



Greetings!

Thank you for your interest in Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park. Here are a few of the reasons your audience will enjoy learning more about this one-of-a-kind mountain-top vacation destination:

Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park is located on top of Iron Mountain in historic Glenwood Springs, Colorado. The Iron Mountain Tramway takes guests on a scenic 10-minute ride that skims over tree tops and offers incredible views of the surrounding mountains and rivers.

At the top, guests can take one of three different tours of Glenwood Caverns and Historic Fairy Caves; enjoy thrill rides; pan for gemstones; take a trail ride on gentle, well-trained horses; try the climbing wall or mechanical bull; and relax with lunch, dinner or drinks while they take in the views. Our family-friendly attractions include a virtual Conestoga wagon ride, fort-style maze, bungee trampoline and a train ride.

The Park is also a perfect setting for family reunions, weddings, parties and business meetings. The Lookout Grille offers custom catering and flexible banquet rooms with audio/visual capabilities.

Glenwood Springs is located midway between Vail and Aspen, and makes a great day trip or vacation destination with activities for everyone in the family: the world's largest hot springs pool, downhill and cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and mountain bike riding at Sunlight Mountain; fishing, rafting, and kayaking on the Roaring Fork and Colorado rivers; hiking, camping, biking, and four-wheeling in the White River National Forest; and much more.

If you'd like to receive a hard copy of the media kit or a copy of our b-roll, please let me know. We have a nice selection of high-resolution photographs available for download in the online pressroom at www.glenwoodcaverns.com. I can also provide the photos on a CD if you prefer a higher resolution or different format.

Please feel free to contact me with questions anytime at 970-945-5534.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mandy Gauldin".

Mandy Gauldin

51000 Two Rivers Plaza Road, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
(970) 945-4228 or (800) 530-1635
www.glenwoodcaverns.com

10 Great Reasons to Let Your Audience Know about Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park!



1) Underground wonders at Glenwood Caverns & Historic Fairy Caves; 2) mountain-top dining with incredible views; 3) jumping for the sky; 4) soaring over Glenwood Canyon; 5) racing down the mountainside; 6) panning for gemstones; 7) reaching new heights; 8) wild West adventures; 9) one-of-a-kind weddings and special events; 10) scenic gondola rides.

For more information, a media kit, b-roll, or high-resolution photographs, please contact Mandy Gauldin at (970) 945-5534.



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Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park FACT SHEET

BACKGROUND

Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park offers a one-of-a-kind mountain-top adventure for families and outdoor enthusiasts that will create lasting memories for kids and adults alike. Glenwood Caverns originally opened to the public as the Fairy Caves in 1895 but closed at the onset of World War I. The caves were closed for 82 years until owners Steve and Jeanne Beckley reopened the caverns in 1999. The Beckleys have employed rigorous, contemporary, scientific preservation methods to protect the living and historic sections of the caves. Glenwood Caverns was named one of *The 10 Great Places to Go Underground* by *USA Today*, as well as being named *Best Family Cave Tour* by *Denver Westword*.



AMENITIES

Thrill Rides — Hop on the Canyon Flyer — *the only alpine coaster in Colorado* — with individual cars on tracks that race through the trees and down the mountainside. Strap yourself into a seat on the Alpine Rush zip line and take a 650-foot downhill thrill ride. Climb aboard Demon the Mechanical Bull with rides from mild to wild. For the truly adventurous, try the Swing Shot, which launches up to four riders at a time out over Glenwood Canyon, 1,300 feet above the Colorado River.

Glenwood Caverns and Historic Fairy Caves — At the top of Iron Mountain, visitors can tour Glenwood Caverns and Historic Fairy Caves, recognized as one of the leading family cave tours in the country. The Cave Tour is a 70-minute guided walking tour appropriate for most people. The Wild Tour is an extreme three-hour, guided, an on-your-belly tour that gives a visitor the opportunity to explore the rarely visited areas of Glenwood Caverns. The 90-minute, guided Adventure Tour is less strenuous than the Wild Tour and allows cavers to explore new areas of the cave.

Attractions — Take a virtual ride on our Wild West Adventure Wagon; jump, twist and twirl on the Bungee Trampoline; tour the park on the Caverns Express train; create the perfect souvenir at Silk's Saloon Olde Tyme Photos; reach new heights on Doc's Rock, a 32' climbing wall with five different routes; pan for gemstones in the sluice box mining stream and search for buried treasure in the sand pit fossil dig at Discovery Rock.

Fort WhereAmI — *New in 2008!* Kids of all ages will love finding their way through the twists and turns this fort-style maze. Participants will race against the clock and each other for fun and prizes.

Iron Mountain Tramway — Starting on the floor of the Roaring Fork Valley near the Colorado River, the Iron Mountain Tramway travels 4,300 feet up the side of Iron Mountain, providing panoramic views of Glenwood Springs and the Rocky Mountains.

The Lookout Grille — Featuring some of the best panoramic views in Colorado, the Lookout Grille offers burgers, salads, sandwiches, a great kids' menu and more. The bar serves select wines, beers, and mixed drinks. Banquet facilities and custom menus are available for groups of all sizes for weddings, meetings, family reunions and special events.

LOCATION

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GLENWOOD CAVERNS ADVENTURE PARK OFFERS ENTERTAINMENT FOR EVERYONE

Adventure Tour — Less strenuous than the Wild Tour but more challenging than the Cave Tour, this 90-minute guided tour allows cavers to explore new areas of the cave, exploring rooms filled with incredible formations. Total time required is 2 ½ hours to allow time to gear up and gear down before and after the tour. This is a moderately strenuous activity that includes belly crawling and squeezing through tight spaces. Protective gear and coveralls are available for rent. Liability waiver required. Reservations required: 970-945-4228 or 800-530-1635, ext. 111. ¹

Alpine Rush — The Alpine Rush zip line takes riders on a thrill ride 650 feet downhill, over the tree tops, at speeds up to 50 miles per hour. They enjoy beautiful views of the Roaring Fork Valley as they ride to the top, then hang on for an exhilarating ride. Liability waiver required. ²

Bungee Trampoline — Jump, twist, and soar through the air on our Bungee Trampoline. Once guests are strapped snugly into the safety harness, they start to jump as on any trampoline. The bungee cords allow them to jump higher and higher, adding somersaults and back flips, then returning back to the trampoline with each bounce. Liability waiver required. ³



Canyon Flyer — Hop on the Canyon Flyer — *the first alpine coaster in the United States* — with individual cars on tracks that race 3,400 feet through the trees and down the mountainside. The vehicles are designed to carry two visitors in comfort, but can be handled easily by one alone. The riders control their speeds, which gives them a unique hands-on experience. The ride is exciting and varied, with bumps and waves built into the track to add to the thrill. Unlike an alpine slide, the Canyon Flyer makes hairpin turns and can operate year-round due to its track system. Liability waiver required. ⁴

Cave Tour — The Cave Tour, a 70-minute guided walking tour in Glenwood Caverns and Historic Fairy Caves that's recognized as one of the leading family cave tours in the country, is appropriate for all ages. The Cave Tour takes visitors down into the caverns on a safe, well-lit walkway with handrails. Visitors will be amazed by The Barn and King's Row, gigantic rooms deep within the earth with other-worldly cave formations such as soda straws, stalactites, stalagmites and cave bacon.

