



Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park
WELCOME



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 nestled in the mountains above historic Glenwood Springs, Colorado. To reach the park, guests take a scenic 10-minute gondola ride from the floor of the Roaring Fork Valley to the top of Iron Mountain.
- At the top, they can take guided walking or wild tours of Glenwood Caverns and Historic Fairy Caves; enjoy thrill rides, including Colorado's first and longest Alpine Coaster and the Giant Canyon Swing; try out the only 4-dimensional theater in the state; play laser tag; pan for gemstones; try the climbing wall or mechanical bull; and relax with lunch, dinner or drinks while they take in the views. New in May 2011: a 70-foot Bungee Jump and a 625-foot Soaring Eagle Zip Ride!
- Additional family-friendly attractions include a virtual Conestoga wagon ride, fort-style maze, bungee trampoline and a Western amusement ride. The Adventure Park is an ideal location for birthday parties, corporate picnics and family reunions as well.

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 or to schedule a media visit at 970-945-5534.

Best regards,

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

Mandy Gauldin

For more information, to schedule an interview or request high-resolution photographs or b-roll, contact Mandy Gauldin at 970-945-5534.



FACT SHEET



ABOUT THE PARK

Located in scenic Glenwood Springs, Colo., midway between Aspen and Vail, Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park is family-friendly vacation destination. The Adventure Park features a gondola ride, guided tours of Glenwood Caverns and Historic Fairy Caves, dining, and attractions including an alpine coaster, 4-dimensional ride theater, giant swing, bungee jump, zip ride, laser tag, a climbing wall, giant maze, bungee trampolines and more.

BACKGROUND

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*. Over the years, the Adventure Park has grown to include a wide range of activities and attractions.

AMENITIES

Glenwood Caverns and Historic Fairy Caves — Visitors can tour Glenwood Caverns and Historic Fairy Caves, recognized as one of the leading family cave tours in the country. Guided tours range from mild to wild so everyone can experience some of Mother Nature's finest handiwork.

Thrill Rides — *New in May 2011*: A new bungee tower serves as the jumping off point for an exhilarating 70-foot Bungee Jump and a 625-foot Soaring Eagle Zip Ride. The Alpine Coaster — *the first and longest in Colorado* — features individual cars on tracks that race through the trees and down the mountainside. The Giant Canyon Swing, which opened in 2010, launches riders out over Glenwood Canyon, 1,300 feet above the Colorado River.

Attractions — The 4D Motion Theater — *Colorado's only 4-dimensional theater* — combines digital 3D films with interactive seats and special effects that makes the audience feel like a part of the show. The Iron Mountain Tramway travels 4,300 feet up the side of Iron Mountain, providing panoramic views of Glenwood Springs. Other attractions include a laser tag arena, bungee trampolines, mechanical bull, cave simulator, electronic shooting gallery, giant maze, climbing wall, sluice box gemstone mining and simulated Conestoga wagon ride.

Souvenirs — Guests can take home reminders of their visit from Silk's Saloon Olde Tyme Photos, the General Store Gift Shop and Sharp Shooters Photos.

Mountain-top Dining — The Lookout Grille offers burgers, salads, sandwiches, wraps, nachos, a great kids' menu and incredible views; menu varies throughout the year. The Snack Shop features casual outdoor dining during the summer months, with burgers hot off the grill.

Groups — The Adventure Park offers affordable packages for group and company picnics, family reunions, birthday parties, and school field trips.

Events — Special events include an annual Easter Egg Hunt, Summer Kick-Off Party and Music on the Mountain concert series.

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Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park ACTIVITIES AND ATTRACTIONS

4D Motion Theater — State-of-the-art entertainment in Colorado's only 4-dimensional motion theater, with interactive seats and special effects that makes the audience feel like a part of the show. Liability waiver required. The theater features three films by nWave Pictures:

- **Haunted Mine Ride** – Riders plunge headfirst into an old, dilapidated gold mine that just happens to be haunted.
- **Snow Ride** – A race through snow-covered mountains, over decaying narrow bridges and through bat caves.
- **Jetpack Adventure** – *New!* An explosive jetpack ride to school, flying by skyscrapers and weaving through cars on the highway.



