

Jewel Cave is the most recently discovered and largest showcave in the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park. Filled with amazing stalactites, stalagmites and crystal decorations, Jewel Cave is one of the most pristine and beautiful caves in the south west.

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PURPOSE OF THE EXCURSION

Jewel Cave is the biggest show cave in Western Australia, with three massive chambers. It is also home to one of the longest straw stalactites found in any tourist cave in the world. In 2011, Jewel Cave was awarded a gold medal in the "Tourist Attractions" category at the WA Tourism Awards, as well as a silver in the Eco Tourism Category. Jewel Cave is also home to the spectacular new Jewel Cave Preservation Centre which features retail and cafe facilities complete with an interpretive area that will take visitors on an educational, visual and inspiring fifty-year journey.

You can visit Jewel Cave on a fully guided tour or as part of our amazing Biodiversity Workshops studying the unique biodiversity hotspot that is Australia's southwest.

Our tours combined with our education resource packs available from the cave or our website; provide a unique educational experience covering a suite of different education disciplines and core environmental values.

1. ASSESSING THE RISKS

1.1 Environment

- Jewel Cave is located 10 minutes from the popular tourist town of Augusta or 30 minutes from Margaret River.
- The Fully Guided showcave Tour is an enclosed and stable environment comprised of a number of viewing platforms which participants access by stairs only, so unfortunately there is no facility for wheelchairs to enter the cave.
- There is a total of 500 stairs in the cave separated by rest and viewing platforms and participants will descend to a maximum depth of 42m on the Fully Guided Tours.
- Carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere at the bottom of the cave are slightly higher than those at ground level, so breathing may become slightly heavier in some participants once they begin to climb the stairs back out of the cave. We have first aid kits, oxygen and Ventolin inhalers on site in the rare event that an issue arises.
- Tours are tailored to suit student ability at all times and all our school group guides are first aid trained and have Working with Children Certificates.
- We have rigorous emergency protocols covering all aspects of our show cave tour products, these documents are extensive and available from our cave site upon request.
- Accommodation is available at a range of sites located near the cave, varying from

<p>National Park campsites to commercial campgrounds and a number of private residences for more details contact Margaret River Visitor Centre on 9780 5911.</p>
<p>1.2 Transport Arrangements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jewel Cave is located three and a half hours from Perth and only thirty minutes from Margaret River. Transport will have to be organised independently, however there are a number of charter businesses operating in the South West which can assist. • Sealed access for cars and busses is by Jewel Cave Road.
<p>1.3 Student Capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We cater for students from primary school to high school and beyond. • Whilst we do tailor activities to include all students and to allow for different abilities, it is the responsibility of teachers to assess the level of ability for participating students. • Groups sizes vary depending on activity, contact us for more details on how we can accommodate your class.
<p>1.4 Supervisor/Supervisory Team</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the school to develop a supervisory team that meets their specific requirements in line with the recommendations for supervision outlined in this document. Supervising teachers/adults are required to actively supervise their students at all times. Some simple ways teaching staff or supervisors can assist us are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting our ratios where applicable • Providing the link between our team and the students (as the teachers from the school will have much better knowledge regarding their students' personalities) • Discipline and pastoral care
<p>1.5 External Providers</p> <p>Our school group staff have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior First Aid Certificate • Working with Children Certificate <p>Jewel Cave operating under the Margaret River Busselton Tourism has a 20 million dollar public liability insurance policy. Upon request, a copy of our 'Certificate of Currency' can be forwarded to you.</p>
<p>2. SUPERVISION STRATEGIES</p>
<p>We prefer a ratio of:</p> <p>1 teacher : 10 students for Fully Guided Showcave Tours</p> <p>Speak to our guides to confirm numbers of students and teachers during booking process. All participants stay with guides at all times during guided activities.</p>
<p>3. IDENTIFICATION OF EXCURSION PARTICIPANTS</p>
<p>This is the responsibility of the school; however students are always accompanied by guides and school supervisors.</p>
<p>4. INFORMATION TO PARENTS FOR THEIR CONSENT</p>

This is the responsibility of the schools.
5. COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES
<p>Students will be with guides at all times through tours. Following our tour structure protocols, we stop at regular times during all our structured tours to impart safety and site information.</p> <p>In the event of an emergency, we have radio contact and relay throughout 80% of the cave and are never more than five minutes from assistance. We are able to contact the office, which has an emergency phone line if further help is required from emergency services.</p>
6. EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANNING
<p>In the case of an emergency, please follow the directions of cave staff who are responsible for implementing the emergency response plan, including evacuation procedures.</p> <p>Jewel Cave has an extensive set of Emergency Response Plans. If you would like details of these emergency plans please contact us at education@margaretriver.com.</p> <p>Please note that our protocol covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency contact numbers for our Company • Local Doctors/ nursing stations contact details • Hospital contact details • Fire, police and DPaW emergency contact details
7. BRIEFING STUDENTS AND SUPERVISORS
<p>Tour Program</p> <p>Prior to Tour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check all safety equipment and communications • Confirm numbers • Introduce guides to students and teachers • Divide into groups • Depart office • Onsite health and safety briefing <p>Commence tour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group at regular intervals to assess students' wellbeing and for further safety information <p>Tour Close</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debrief • Return to office
8. OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION
<p>Jewel Cave has been in operation as a Fully Guided showcave for the past 56 years. It is managed by the Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association (formerly the Augusta Margaret River Tourism Association), and remains one of the regions most visited attractions.</p>

More details are available at www.margaretriver.com

For all school enquiries please contact our Education Officer on 9755 2152

This information is valid till 31 December 2017