Caverns Express — All aboard! The Caverns Express will take riders on a scenic journey through Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park. This is a motorized train ride with varying routes, not on tracks. Suitable for all ages. Free!

Demon the Mechanical Bull — Named in honor of the Glenwood Springs High School mascot, Demon, the mechanical bull ride offers rides from mild to wild for an exciting taste of the old West. Liability waiver required. ²

Discovery Rock — Discovery Rock is a children's fun learning area where kids can pan for gemstones in the running water of the sluice box mining stream and search for buried treasure in the sand pit fossil dig.

Doc's Rock — Reach new heights on the 32' climbing wall — named for local legend Doc Holliday — with five different routes of varying difficulty, auto belay and a textured surface with fossils for the look and feel of real rock. Liability waiver required. ³

Fort WhereAmI Maze — *New in 2008!* Ready, set, go! Kids will love finding their way through the labyrinth of twists and turns in this fort-style maze. They'll race against the clock and each other for fun and prizes.

Horseback Riding — Experienced guides lead half-hour trail rides on gentle, well-trained horses. Riders enjoy incredible views of Glenwood Canyon, Glenwood Springs and the Roaring Fork valley as they wind through the trees. Suitable for beginning riders. Liability waiver required. No reservations needed.⁵

Iron Mountain Saloon — Open in the summer months, the Saloon offers casual outdoor dining and snacks including pizza, sno-cones, ice cream, bratwursts, hot dogs, cold beer and more.

Iron Mountain Tramway — The Iron Mountain Tramway is a 4,300-foot-long tram ride originating at Iron Mountain Station on the floor of the Roaring Fork Valley, near the Colorado River in Glenwood Springs, Colo. Visitors of all ages will enjoy the ten-minute scenic ride inside six-person fully enclosed glass gondolas. The tram ride skims over the tops of the trees, with panoramic views in all directions. The gondolas are wheelchair accessible.

The Lookout Grille — Featuring some of the best panoramic views in Colorado, the Lookout Grille offers burgers, salads, sandwiches, a great kids' menu and more. The bar serves select wines, beers and mixed drinks.

Silk's Saloon Olde Tyme Photos — Take a step back in time with a visit to our Old Tyme Photography Studio, and leave with a memory to treasure for years to come. Costumes on hand to fit all shapes and sizes, from newborns on up, plus props and backdrops to create the perfect souvenir.

Swing Shot — For the truly adventurous, the Swing Shot launches riders out over Glenwood Canyon, 1,300 feet above the Colorado River! Both the ride and the views of the Canyon are breathtaking as riders soar through the air. The Swing Shot accommodates up to four riders at a time, so friends can share the adrenaline rush. Liability waiver required.²

Visitor's Center — Everyone can enjoy the 9,400-square-foot Visitor's Center that holds Adventure Park Gifts and the Lookout Grille. There are also banquet facilities for special events, weddings, class reunions, professional associations, and private parties. The Visitor's Center has 4,000 square feet of outside decks where visitors can view the scenery, take photographs, enjoy the sunset — voted Local's Choice for Best Sunset — and breathe in the clear Rocky Mountain air.

Wild Tour — The Wild Tour, a three-hour guided tour, gives visitors the opportunity to explore the rarely visited areas of Glenwood Caverns. Experienced cavers outfit each participant with a lighted helmet and all the necessary equipment. Wild Tour participants visit areas preserved in their natural state deep within the cave. This is an exciting on-your-belly crawling and walking experience that allows visitors to see awesome cave formations few people have ever seen. Liability waiver required. Reservations required: 970-945-4228 or 800-530-1635, ext. 111.⁶

Wild West Adventure Wagon — Climb aboard our new Wild West Adventure Wagon and travel back in time to the days when cowboys and Conestoga wagons roamed the mountains. Riders feel the wagon bouncing on the bumpy trail and the wind rushing by as the narrator describes the journey. This simulated wagon experience lasts about five minutes and is suitable for all ages.

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1) Ages 10 – 17 can participate if accompanied by an adult 18 or older. 2) Riders must be at least 52" to ride the Alpine Rush, and at least 48" tall to ride the Swing Shot and mechanical bull. 3) You must weigh at least 40 pounds to use the Bungee Trampoline and Doc's Rock. 4) Riders must be at least 54" tall and 3 years old to ride the Canyon Flyer alone. Riders less than 54" tall, but 3 years or older, can ride in the same car with an adult, free of charge. 5) Must be at least six years of age to participate. Closed-toe shoes required. 6) Ages 13 – 17 can participate if accompanied by an adult 18 or older.



Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park Attractions at a Glance

For more information contact: Mandy Gauldin (970) 945-5534

Attraction*	Description	Restrictions	Tickets** (\$2-\$2.50 each)
Alpine Rush	The Alpine Rush zip line takes riders on a thrill ride 650 feet downhill, over the tree tops, at speeds up to 50 miles per hour. They enjoy beautiful views of the Roaring Fork Valley as they ride to the top, then hang on for an exhilarating ride.	Must be at least 52" tall. Waiver required.	2
Bungee Trampoline	Jump, twist, and soar through the air on our bungee trampoline. Once guests are strapped snugly into the safety harness, they start to jump as on any trampoline. The bungee cords allow them to jump higher and higher, adding somersaults and back flips, then returning back to the trampoline with each bounce.	Must weigh at least 40 pounds. Waiver required.	2
Canyon Flyer	Hop on the Canyon Flyer — <i>the first alpine coaster in the United States</i> — with individual cars on tracks that race 3,400 feet through the trees and down the mountainside. Riders control their speeds, giving them a unique hands-on experience. The ride is exciting and varied, with bumps and waves built into the track to add to the thrill.	Must be at least 54" tall and 3 years old to ride alone. Riders less than 54" tall, but at least 3 years old, can ride free in the same car with an adult. Waiver required.	3
Caverns Express Train Ride	All aboard! The Caverns Express train ride will take riders on a scenic journey through Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park.	Suitable for all ages.	Free!
Demon the Mechanical Bull	This mechanical bull ride offers rides from mild to wild for an exciting taste of the old West.	Must be at least 48" tall. Waiver required.	1
Discovery Rock	A children's fun learning area where kids can pan for gemstones in the running water of the sluice box mining stream and search for buried treasure in the sand pit fossil dig.	Suitable for all ages.	Sm. Gemstones - 2 Lg. Gemstones - 3 Arrowheads - 2 Fossils - 4
Doc's Rock	Reach new heights on the 32' climbing wall — named for local legend Doc Holliday — with five different routes and auto belay.	Must weigh at least 40 pounds. Waiver required.	1
Fort WhereAmI	<i>New in 2008!</i> Ready, set, go! Kids will love finding their way through the twists and turns in this fort-style maze. Race against the clock and each other for fun and prizes.	Suitable for all ages.	First visit: 2 Additional visit: 1
Horseback Riding	Experienced guides lead half-hour trail rides on gentle, well-trained horses. Suitable for beginning riders.	Must be at least six years old. Helmets required for kids. Must have closed-toe shoes. Waiver required.	6
Silk's Saloon Olde Tyme Photos	Take a step back in time with a visit to our Old Tyme Photography Studio, and leave with a memory to treasure for years. Costumes on hand to fit all shapes and sizes, newborns on up, plus props and backdrops to create the perfect souvenir.	Suitable for all ages.	Prices start at \$22
Swing Shot	For the truly adventurous, the Swing Shot launches riders out over Glenwood Canyon, 1,300 feet above the Colorado River! Both the ride and the views are breathtaking as riders soar through the air. Accommodates up to four riders at a time.	Riders must be at least 48" tall. Waiver required.	3
Wild West Adventure Wagon	Climb aboard our new Wild West Adventure Wagon and travel back in time to the days when cowboys and Conestoga wagons roamed the mountains. Feel the wagon bouncing on the trail and the wind rushing by as the narrator describes the journey.	Suitable for all ages.	1

*Attractions may be closed during inclement weather. Call 970-945-4228 or 800-530-1635 for current hours of operation.