Alpine Coaster — Colorado's first and longest Alpine Coaster features individual cars on tracks that race 3,400 feet through the trees and down the mountainside. The riders control their speeds, which gives them a unique hands-on experience. The ride is exciting and varied, with bumps and waves to add to the thrill. Unlike an alpine slide, the Alpine Coaster makes hairpin turns and can operate year-round due to its track system. Liability waiver required.

Bungee Jump — **New in May 2011:** Bungee jump fans will jump for joy when they try this new attraction. The bungee tower is perched on the side of Iron Mountain at an elevation of 7,100' and offers a bird's eye view of the Roaring Fork Valley. Guests can jump feet first or dive off head first for a 70-foot fall, and then will be lowered to the safety cushion after the rebounds slow down. Liability waiver required.

Bungee Trampolines — Guests jump, twist and soar through the air on our full-sized Bungee Trampolines. The bungee cords allow them to jump higher and higher, adding somersaults and flips, then returning back to the trampoline with each bounce. Liability waiver required.

Cave Tour — This 70-minute guided walking tour in Glenwood Caverns and Historic Fairy Caves, 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 walkway with handrails. Visitors will be amazed by The Barn and King's Row, gigantic rooms deep within the earth with cave formations such as soda straws, stalactites, stalagmites and cave bacon.

Climbing Wall — This 32' climbing wall features 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.

Discovery Rock — A children's 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.

Fort WhereAmI Maze — 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. The corner towers offer some of the park's best views of Mt. Sopris and the Roaring Fork Valley. Liability waiver required.

Giant Canyon Swing — For the truly adventurous, the new Giant Canyon Swing 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 accommodates up to four riders at a time, so friends can share the adrenaline rush of floating with zero Gs. Liability waiver required.

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Giddy Up! — This amusement ride lifts up to seven riders into the air, and then lowers them back down to the ground in a bouncing motion that creates a negative G-force, providing a thrilling ride every time. Liability waiver required.

Iron Mountain Tramway — The Iron Mountain Tramway is a 4,300-foot-long tram ride originating 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 gondolas. The tram ride skims over the tops of the trees, with panoramic views in all directions. The gondolas are wheelchair accessible.

Laser Tag Arena — Guests engage in a new-fangled shoot-out in an old West setting, using the latest in wireless laser tag technology. This is a popular group activity for birthday parties and team-building. Liability waiver required.

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

Mechanical Bull — The mechanical bull ride offers an exciting taste of the old West. Liability waiver required.

Mine Shaft Shootin' Gallery — An electronic shooting gallery with animated, Western-themed targets that test each shooter's skills and concentration.

Silk's Saloon Olde Tyme Photos — Visitors take a step back in time during a visit to our Old Tyme Photography Studio, with costumes to fit all shapes and sizes, from newborns up, plus props and backdrops to create the perfect souvenir.

Snack Shack — Open in the summer months, the Snack Shack offers casual outdoor dining and snacks including pizza, sno-cones, ice cream, bratwursts, hot dogs, cold beer and more. *New in 2011*: freshly grilled burgers.

Soaring Eagle Zip Ride — *New in May 2011*: The Soaring Eagle is an exciting new zip line experience with comfortable seats that will carry two riders 625 feet down the mountain, soaring over the top of the Alpine Coaster. Liability waiver required.

Speleobox Cave Simulator — The Speleobox contains 300 feet of crawling cave passages that wind up, down and around inside an 8' x 12' structure for a fun spelunking adventure. Suitable for kids and adults. Liability waiver required.

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 belly-crawling and walking experience. Liability waiver required. Reservations required: 970-945-4228 or 800-530-1635, ext. 0.

Wild West Wagon — This simulated Conestoga Wagon helps riders travel back in time to the days when cowboys and wagons roamed the mountains. Riders feel the wagon bouncing on the bumpy trail and the wind rushing by as the narrator describes the journey. Liability waiver required.

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Note: Some attractions are seasonal, have age, weight or height restrictions, or require reservations; please visit GlenwoodCaverns.com or call 800-530-1635, ext. 0, for more information.

