



An American Tour: 67



New Market, Virginia's *Endless Caverns*

Endless Caverns is a commercial show cave located 3 miles south of New Market, Virginia. The cave is a limestone solution cave.

According to the tour operators, the cave was discovered by two boys in October 1879, while hunting rabbits on the property of Ruben Zirkle. The boys cornered a rabbit behind an outcropping of limestone rocks, and began moving some of the loose stones to flush the rabbit from his hiding place. After doing this they discovered a hole in the ground and ran back to the house to grab some ropes and candles. After going into the hole the boys found that there were many chambers and rooms. Not long after the discovery, the Zirkles began doing candle lit tours through the cave. In 1919, the cave was bought by Colonel Brown who had the cave fully electrified in 1928 with a lighting design by Samuel Hibben.

Endless is home to colonies of bats, primarily little brown bats, that are visible on the tour route.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Endless_Caverns]