**Annual pass members receive a discount on ticket purchases and attractions. Bulk ticket prices are available.



Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park

Cave Tours

Cave Tour	Adventure Tour	Wild Tour
General Description		
<p>The Cave Tour is a 70-minute guided walking tour in Glenwood Caverns and Historic Fairy Caves. Visitors stand on Exclamation Point, a cliffside balcony with panoramic views of Glenwood Canyon and the Colorado River. The Cave Tour takes you down into the caverns on a safe walkway with handrails. Visitors will be amazed by The Barn and King's Row, gigantic rooms deep within the earth with other-worldly cave formations such as soda straws, stalactites, stalagmites, and cave bacon.</p>	<p>The Adventure Tour is less strenuous than the Wild Tour but more challenging than the Cave Tour. This 90-minute guided tour allows cavers to explore new areas of the cave, squeezing through tight spaces to discover rooms filled with incredible formations. Total time required is 2 ½ hours to allow time to gear up and gear down before and after the tour. Liability waiver required.</p>	<p>The Wild Tour, a three-hour guided tour, gives visitors the opportunity to explore the rarely visited areas of Glenwood Caverns. This exciting on-your-belly and crawling experience allows visitors to see awesome formations deep within the cave. Perfect for older youth groups; church groups; families; classroom groups; and corporate groups seeking a team-building experience. Total time required is four hours to allow time to gear up and gear down before and after the tour. Liability waiver required.</p>
Age Requirements		
<p>An adult must accompany children under 12. Small children should be carried in arms or in a front pack. Because of the narrow passageways and our concern for the safety of our guests, baby backpacks and strollers are not allowed in the cave. Additionally, please remember that food and liquids of any sort (water, formula, juice, etc.) are prohibited in the caverns. Make sure children are well fed prior to entering the cave.</p>	<p>Ages 10 – 17: you can participate if accompanied by an adult 18 or older, and have a parent's or guardian's consent and signature on an Adventure Tour Liability Waiver.</p>	<p>Ages 13 – 17: you can participate if accompanied by an adult 18 or older, and have a parent's or guardian's consent and signature on a Wild Tour Liability Waiver.</p>
Activity Level		
<p>Appropriate for most fitness levels. Involves walking up 127 steps, with rest periods and benches available. Due to the elevation (7100') and slight exertion required, the tour is not recommended for persons who are pregnant or have heart or respiratory problems.</p>	<p>This is a moderately strenuous activity that involves crawling on your hands, knees, and stomach; it is accessible by most people. The smallest section is approximately 24 inches square. Not recommended if you are claustrophobic.</p>	<p>This is a strenuous activity that involves crawling on your hands, knees, and stomach, sometimes for extended periods. The smallest section is approximately 18 inches square. Not recommended if you are claustrophobic or have problems crawling for an extended period.</p>
Minimum/Maximum Per Tour		
<p>The maximum number of guests allowed on each tour is 28.</p>	<p>There must be a minimum of 2 guests on the tour. The maximum number of people allowed on an Adventure Tour is 8.</p>	<p>There must be a minimum of 2 guests on the tour. The maximum number of people allowed on a Wild Tour is 6.</p>
Cave Tour	Adventure Tour	Wild Tour

Scheduling and Reservations										
The Cave Tour is offered daily. Call 970-945-4228 for the schedule. No reservations required, unless you have a group of 20 or more.	Reservations are required. Call 970-945-4228, ext. 111.	Reservations are required. Call 970-945-4228, ext. 111.								
Pricing										
The Cave Tour and Park Admission via the Iron Mountain Tramway or bus: <table> <tr> <td>Adult</td> <td>\$20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Senior (65+)</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Child (3-12)</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cave Tour only</td> <td>10</td> </tr> </table> Discounts are available for groups of 20 or more.	Adult	\$20	Senior (65+)	18	Child (3-12)	15	Cave Tour only	10	The Adventure Tour and Park Admission via the Iron Mountain Tramway or bus: \$30 per person Coveralls can be rented for \$5.* Group rates will be offered for groups of 6 or more.	The Wild Tour and Park Admission via the Iron Mountain Tramway or bus: \$60 per person Coveralls can be rented for \$5.* Group rates will be offered for groups of 6 or more.
Adult	\$20									
Senior (65+)	18									
Child (3-12)	15									
Cave Tour only	10									
What to Wear/Bring										
The caverns stay a cool 52 degrees year round. To maximize your enjoyment, please bring a light jacket or sweater and wear comfortable walking shoes. Since a portion of the tour is outside, please be prepared for unpredictable Colorado weather. Cameras are allowed inside the cave. Please be courteous of the other visitors in your tour group when taking pictures. Mono/tri-pods are not allowed inside the cave. Backpacks, strollers, and food/drinks may not be brought into the caverns.	Please wear sturdy shoes that are comfortable for walking and crawling. No open-toed shoes allowed. You can bring old clothes if you choose: long pants and long-sleeved shirts that may get dirty and/or ripped.* Or, coveralls can be rented for \$5 per person.** All guests will be provided with lighted helmets, gloves, kneepads, and elbow pads free of charge. Cameras are allowed; however, because of the rugged environment, disposable cameras are recommended. Guides provide water; food is not allowed inside the caverns.	Please wear sturdy shoes that are comfortable for walking and crawling. No open-toed shoes allowed. You can bring old clothes if you choose: long pants and long-sleeved shirts that may get dirty and/or ripped.* Or, coveralls can be rented for \$5 per person.** All guests will be provided with lighted helmets, gloves, kneepads, and elbow pads free of charge. Cameras are allowed; however, because of the rugged environment, disposable cameras are recommended. Guides provide water; food is not allowed inside the caverns.								

Help Preserve Our Natural Wonder

The protection of our fragile underground environment is the primary responsibility of everyone who visits Glenwood Caverns. To protect the cave and the interests of all who enjoy this natural wonder, both now and in the future, we request your assistance by practicing the National Cave Association's motto: "Take only pictures, leave only footprints, kill only time." Your cooperation and understanding will help ensure that this natural wonder will survive for another 4 million years.

Accessibility

The Iron Mountain Tramway and Adventure Center, including Adventure Park Gifts and the Lookout Grille, are wheelchair accessible. Because of the stairs and walkways that allow for safe foot travel through the cave's natural terrain, we're unable to allow wheelchairs or strollers into the caverns. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but are bound by Mother Nature's creation and the safety of our valued guests.