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Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park
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, is a member of the Glenwood Springs Tourism Board, 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, the 2009 Top Brass Award for Business Expansion, and the 2010 Philanthropic Small 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.

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*. 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.

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.

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About the Owners/Page Two

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*.

Development of the Adventure Park

In 2003, Steve and Jeanne added the Iron Mountain Tramway, which carries guests from the floor of the Roaring Fork Valley to the top of Iron Mountain, as well as a mountain-top restaurant and Discovery Rock, which includes gemstone sluice box mining and a sand pit fossil dig. Two years later, they introduced 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 (replaced in 2010); and a 32' climbing wall.

Since then, additions have included a mechanical bull in 2006; a virtual Conestoga wagon ride and bungee trampoline in 2007; Fort WhereAmI giant maze in 2008; Colorado's first 4D ride theater, a laser tag arena, the GiddyUp! Western ride, the Mine Shaft Shootin' Gallery and speleobox cave simulator in 2009; and a new Giant Canyon Swing in 2010. A 70-foot bungee jump and 625-foot Soaring Eagle Zip Ride opened in May 2011.

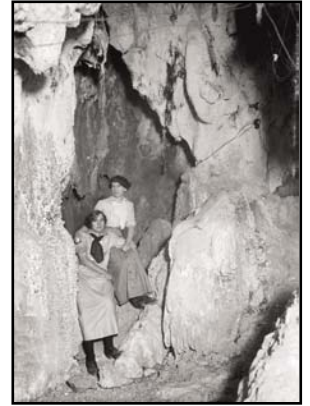
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Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park **HISTORIC FAIRY CAVES**



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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Notes: Two black-and-white historic photos are available to illustrate this information, courtesy of the Frontier Historical Society, Glenwood Springs, Colorado, Schutte Collection. Acknowledgement for his work and thanks to Jim Nelson, Glenwood Springs historian, author of *Glenwood Caverns and the Historic Fairy Caves*.

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Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park MODERN CAVE SCIENCE

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.

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.

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MODERN CAVE SCIENCE IN GLENWOOD CAVERNS ADVENTURE PARK/Page 2

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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Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park FANTASTIC FORMATIONS



GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo. — Glenwood Caverns and Historic Fairy Caves, 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.
- **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.

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GLENWOOD CAVERNS ADVENTURE PARK'S FORMATIONS/Page 2

- **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*.

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Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park **ABOUT GLENWOOD SPRINGS**

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo. — Glenwood Springs has been making history for more than 125 years. For starters, there's the world's largest hot springs pool — roughly two city blocks long. Some claim the irresistible Teddy Bear was invented here. The story goes that President Theodore Roosevelt, who came to Glenwood Springs in 1905 to hunt bear in the surrounding woods, was consoled after an unsuccessful outing by the Hotel Colorado staff, who presented him with a hand-stitched stuffed bear. Doc Holliday, gunman-gambler-dentist, headed west after the famous shootout at the OK Corral, where he hoped that soaking in the hot springs would cure his advanced tuberculosis. But the mineral-rich waters could not dissipate the ravages of the disease. Doc Holliday died at the Glenwood Hotel in November 1887. His gravesite in Linwood Cemetery remains a popular attraction today.



Glenwood Springs, Colo., is located in the Roaring Fork Valley, situated between famous neighbors Vail and Aspen at the confluence of the Colorado and Roaring Fork Rivers. In addition to **Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park**, Glenwood Springs offers activities all year that delight its visitors.

Outdoor Adventures

Nestled in the heart of the Rocky Mountains, the 2.3-million-acre White River National Forest is the top recreation forest in the nation. Headquartered in Glenwood Springs, the White River National Forest is the largest national forest in Colorado and the 12th largest in the nation, with something to offer every outdoor enthusiast.

Rafting & Kayaking

The Colorado River near Glenwood Springs has long attracted ambitious river revelers, attempting to tame its fiercest sections. Today, a host of commercial rafting and kayaking companies annually guide thousands of visitors down the Colorado and Roaring Fork Rivers through rapids with names like Upper Superstition and Tombstone, substantiating Glenwood Springs' stature as one of the country's premier whitewater destinations. Calmer waterways, such as South Canyon Rapids, are suitable for families with children as young as six. The city's whitewater park, added in 2008, is attracting world-class kayakers from around the globe.

