

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park  
Iron Mountain Hot Springs  
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## **Glenwood Caverns and Iron Mountain Hot Springs Designated as a National Natural Landmark by the National Park Service**

The two Glenwood Springs attractions are recognized  
for possessing nationally significant geological features

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, COLO. - December 13, 2023 - Today U.S. Secretary of the Interior Debra Haaland announced [Glenwood Caverns](#) and [Iron Mountain Hot Springs](#) have together been designated a National Natural Landmark, citing the millions of years of geologic history in the location and the unique cave ecosystems that are present.

“Glenwood’s caverns and hot springs are iconic Colorado treasures,” said U.S. Senator Michael F. Bennet. “I am pleased to see them recognized by Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland as a National Natural Landmark and appreciate the Beckleys’ ongoing efforts to preserve these valuable resources for future generations.”

The National Natural Landmarks (NNL) Program was created in 1962 to identify, recognize and support the conservation of sites that represent the natural heritage of America. The program now includes a collective of more than 600 designated sites that contain outstanding examples of biological or geological features. Landmark sites are deemed nationally significant based on their outstanding condition, illustrative character, rarity, diversity and value to science and education.

In 1999, when Steve and Jeanne Beckley first purchased the property they made a commitment to conserve and preserve the caverns.

“We are honored by the National Natural Landmark designation and so happy to continue to offer guests the opportunity to experience these natural wonders,” said founder and owner Steve Beckley. “We will continue to preserve the integrity of the cave ecosystem; it’s a responsibility we take seriously.”

The Beckleys applied for the NNL designation ten years ago, not yet understanding the full extent of how the site’s karstic components relate to each other. Through the NNL program process it was discovered that the downcutting of the Colorado River into the Leadville Limestone created unique ecosystems within Iron Mountain. Both the Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park caves and Iron Mountain Hot Springs are habitats for species adapted to live in the extreme environments of the hot springs and the low-nutrient conditions of the caves, including eight native troglobites (fully cave-adapted species) and a diversity of microbes including 38 unique types of bacteria.

The National Park Service works in partnership and alongside landmark owners and managers to recognize and support conservation of nationally significant sites that illustrate the rich and diverse tapestry of America’s natural heritage. The naturally beautiful formations that line the

floors and ceilings of the caves and the rejuvenating geothermal waters of the hot springs are amazing to witness and experience in person. Guests interested in visiting Colorado's newest National Natural Landmark can find more information and tickets for the caves at [glenwoodcaverns.com](http://glenwoodcaverns.com), and the hot springs at [ironmountainhotsprings.com](http://ironmountainhotsprings.com).

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#### **About Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park**

Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park (GCAP) is America's only mountaintop theme park, located 7,132 feet above sea level in the Rocky Mountains of Glenwood Springs, Colorado. Consistently ranked as one of the best amusement parks in the U.S., GCAP offers a scenic gondola ride to the top of Iron Mountain for guests to enjoy family-friendly attractions, thrill rides, cave tours, dining and year-round events and entertainment. Celebrate 25 years of GCAP and make history riding Defiance, the highest looping roller coaster in the U.S., or explore a natural wonder in the caves. Visit [glenwoodcaverns.com](http://glenwoodcaverns.com) for ticket prices and more information.

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#### **About Iron Mountain Hot Springs**

Iron Mountain Hot Springs is located along the Colorado River in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. With 32 different pools, two cafes and a newly added 21+ section called WorldSprings, guests can enjoy a variety of soaking options. In the legacy section, enjoy 16 natural geothermal pools, a freshwater family pool and jetted spa. At WorldSprings, experience 11 new pebble-bottomed experience pools with mineral formulas replicating famous hot springs from around the globe, a cold plunge pool, a Dead Sea Pool and a waterfall freshwater pool. Both cafes serve seasonal food and beverage specials. Buy tickets and learn more at [ironmountainhotsprings.com](http://ironmountainhotsprings.com).

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