* We recommend that younger/smaller guests (anyone smaller than an adult size small) bring their own clothes since we have a limited number of coveralls in smaller sizes.

** If you bring your own clothes, you must bring a clean change of clothes up the mountain to change into once the tour is finished. We cannot allow guests to ride the Tram down in dirty clothes because the seats are carpeted and dirt can be transferred to other guests. Lockers are available.



Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park

EXTREME ADVENTURES

One of the best things about Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park is that there's really something for everyone to enjoy. For our more adventurous guests, we offer breathtaking thrill rides and extreme caving expeditions. Liability waivers, which can be downloaded from glenwoodcaverns.com, are required for these attractions.

ADVENTURE TOUR

At the top of Iron Mountain, visitors can tour Glenwood Caverns and Historic Fairy Caves, recognized as offering one of the leading family cave tours in the country. Less strenuous than the Wild Tour but more challenging than the Cave Tour, this 90-minute guided tour allows cavers to explore new areas of the cave, visiting rooms filled with incredible formations. Total time required is 2 ½ hours to allow time to gear up and gear down before and after the tour. This is a moderately strenuous activity that includes belly crawling and squeezing through tight spaces. Protective gear and coveralls are available for rent. Reservations required.¹

ALPINE RUSH

Strap yourself into a seat on the Alpine Rush zip line and take a thrill ride 650 feet downhill, over the tree tops, at speeds up to 50 miles per hour. Enjoy beautiful views of the Roaring Fork Valley as you ride to the top, then hold on tight for an exhilarating ride.²



CANYON FLYER

Hop on the Canyon Flyer — *the only alpine coaster in the Colorado* — with individual cars on tracks that race 3,400 feet through the trees and down the mountainside. Firmly held on stainless steel tubular rails, the Canyon Flyer runs smoothly and silently down the mountain. The vehicles are designed to carry two visitors in comfort but can be handled easily by one alone. The riders control their speeds, which gives them a unique hands-on experience. The ride is exciting and varied, with jumps and waves built into the track to add to the thrill. Unlike an alpine slide, the Canyon Flyer makes hairpin turns and can operate year-round due to its track system.³

SWING SHOT

For the truly adventurous, the Swing Shot launches riders out over Glenwood Canyon, 1,300 feet above the Colorado River! Both the ride and the views of the Canyon are breathtaking as you soar through the air. The Swing Shot accommodates up to four riders at a time, so you can share the adrenaline rush with your friends.²

WILD TOUR

The Wild Tour is a 3-hour guided tour that explores rarely visited areas of Glenwood Caverns. This is an exciting on-your-belly and crawling experience that involves squeezing through tight sections as small as 18 inches square. Total time required is four hours to allow time to gear up and gear down before and after the tour. Protective gear and coveralls are available for rent. Reservations required.⁴

LOCATION

51000 Two Rivers Plaza Road, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
(970) 945-4228; toll-free 1-800-530-1635; www.glenwoodcaverns.com

1) Ages 10 – 17; you can participate if accompanied by an adult 18 or older. 2) Riders must be at least 48” tall to ride the Alpine Rush and Swing Shot. 3) Riders must be at least 54” tall and 3 years old to ride the Canyon Flyer alone. Riders less than 54” tall, but 3 years or older, can ride in the same seat with an adult, free of charge. 4) Ages 13 – 17: you can participate if accompanied by an adult 18 or older.



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GLENWOOD CAVERNS ADVENTURE PARK IS PERFECT SETTING FOR FAMILY REUNIONS

With activities and attractions that appeal to all ages, Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park is a wonderful destination for family reunions. Our banquet facilities can accommodate groups from 20 to 200, and we can handle larger groups outdoors.

Activities suitable for all ages:

- Discovery Rock — gem stone sluice box mining and a sand pit fossil dig
- Doc's Rock — a 32' climbing wall with five routes of varying difficulty
- Iron Mountain Tramway — gondola ride with incredible mountain views
- Cave Tour — a 70-minute guided walking tour
- Bungee Trampoline — bounce, flip and soar
- Fort Whereami Maze — *New!* fort-styled maze with twists and turns
- Wild West Adventure Wagon — simulated wagon experience with sights, sounds and feel of the Old West
- Caverns Express — tour the Park by train for free!
- Silk's Saloon Olde Tyme Photos — create the perfect souvenir



For a little more adventure:

- Adventure Tour — a 90-minute guided tour of Glenwood Caverns & Historic Fairy Caves, crawling on hands, knees and bellies through tight spaces
- Canyon Flyer — an alpine coaster with individual cars that race down the mountainside, with brakes that allow you to control your speed
- Demon the Mechanical Bull — riders choose the intensity of their rides, from mild to wild

For the true thrill seekers:

- Wild Tour — this 3-hour, on-your-belly, guided tour of Glenwood Caverns & Historic Fairy Caves will take you to rarely visited sections of the cave
- Swing Shot — strap yourself in for a real adrenaline rush as the giant swing launches you out over Glenwood Canyon, 1,300 feet above the Colorado River

Group discounts on the tram, cave tours, and attractions are available for parties of 20 or more. For more information or to schedule a tour of the property, please call (970) 945-4228, or (800) 530-1635, ext. 111.

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About Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park

Located in scenic Glenwood Springs, Colo., midway between Aspen and Vail, Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park offers a one-of-a-kind mountain-top adventure for families and outdoor enthusiasts. The Adventure Park features a gondola ride, three different tours of Glenwood Caverns & Historic Fairy Caves, thrill rides, dining, and attractions including a climbing wall, gemstone sluice box mining, horseback riding, simulated Conestoga wagon experience, bungee trampoline, maze, and more. Ideal setting for groups and special events. www.glenwoodcaverns.com

For more information, contact Mandy Gauldin at 970-945-5534.



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FANTASTIC FORMATIONS IN GLENWOOD CAVERNS AND HISTORIC FAIRY CAVES

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo. — Glenwood Caverns, a living cavern system that is a part of Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park near Glenwood Springs, Colorado, contains hundreds of cave formations ranging from tiny to gigantic. Visitors to Glenwood Caverns can see the formations and learn the scientific theories of the creation of the formations, known as *speleothems*.

