my minor child/or ward, allowing participation in the Indiana Caverns caving expedition (hereinafter referred to as "activity") that certain elements of the activity are physically, mentally, socially and emotionally demanding.

Furthermore, I understand that certain risks and dangers exist in this activity, which may result in serious injury or fatality. These risks include, but are not limited to: loss or damage to personal property, injury or fatality risks associated with exploring an underground area completely in its natural condition where the footing can be slippery, uneven and treacherous.

I am aware that to be properly equipped, I should be wearing: a helmet at all times; non-slip high top boots; long pants and long-sleeved shirts (in order to provide added protection from scrapes and abrasions); and layered clothing (to help protect against hypothermia.) I understand I will be: climbing an 93-foot ladder, traversing a very steep underground mountain slope (both coming in and out); wading in an underground stream with 56-degree water and limited visibility; and kayaking on an underground river. There is real risk of severe sprains or broken limbs from tripping, slipping or falling on broken rocks or muddy floors and slopes in the cave. I also understand that I will be crawling in places through small openings and climbing up and down muddy slopes and ledges.

I am further aware that my own negligence is a risk. I am aware that these are just some of the known risks and that there are other risks inherent in this activity both known and unknown. I acknowledge that while my expedition leader will make every reasonable effort to instruct me and minimize exposure to known risks, all dangers associated with the activity cannot be foreseen and all risks cannot be eliminated. I have a personal duty and responsibility to learn and follow all safety standards/guidelines and procedures established by the expedition leader and will make him/her aware at

any point during the activity if I question my knowledge of these standards, guidelines or procedures and/or my ability to participate.

I agree to act in a safe and responsible manner toward the guide and all other participants while participating in this activity.

Read and Understood _____

Section 2: Express Assumption of Risk and Personal Responsibility

I acknowledge and understand that there are inherent dangers (hazards and perils) associated with the Deep Darkness Caving Expedition. I understand there may be other risks both known and unknown. I assume all these risks, even if arising from the negligence of Indiana Caverns, LLC or others. *I assume full responsibility for my participation.*

I understand that this is a physically and mentally demanding trip. I confirm that I am physically and mentally capable of participating in this trip.

I acknowledge that these risks may include, but are not limited to: misinformation and instructions (or lack thereof), equipment malfunction, equipment misuse by either the participant or other participant or employees of Indiana Caverns, LLC. I acknowledge that any consequential injuries received may be compounded by negligent rescue operations or procedures of the Released Parties and others.

Read and Understood _____

Section 3: Release of Liability

In consideration of the service and facilities provided, I, for myself and for my minor child, do hereby release, waive and discharge Indiana Caverns, LLC, their officers, employees, principals, managing and limited partners, agents, volunteers, (all of whom for the purposes of this release are referred as "Released Parties"), from any and all liability to the undersigned's personal representatives,

assigns, heirs, and next of kin, for ANY AND ALL INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH, or loss of damage to personal property, WHETHER CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF ALL KINDS OF THE RELEASED PARTY OR OTHERWISE.

Read and Understood _____

Section 4: Indemnification

The undersigned hereby agrees to be financially responsible, indemnify, save and hold harmless the Released Parties as mentioned in Section 3 and each of them for any loss, liability, damage, or cost the Released Parties incur from the undersigned's participation in the above-described activity, whether caused by the negligence of the Released Parties or otherwise, including but not limited to costs and attorney fees incurred as a result of defending any claim or demand made by the undersigned against the Released Parties.

Read and Understood _____

Section 5: Scope of Release and Indemnity

The undersigned expressly acknowledges and agrees that the above-described activity is dangerous and involves the risk of serious injury and /or damage to any property you take with you. The undersigned further expressly agrees that the foregoing release, waiver and indemnity agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the law of the state of Indiana and that if any portion of it is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect. Further, I give Indiana Caverns, LLC permission to use photo and video taken at this facility in promotional materials.

Read and Understood _____

THE UNDERSIGNED HAS READ, AGREES TO AND VOLUNTARILY SIGNS THIS RELEASE, WAIVER OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT, AND FURTHER AGREES THAT NO ORAL REPRESENTATIONS, STATEMENTS OR INDUCEMENTS APART FROM THE FOREGOING WRITTEN AGREEMENT HAVE BEEN MADE.

Printed Name _____ Date _____ Signature _____

Printed Name _____ Date _____ Signature _____

REV 9/5/15

For Parents/Guardians of Participants of Minority Age (must be at least 16 yrs old to participate)
This is to certify that I, as parent/guardian with legal responsibility for this participant, do consent and agree to his/her release as provided above the Released Parties, and, for myself, my heirs, assigns, and next of kin, I release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from any and all liabilities incident to my minor child's involvement or participation in these programs as provided above, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASED PARTIES, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Minor Child's Name(s) 1. _____ Age _____ Date of Birth _____

2. _____ Age _____ Date of Birth _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date Signed

Emergency Contact & Relationship to Participant

Name _____ Relationship _____ Phone # _____

DEEP DARKNESS

Preparation Checklist

We want your trip to be a fun adventure. Creating that experience begins with proper preparation. Please review the checklist below prior to the day of your trip. If you have any questions, contact us.

Indiana Caverns provides helmet with light, knee pads, gloves, small pack, life jacket and climbing harness

- Wear suitable clothes for a cave temperature of 56 degrees.
- Everyone is required to wear high top shoes or boots for ankle stability.
- Participants should dress in layers to help keep warm.
- Thermal underwear or polypro tops or bottoms are ideal. Wool and polypro clothing preserves body heat when wet. Cotton holds water and wicks away body heat. Loose fitting rugged pants or jeans and a long sleeve wool or flannel shirt over thermal top works for most people. Do not wear outerwear that you expect to be completely clean again.
- All participants should bring a candy bar or snack and a drink in a plastic bottle.
- All participants are required to have a signed Awareness of Risk and Waiver of Liability form (those under age 18 must have the form signed by a parent) in order to participate in the expedition.
- You will want to bring a change of clothes for traveling home. We also suggest bringing a bag to hold wet, muddy post-adventure clothes and shoes.
- Plan to arrive 30 minutes ahead of your scheduled trip departure time. Trip will take approximately 4 hours.

Important

You must be in good physical condition to participate in the Deep Darkness adventure trip.

This trip is physically challenging and will get your adrenaline pumping. You must be capable of climbing a 93-foot ladder on belay to reach the remote lower level.

If you have any of the following please reconsider this trip:

- Heart Problems
- Back Problems
- Inappropriate body size
- Significant physical limitations