Fly-fishing

Glenwood Springs' early inhabitants, the Ute Indians, depended on fish to round out their diets. Today, the area's Gold Medal waters harbor an astonishing number of brookies, browns, cutthroats, and rainbow trout. Local guides can direct anglers to some of the best fly-fishing in the state.

Biking

The best way to get the lay of the land in Glenwood Springs is by bike. Glenwood Springs has mountain biking trails for any ability, from paved paths and country dirt roads, to rugged double- and single-track trails. Choices range from a leisurely ride through Glenwood Canyon on a scenic, 18-mile paved trail that hugs the Colorado River from Glenwood Springs to Dotsero, to the new Rio Grande Trail, a multi-use, 44-mile pathway from Glenwood Springs to Aspen.

Spas

Glenwood Springs has been known as a healing destination for well over a century, because of the world's largest natural Hot Springs Pool and naturally formed Vapor Caves. Today visitors will find spas, fitness centers, and health and beauty treatment centers which complement Glenwood Springs' natural spa atmosphere.

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Camping

Campsites are available in public and private campgrounds located throughout the Roaring Fork Valley, ranging from secluded sites within the White River National Forest suitable for tents and RVs, to full-service RV parks. Glenwood Springs is a favorite spot for camping enthusiasts looking for access to a wide range of outdoor activities. Glenwood Canyon Resort, located in No Name, offers fully-furnished, themed resort cabins, camper cabins, big-rig RV sites, a group tent area, and a bathhouse with laundry facilities.

Golf

Championship-caliber golf is just a stroke away at any one of eight courses located within a 40-mile radius of downtown. Designed by some of the greatest names in golf, including Jack Nicklaus and Jay Morrish, courses boast Scottish-style links, undulating greens, and staggering mountain views.

Hiking

Flowering meadows, alpine forests, a variety of abundant wildlife, and views clear to tomorrow characterize the hiking experience surrounding Glenwood Springs. Hikers can choose a stroll along the Colorado River through Glenwood Canyon, or for a heartier dose of exercise, Hanging Lake, Storm King Memorial Trail, Red Mountain, and Lookout Mountain.

Horseback Riding

A mighty long stretch of the West's history, majesty, and mystery seem to converge in Colorado's distilled mountain air. There's no better way to experience Colorado's cowboy past — or present — than riding the open range or high mountain meadows while your guide regales you with tales of the Wild West.

Hot Springs Pool

In the late 1800s, the Hot Springs Pool attracted wealthy tourists from around the world. Nowadays, it's a popular destination for families. So load up the inflatable crocs, water weenies, masks, and snorkels and jump in. There's plenty of space to splash around in the 90-degree pool. It's larger than a football field. Two four-story water slides keep the kids entertained for hours with more 300 feet of twists and turns. Parents and grandparents will enjoy relaxing in the smaller therapy pool, heated to 104 degrees. If the kids are getting waterlogged, challenge them to a game of miniature golf, located next to the water slides.

Shopping

Glenwood Springs' historic downtown district provides a wonderful selection of unique specialty shops. The Glenwood Meadows shopping center includes many one-of-a-kind shops, as well as some national chain stores.

Skiing, Snowshoeing, and Snowmobiling

Sunlight Mountain Resort has been in Glenwood Springs since 1966, with one of the longest cruisers in Colorado, over two miles long, as well as the one of the steepest extreme runs, boasting a 52 percent pitch. The avid cross-country skier and snowshoer will appreciate the 29 kilometers of groomed trails in the Nordic Center. The Snowmobiling Center has some of the best terrain and equipment in the valley.

Learn more about Glenwood Springs and its attractions:

Glenwood Springs Chamber Resort Association — (888) 445-3696 or www.visitglenwood.com

Sunlight Mountain Resort — (800) 445-7931 or www.sunlightmtn.com

Hot Springs Lodge & Pool — (800) 537-SWIM or www.hotspringspool.com

White River National Forest — www.fs.fed.us/r2/whiteriver

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Source: Glenwood Springs Chamber Resort Association

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