- **Stalactites**, the most well known formations, hang down from the ceiling, are usually carrot-shaped, and are the result of billions of droplets of calcite-bearing water. As each drop runs down to the tip of the **Stalactite**, it leaves a minuscule bit of calcite. The calcite sticks to the **Stalactite**, adding one tiny building block to the formation.
- **Stalagmites** are the mirror opposites of **Stalactites**; they grow up, not down. **Stalagmites** generally are shorter and thicker than their companion **Stalactites** on the ceiling above. They are thicker because the falling water droplets tend to splash and spread out as the **Stalagmites** gradually build up from the floor of the cave. Both **Stalactites** and **Stalagmites** grow at an incredibly slow rate, roughly the width of a human hair each year. The **Stalactites** and **Stalagmites** visitors see in Glenwood Caverns are hundreds of thousands of years old, maybe even millions.
- **Soda Straws** are a type of **Stalactite** that hang from the ceiling in long, hollow tubes which look very much like a soda straw. The water drops deposit calcite around their outer edges, forming a ring on the ceiling of the cave. As the rings lengthen, they form hollow tubes. Each drop of water travels down the inside of the soda straw and deposits calcite on the open end of the straw. When a **Soda Straw** becomes plugged, the water continues to drip from the ceiling, gradually covering the long, slender straw and building up the calcite deposits to become **Stalactites**.
- **Cave Bacon** is formed when the water drops flow down a sloped ceiling and build up calcite in a thin line before dropping to the floor. As the formations grow, the new rock folds and curls, creating graceful curves. Some of these thin formations are colored by stripes of iron oxide or other organic solutions giving them the look of gigantic strips of bacon. The **Cave Bacon** formations in Glenwood Caverns are very realistic and look good enough to eat.
- **Cave Popcorn** is formed by the slow seeping of water from the walls of the caverns. The knobby formations resemble popcorn or clusters of grapes. Because **Cave Popcorn** is one of the few cave formations that can form both in the open air and under water, the current scientific theory is that the calcite-laden water is forced out of the walls from internal pressure.
- **Flowstone** formations are created when water oozes over the cave walls or floors and the calcite in the water gradually hardens into a smooth, shiny surface. Hardened calcite itself is colorless, but **Flowstone** can be colorful if minerals from the soil and rock add new hues. **Flowstone** formations look like melted cake icing or a frozen waterfall.



GLENWOOD CAVERNS ADVENTURE PARK'S FORMATIONS/Page 2

- **Helictite** formations are created similarly to **Soda Straws**, from water flowing through a small central channel. However, pressure and air movement cause these formations to twist at odd angles. The word **Helictite** comes from the Greek word *helix*, which means *to spiral*. (e.g., the diagram of DNA is a spiraled double *helix*.) **Helictites** are crystalline and cream-colored or white. They can be very fine, almost hair-like, or thicker, branching out like elk antlers. Sometime **Helictite** formations resemble a bowl of spaghetti.
- **Frostwork (Aragonite Crystals)** is created when calcite-laden water that holds a high concentration of magnesium evaporates. The magnesium inhibits the buildup of calcite, thus allowing **Frostwork** to form. The crystalline formation grows needles in random directions, resembling the naked branches of a tree or cactus. The glittery **Aragonite Crystal** formation resembles Rocky Mountain frost on a pine tree. **Frostwork** formations are the most intricate and fragile of all cave formations.
- **Gypsum Flowers** grew on the walls of Glenwood Caverns when water pressure within the walls forced its way into the air of a dryer portion of the caverns. The calcium sulfate in the water is deposited and hardens into gypsum. Changes in the water flow rate cause the **Gypsum Flower** petals to curve.
- **Moonmilk** is a combination of carbonate materials, including calcite and gypsum, which form very fine crystals. These crystals are a semi-liquid, cheese-like substance and Glenwood Caverns has **Moonmilk** on the floors, walls, and ceilings of the big rooms. This white formation is pasty when wet and crumbly and powdery when dry. Because it breaks easily, visitors and cavers can easily damage **Moonmilk** formations. Visitors to Glenwood Caverns are cautioned not to touch anything, because the slightest touch will harm the delicate formations, especially **Moonmilk**. Legend says that the Native American inhabitants of this area used **Moonmilk** for medicinal purposes, making a poultice to stop bleeding, to bring down fevers, to cure diarrhea, and to ease upset stomachs.
- **Cave Clouds** are smooth layers of minerals that coat boulders on the walls and ceilings of the caverns and create fascinating formations that resemble puffy clouds. The **Cave Clouds** in Glenwood Caverns cover a portion of the walls and ceilings in the historic section.

Visitors can see many of these cave formations within Glenwood Caverns. Throughout Glenwood Caverns' history cavers, owners, and tourists have named some of the specific formations visitors enjoy.

- **Jabba the Hutt** is a fat round **Stalagmite** that resembles the Star Wars character. Jabba the Hutt holds court near the visitor platform in King's Row. Perhaps he is squatting beside the platform to keep his guard up in case Luke Skywalker should be among the tourists.
- **The Wedding Cake** is a **Stalagmite** festooned with icing and frills with a covering of **Flowstone** that resembles a multilayer white wedding cake.
- **The Bedroom** is a large room that is a favorite place for cavers to sleep when they are exploring and restoring the caverns.
- **The Chess Pieces** in the King's Row Room are enormous standing **Stalagmites** that look like the King, a Pawn, and a Rook in a row on a chessboard. Visitors, who are more than 158 feet underground at that point, can see the Chess Pieces from a safe platform with hand railings.

Visitors are encouraged to enjoy both the science and the fantasy that combine to create the magic of Glenwood Caverns and Historic Fairy Caves.

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- ✓ Acknowledgement for his work and thanks to Jim Nelson, Glenwood Springs historian, author of *Glenwood Caverns and the Historic Fairy Caves*.



Frequently Asked Questions

For more information, contact Mandy Gauldin at (970) 945-5534.

What should I wear?

The Park is located on top of Iron Mountain at an elevation of 7,100 feet. Because our weather can be unpredictable, it's a good idea to check the local weather forecast. The caverns stay a cool 52 degrees year round. To maximize your enjoyment, please bring a light jacket or sweater and wear comfortable walking shoes.

Where are you located?

Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park is located just off I-70 in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, midway between Aspen and Vail, approximately 160 miles west of Denver and 90 miles east of Grand Junction. To reach the Park, take exit 116, and turn north. Turn left at the stop light, and then left on Devereux. The ticket office for the Park is just ahead on your right.

What else is there to do in the area?

Glenwood Springs offers an incredible range of activities year-round, including the world's largest hot springs pool; world-class white water rafting, kayaking, and fishing; golfing; scenic hiking and biking trails; spas; shopping; dining; downhill and cross country skiing, snowmobiling, and snowshoeing; horseback riding; hunting; wildlife viewing; festivals; free jazz concerts; and more. Call the Glenwood Springs Chamber Resort Association at 970-945-6589 or visit www.glenwoodchamber.com for more information.

How else can I get there?

Glenwood Springs is located just off I-70, exit 116, and is close to several airports. Eagle County Airport is 30 miles east of town; the Aspen/Pitkin County Airport is 40 miles to the south; and Walker Field in Grand Junction is 90 miles to the west. Amtrak's California Zephyr has year-round, daily arrivals in Glenwood Springs from points east and west.

Do you offer group rates?

Yes, discounts are available to groups of 20 or more. Please call (970) 945-4228, or (800) 530-1635, ext. 111 for more information.

Is the Park handicapped accessible?

The Iron Mountain Tramway and Adventure Park, including the Adventure Park Gift Shop and the Lookout Grille, are wheelchair accessible. Because of the stairs and walkways that allow for safe foot travel through the cave's natural terrain, we're unable to allow wheelchairs or strollers into the caverns. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause but are bound by Mother Nature's creation and the safety of our valued guests.

Where can I park?

Free parking is available at the Iron Mountain Tramway Station. To minimize parking congestion, we encourage guests to experience Glenwood Springs by walking, biking or taking the bus to the Park.

Are pets allowed?

No, we do not allow pets on the Iron Mountain Tramway or inside the Park, except for service dogs.

Is public transportation available?

Ride Glenwood offers free transportation seven days a week. The Roaring Fork Transportation Authority also serves Glenwood Springs and the Roaring Fork Valley. Visit www.rfta.com for schedules and routes.

Do you have a season pass?

Yes. Our annual membership pass allows guests to enjoy rides on the Iron Mountain Tramway and Cave Tours all year. Members also receive discounts on all attractions, in the gift shop and restaurants.

Is smoking allowed in the Park?

Smoking is allowed only in the designated smoking area located outside in the plaza area. Smoking or the use of any tobacco products is prohibited in the gondola cars, inside the Visitor's Center, including the restaurant and gift shop, and the inside the caves.

How long should I plan to stay?

Please plan to spend at least a half day to enjoy the Park. If you're taking a Wild Tour or Adventure Tour, plan to spend the whole day so that you'll have time to enjoy the Park's other attractions as well.

When is the Park open?

Please call us at (970) 945-4228 or (800) 530-1635, or visit www.glenwoodcaverns.com for seasonal hours of operation. Some attractions are seasonal.

What's the best time to visit?

The Park is open year-round. Summer is our busiest season, and there's always something fun going on. If you'd like to avoid the crowds, visit during the other three seasons. Please keep in mind that some of our attractions are seasonal and we are not open every day during the winter months. Please call or visit our Web site for details.

What's the weather like in Glenwood Springs?

Average Monthly Temperatures*

	High	Low
January	36°	13°
February	44°	19°
March	53°	26°
April	63°	31°
May	72°	39°
June	84°	45°
July	89°	52°
August	87°	51°
September	79°	43°
October	66°	33°
November	49°	23°
December	37°	15°

* Courtesy of *Weather.com*.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information contact: Mandy Gauldin at (970) 945-5534

GLENWOOD CAVERNS ADVENTURE PARK IS IDEAL LOCATION FOR GROUPS, MEETINGS, BANQUETS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo. — Located in the heart of the Rocky Mountains in scenic Glenwood Springs, Colo., Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park offers a one-of-a-kind mountain-top setting that's ideal for corporate events, group tours, family reunions, meetings, banquets, weddings and parties. With great activities, incredible views, and complete banquet and audio/visual capabilities, the Adventure Park can help turn every event into a special occasion.

Each event starts on the floor of the Roaring Fork Valley near the Colorado River in Glenwood Springs, as the Iron Mountain Tramway travels 4,300 feet up the side of Iron Mountain, providing panoramic views of the Rocky Mountains. At the top, the Lookout Grille offers experienced caterers and servers, clean and attractive facilities, and flexible indoor and outdoor seating options to accommodate small and large groups. Seasonal and custom menus are available, with selections such as beef tenderloin, hickory smoked brisket and fresh fish. A full bar and extensive wine selection complement the meals.

Upstairs, the attractively decorated Sopris and Iron Mountain rooms can accommodate live music or a disc jockey. The observation deck is available for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.



There are lots of additional activities to round out special events, including: guided tours of Glenwood Caverns and Historic Fairy Caves; the first alpine coaster in the United States; a giant swing that launches riders out over Glenwood Canyon, 1,300 feet above the Colorado River; a 650-foot zip line thrill ride; a 32' climbing wall; gemstone sluice box mining and a kids' sand pit fossil dig; horseback riding; a simulated Conestoga wagon experience; Caverns Express train ride; Fort Whereami Maze; and Bungee Trampoline.

Group discounts on the tram, cave tours, and attractions are available for parties of 20 or more. For more information or to schedule a tour of the property, please call (970) 945-4228, or (800) 530-1635, ext. 111.

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About Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park

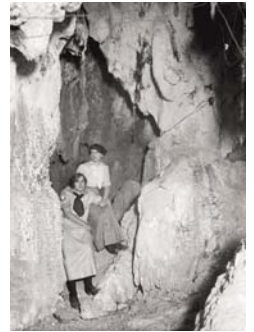
Located in scenic Glenwood Springs, Colo., midway between Aspen and Vail, Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park offers a one-of-a-kind mountain-top adventure for families and outdoor enthusiasts. The Adventure Park features a gondola ride, three different tours of Glenwood Caverns & Historic Fairy Caves, thrill rides, dining, and attractions including a climbing wall, gemstone sluice box mining, horseback riding, simulated Conestoga wagon experience, bungee trampoline, maze, and more. Ideal setting for groups and special events.
www.glenwoodcaverns.com



THE HISTORIC FAIRY CAVES FLOURISHED IN THE 19TH CENTURY

The Historic Fairy Caves, an attraction within Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park, was a thriving tourist destination in the 1890s, thanks to Charles W. Darrow, a pioneering Glenwood Springs attorney. Darrow and his family homesteaded the top of Iron Mountain, including the cave entrance. Today, visitors can tour Historic Fairy Caves as a part of the Cave Tour. Darrow opened Fairy Caves to visitors in 1895. At that time the known extent of the cave was about 800 feet. Today Glenwood Caverns, including Historic Fairy Caves, has more than 16,000 known feet. When the Fairy Caves opened to the public, visitors could get to the caves by walking up a trail, by riding a horse or burro, or by being transported in style in a horse-drawn carriage. Visitors today to the Historic Fairy Caves travel on the Iron Mountain Tramway.

Darrow installed a pathway up to the cave, and by 1897 Darrow had wires strung up the mountain from the hydroelectric plant in the town of Glenwood Springs. Glenwood Springs was a popular tourist destination during the late 1800s and was one of the first cities in the United States with electric lights. Because of the progressive citizens of Glenwood Springs, Fairy Caves became one of the first caverns in the world to be lit by electricity. Today, visitors can see the holes in the walls of the cave where the electric lights were installed more than a hundred years ago.



In 1897 Darrow blasted a tunnel from the innermost part of the known cave to the open air looking down on the Roaring Fork Valley and the Colorado River. Visitors today can stand on the same platform that Darrow built and named Exclamation Point. Visitors get to this balcony by walking through Historic Fairy Caves and stepping onto an outdoor platform on a steep cliff high up on Iron Mountain. The view is breathtaking and extends for miles both east and west.

The town of Glenwood Springs rapidly developed when the railroad arrived in 1887. The hot springs pool, the *Natatorium*, opened in 1888, and the deluxe Hotel Colorado opened in 1893. The Hot Springs Lodge & Pool is now a year-round destination spa. The Hotel Colorado is a massive structure modeled after the Villa de Medici, a 16th century Italian mansion. This opulent Victorian hotel has hosted many important visitors, including Presidents William Howard Taft and Theodore Roosevelt. Teddy Roosevelt brought a large party to hunt in the woods surrounding Glenwood Springs. According to local legend, Teddy Roosevelt returned from the hunt one day empty-handed. The hotel maids stitched together a small bear from scraps of cloth and presented it to the President to lift his spirits. Thus was born the Teddy Bear, named by a local reporter.

At the time Darrow was developing the site as a tourist destination, the scientific community knew little about the preservation of caves. Unfortunately, when heat and outside air are allowed into a cave as was done with the portion of the cave known as the Fairy Caves, the cave stops growing and living.

Darrow's sons operated the cave until 1917. On the eve of America's entry into World War I, the Darrows closed the caves to the public. The Historic Fairy Caves were closed for 82 years until the Beckleys, using all contemporary scientific cave preservation methods, opened them to the public in 1999. Today's visitors will experience both Historic Fairy Caves and the *living* Glenwood Caverns sections of the cave that have been protected and preserved by the current owners, Steve and Jeanne Beckley. The *living* caves are moist, maintain a constant 52 degrees and continue to grow the stunning crystalline formations. Although the Historic Fairy Caves had been damaged by neglect, since the Beckleys have owned them and applied rigorous preservation methods, they are beginning to grow again.

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- ✓ Two black-and-white historic photos are available to illustrate this information.
- ✓ Acknowledgement for his work and thanks to Jim Nelson, Glenwood Springs historian, author of *Glenwood Caverns and the Historic Fairy Caves*.

For more information contact Mandy Gauldin (970) 945-5534.



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MODERN CAVE SCIENCE KEEPS GLENWOOD CAVERNS AND HISTORIC FAIRY CAVES ALIVE IN GLENWOOD CAVERNS ADVENTURE PARK

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo. — Glenwood Caverns, a living cave near Glenwood Springs, Colorado, and a part of Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park, is a sustainable resources success story that reflects what can be done to both preserve priceless natural resources and make them accessible to the public.

Caves depend on moisture and humidity in order to keep dripping and growing cave formations. Commercial cave owners in the 1890s did not understand this and allowed portions of the cave to dry out. The public enjoyed the caverns from 1895 through 1917, and then the Darrow family, owners of the caves since their ancestor Charles Darrow homesteaded the area in the 1890s, closed the caverns. Unfortunately when the caves were closed to the public, the entrance was not sealed. From 1917 through 1961 the caves were not protected from casual visitors and several generations of teenagers and hikers explored the site, often removing cave formations as souvenirs. The known portion of the Fairy Caves was exposed to the dry outside air, and eventually dried up and stopped growing.



In 1952 the modern exploration of Glenwood Caverns began. Members of the Colorado Grotto Club, led by Glenwood Springs resident James Kitt, visited the known Fairy Caves. These experienced cavers guessed that this one section was only a small part of a much larger cavern network. In 1953 the group returned and began exploring in earnest. The group first found new passages into the mountain from the Fairy Caves. These new areas, christened the *Register Room* and the *Pendant Room*, were large and doubled the size of the known caverns. Fortunately, these new areas were also living cave, still in its pristine ancient state, still dripping and growing. In 1954, the cavers felt a breeze blowing from a hole, followed that airflow, and discovered what they named the *Drum Room* and the *Canyon*.

In 1960 curious and courageous cavers discovered a vertical passage at the back of Fairy Caves and followed this narrow passage 30 feet down. At one place, the passage shrinks to 8 ½ inches wide. The cavers squeezed through this tiny space by exhaling, squeezing downwards, stopping, inhaling, exhaling again, and continuing to slowly move through the narrow opening. This experience led the cavers to name the passage the *Jam Crack*.

After the cavers had negotiated the *Jam Crack*, they were faced with another narrow passage, roughly horizontal. For obvious reasons the cavers named this passage *Purgatory* and continued to exhale, squeeze, inhale and painfully work their way through the *Purgatory* passage. The trip through *Purgatory* was worth it because the cavers found several enormous rooms with a fantastic array of pristine formations. The cavers named the two largest rooms *The Barn* and *King's Row*. The reason for naming *The Barn* is clear; after all, it is *big as a ...*, but the cavers gave the fanciful name *King's Row* because this huge room has a series of formations that look like chess pieces.

Visitors today can stand in both *The Barn* and *King's Row* and view the stunning formations. Visitors no longer have to squeeze through the *Jam Crack* or go through *Purgatory* to get there. Today's visitors can walk down a safe set of stairs with hand railings, accompanied by a knowledgeable and experienced guide, and view these same awesome formations discovered by the cavers.

MODERN CAVE SCIENCE IN GLENWOOD CAVERNS ADVENTURE PARK/Page 2

Peter P. Prebble, Robert Wilber, and Robert O'Connell, members of the Colorado Grotto Club, bought the caves and surrounding acreage from the Darrow family in 1961. Soon after the purchase, they installed a locked gate at the entrance to the caverns, effectively barring entrance to the uninvited. Prebble, Wilber, and O'Connell intended to reopen the caves, but their plans did not materialize.

From 1961 through 1998, a handful of cavers continued to explore the caverns but the caves were still closed to the public. Steve Beckley, who grew up in the Rocky Mountains and had been a caver since childhood, was a student at the Colorado School of Mines when he read about the Fairy Caves in an out-of-print book, *Caves of Colorado*. Beckley graduated and began working as a petroleum engineer, but he never forgot about the Fairy Caves. In 1982 Beckley contacted the owners of the caves to explore development of the caves to admit the public; however, Beckley and the owners were unable to agree.

Beckley persisted for the next sixteen years and, in 1998, reached an agreement with the owners under which he would be allowed to develop the property. During those years of negotiations, Steve Beckley continued to study what information was known about the caves. In 1992 for the first time Steve and his wife and partner in Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park, Jeanne Beckley, put on kneepads and headlamps and squeezed through *Jam Crack*. Peter Prebble, one of the three owners, a caver himself and very protective of the integrity of the undeveloped caverns, insisted that an emergency room physician from Texas, a friend of Prebble and an experienced caver himself, accompany them.

After this exploration trip, the Beckleys vowed to do whatever they could to gain control of the caves and reopen the historic section and open a new living section to the public. The Beckleys began the substantial improvement projects necessary to allow the public to view this natural wonder. First the Beckleys graded and graveled a road up to the cave entrance and cleared the Historic Fairy Caves of the debris that had collected there for decades. The Beckleys hired Evan Anderson, a local caver with knowledge in wiring, to rewire the Historic Fairy Caves by replacing the 1897 wiring and installing modern equipment to illuminate and emphasize the formations. Today's visitors can see the holes in the sides where the lights guided visitors in 1897.

Because the purpose of development was to make the living cave accessible to the public, and still not harm the cave, the Beckleys decided to carve a new tunnel into the mountain, one that could control temperature and humidity and preserve the formations. Beckley hired surveyors to help determine the proper path for the new tunnel. Beckley and his workers squeezed through the *Jam Crack* several times to set up antennas deep within the *Barn* to guide the surveyors. After the surveyors had completed the measurements, Beckley and his partners hired Dean Mussati, lead engineer of Mining and Environmental Services, to blast the tunnel 132 feet through the cliff.

Prior to the completion of the tunnel, Beckley installed two airtight doors in the new tunnel to form an airlock. The doors are 50 feet apart so that when visitors enter the airlock, the door closes behind them.

With the help of this airlock, the ideal humidity and temperature of the caverns can be maintained, ensuring the continuing growth of the age-old formations. The Beckleys enlisted cavers to install temperature and humidity monitors to ensure that the integrity of the ancient formations is maintained. The interior of the cave is a stable 52 degrees year round. For the visitor coming from the outside, the caverns feel cool in the summer and warm in the winter.

Because of Steve and Jeanne Beckley's vision and courage, Glenwood Caverns and Historic Fairy Caves are now protected, able to continue to grow naturally, and yet are accessible to the public. The Colorado Governor's Office of Tourism recognized the Beckleys for their exemplary preservation efforts and selected them as the only winners of the *2001 Governor's Award for Outstanding Community Tourism Initiative*.

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Steve and Jeanne Beckley Co-owners of Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park

Background

Steve and Jeanne Beckley are hikers, skiers, and outdoors adventurers. Steve grew up on the Western Slope in Colorado and graduated from the Colorado School of Mines with a BS in Petroleum Engineering. Jeanne was raised in Minnesota and graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota, with a BA in Math and Computer Science. Steve began working in the petroleum industry and Jeanne in the information technology industry. After 16 years in their respective fields, they decided that they wanted to live in a smaller town, wear jeans and hiking boots to work instead of suits, and raise their children in a more laid-back rural atmosphere.



Steve and Jeanne are committed to Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park and Glenwood Springs. Steve was on the Board of Directors of the Glenwood Springs Chamber Resort Association for six years and has been active in the Glenwood Springs Rotary Club. Both have volunteered for community events to enhance Glenwood Springs as a tourist destination. The State of Colorado awarded the Beckleys the *2001 Governor's Award for Outstanding Community Tourism Initiative* and they were named *Citizens of the Year* for 2002 by the Glenwood Springs Chamber Resort Association. In 2004, Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park was named *Business of the Year* by *ColoradoBiz* magazine. Most recently, the Beckleys received the *Bosco 2007 Tourism Business of the Year Award* by the Glenwood Springs Chamber Resort Association.

“We are committed to the concept of sustainable tourism; we live it every day. Without that commitment to the environment, our living caves could become just a big hole in the ground, a destination for only one generation. With our continued stewardship we hope that Glenwood Caverns will remain a living, dripping, growing cave system that our sons, our grandchildren, and their grandchildren will be able to learn from and enjoy.”

How Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park Began

An avid caver since childhood, Steve read about the Fairy Caves, an extensive cave system in the top of the Rocky Mountains near Glenwood Springs, in an out-of-print book, *Caves of Colorado*, while he was in college. The Fairy Caves had been open to the public in the late 1800s but had been closed since 1917. In 1982 Steve contacted the owner of the cave to explore development; however, they were unable to agree. Steve persisted for the next sixteen years and in 1998 reached an agreement with the owner under which he would be allowed to develop the property. In 1992, Steve and Jeanne put on kneepads and headlamps and for the first time squeezed through Jam Crack, a tiny vertical passage leading into the huge underground rooms now known to tourists as *The Barn* and *King's Row*.

After a deal was made with the owner for development, Steve and Jeanne began the substantial improvement projects necessary to allow the public to view this natural wonder. First they graded and graveled a road up to the cave entrance and cleared the historic Fairy Caves of the debris that had collected there for more than 44 years.

Because the purpose of development was to make the living cave accessible to the public, and not harm the cave, Steve and Jeanne decided to carve a new tunnel into the mountain that could control temperature and humidity to preserve the formations. Steve and Jeanne installed two airtight doors in the new tunnel. The doors are 50 feet apart so that when visitors enter the airlock, the door closes behind them. With the help of this airlock, the ideal humidity and temperature of the caverns can be maintained, ensuring the continuing growth of the age-old formations. They also installed temperature and humidity monitors to ensure that the integrity of the ancient formations is maintained. Glenwood Caverns and Historic Fairy Caves, the leading attraction of Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park, is now protected, able to continue to grow naturally and remain accessible to the public. Glenwood Caverns was named one of *The 10 Great Places to Go Underground* by *USA Today* as well as being named *Best Family Cave Tour* by *Denver Westword*.

– more –

For more information contact Mandy Gauldin (970) 945-5534.

Development of the Adventure Park

In 2003, Steve and Jeanne added the Iron Mountain Tramway, which carries tourists from the floor of the Roaring Fork Valley to the top of Iron Mountain, as well as the restaurant and Discovery Rock. Two years later, they introduced four exciting new options: the Canyon Flyer, the first alpine coaster in the U.S.; the Swing Shot, which launches riders out over Glenwood Canyon 1,300 feet above the Colorado River; the Alpine Rush, a 65-foot downhill thrill ride; and Doc's Rock, a 32' climbing wall. In 2006, additions included horseback riding and a mechanical bull. Last year, Steve and Jeanne added activities that are suitable for kids of all ages, including a virtual Conestoga wagon ride, Bungee Trampoline, and Caverns Express train ride. The newest addition, in 2008, is Fort WhereAmI, a Western maze that is sure to be a new favorite.

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THE WILD WEST IS ALIVE AND KICKING AT GLENWOOD CAVERNS ADVENTURE PARK

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo. — Experience the thrills and excitement of the wild West at Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park. Located in historic Glenwood Springs, Colo., the Adventure Park is nestled high in the mountains with a birds' eye view of the town where local legend Doc Holliday lived his final days. Along with cave tours, thrill rides and attractions, the Adventure Park offers guests three ways to enjoy the spirit of the old West:

- **Fort Whereami Maze** — *New in 2008!* Ready, set, go! Kids of all ages will love finding their way through the twists and turns in this fort-style maze. They can race the clock and each other for fun and prizes.
- **Wild West Adventure Wagon** — Our new Wild West Adventure Wagon takes riders back in time to the days when cowboys and Conestoga wagons roamed the mountains. Riders feel the wagon bouncing on the bumpy trail, and hear the wind rushing by as the narrator describes the journey on a realistic surround sound system. This simulated wagon experience lasts about five minutes and is suitable for all ages.
- **Horseback Riding** — Experienced guides lead half-hour trail rides on gentle, well-trained horses. Must be at least six years of age. Suitable for beginning riders.
- **Demon the Mechanical Bull** — Demon, named in honor of the Glenwood Springs High School mascot, bucked his way to the top of Iron Mountain in 2006. With rides from mild to wild, riders of all ages can pick the intensity level that suits them best.



“I think a ‘yee haw’ is definitely in order,” said Steve Beckley, who owns Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park with his wife Jeanne. “Glenwood Springs has a rich Western heritage, and there’s definitely a lot of interest in heritage travel these days.”

According to the Colorado Tourism Office, heritage travelers represent one of tourism’s fastest growing market segments. In the United States, heritage travel has grown at twice the rate of travel overall during the last 10 years.

“Now, our guests can come up, take a trail ride, find their way through the maze, try their skill on Demon, and enjoy a simulated wagon trail ride,” Beckley added. “It’s a great way to spend a day with family and friends, and a fun way to round out a trip to Glenwood Springs’ historic sites, including the Frontier Historical Museum, Hotel Colorado and Doc Holliday’s grave.”

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About Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park

Located in scenic Glenwood Springs, Colo., midway between Aspen and Vail, Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park offers a one-of-a-kind mountain-top adventure for families and outdoor enthusiasts. The Adventure Park features a gondola ride, three different tours of Glenwood Caverns & Historic Fairy Caves, thrill rides, dining, and attractions including a climbing wall, gemstone sluice box mining, horseback riding, simulated Conestoga wagon experience, maze, bungee trampoline and more. Ideal setting for groups and special events.
www.glenwoodcaverns.com