

TEACHER GUIDE

Your guide to the caves & lighthouses in the Margaret River Region

Educational outdoor activities for kids that invoke wonder and respect for our amazing natural landscape.



**YOUR
MARGARET
RIVER
REGION**

Our Mission

To provide educational outdoor activities for students, which invoke wonder and respect for our history and amazing natural landscape. With assistance from our experienced, knowledgeable and supportive guides, students investigate the stunning limestone cave environment of the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge and relive the past at our historical and operational lighthouses. With a selection of education packages all linked to the new Australian National Curriculum, our aim is to inspire a love of learning, respect for Australia's indigenous culture and for this unique environment. We are a not-for-profit organisation supporting local businesses and tourism.

What We Do

At our sites we offer students the chance to step out of the classroom and actively explore their unique natural environment. A variety of educational adventures and less adventurous leisure experiences are available to cater to all ages and fitness levels. Our suite of curriculum linked tours cover local and colonial history, geology, biology, chemistry and conservation. From 60 metres below the surface to 130 metres above, we have it covered.

“The Department of Education recognises that the experiences of students outside the school grounds contributes to the development of their understandings, skills and attitudes.”

Department of Education - Excursions: Off School Site Activities



Education Programs at a Glance

Cave Tours

Fully Guided Showcave

Experienced cave guides lead students through the mystery, history and culture of the amazing showcaves in the southwest

Megafauna Workshop

Transport students back in time to when Megafauna roamed the Australian continent with this hands on workshop and cave tour

Ancient Riverbed Adventure Tour

A 'soft' educational adventure tour to lead students off the boardwalks and into the hidden areas of the cave

Legends and Lanterns

A fully guided tour through the main showcave lit only by the torch in your hand! Great for school camps!

Explorer Tour

Challenge older students with a tailored adventure tour into the legendary ancient chambers of Ngilgi Cave

Climate Change Workshop

Lake Cave becomes the laboratory where students analyse the natural processes and human impact involved with climate change

Biodiversity Workshop

Examine evolution and ecosystems above and below the ground while you explore the stunning Jewel Cave

Ngilgi School Cultural Tour

Connect with the cave. Hear the stories and learn the bushtucker, medicine and fire lighting skills of the Wardandi people

Lighthouse Tours

Lighthouse Tours

Whales, flaming fireballs, shipwrecks and mercury madness, Our fully guided lighthouse tours are enough to send your students round the twist!

Culture and Heritage Program

Early explorers, and first settlers. Hear the tales of when oceans were highways and the discovery and settlement of this dramatic landscape

Tracks 'n' Scats Fieldtrip

Follow the tracks and scats of southwest fauna and take your detective skills into the bush to find the missing Quenda



Education Programs by Year and Content

We offer a suite of educational tours and workshops designed to suit a selection of age groups, abilities and curriculum content. You'll be sure to enjoy any one of the following tours.

CAVE TOURS							
Pre School - Year 2	Year 3 - Year 6	Year 7 - Year 9	Year 10 - Year 12		Science	History & Social Science	Cross Curricular
				Fully Guided showcave tour			
				Megafauna Workshop			
	Yr 6+			Ancient Riverbed Adventure Tour			
				Legends and Lanterns			
				Explorer Tour			
	Yr 6+			Climate Change Workshop			
				Biodiversity Workshop			
				Ngilgi School Cultural Tour			



LIGHTHOUSE TOURS							
				Lighthouse Tours			
				Culture and Heritage Program			
				Tracks 'n' Scats Fieldtrip			



Education Programs by Location



Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse

Lighthouse Tour
Tracks 'n' Scats Fieldtrip



Ngilgi Cave

Fully Guided Showcave
Ancient Riverbed Adventure Tour
Explorer Tour
Legends & Lanterns
Ngilgi School Cultural Tour



Mammoth & Lake Cave

Fully Guided Showcave
Megafauna Workshop
Climate Change Workshop



Jewel Cave

Fully Guided Showcave
Biodiversity Workshop



Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse

Lighthouse Tour
Culture and Heritage Tour



Cave Education Programs

Fully Guided Showcave

Watch chemistry in action as you venture with our knowledgeable and experienced guides into the showcaves of the beautiful southwest. Marvel at 5 tonne suspended formations; learn about the limestone geology and the cave adapted fauna that dwell deep in this unique environment. Hear the stories of the first Europeans to venture underground and the longstanding relationship between the caves and the local Wardandi people.

Available at: Ngilgi, Mammoth, Lake and Jewel Cave

Duration: Allow 1.5 hours

Price: From \$8.50 per student; vary at different sites
1 teacher free per 10 kids

Megafauna Workshop

Based at Lake and Mammoth Cave, the Megafauna Workshop will introduce students to Australia's prehistoric giant animals. Through the use of actual fossil casts, extant marsupial skulls and life-size replicas, students are transported back 50,000 years before present and introduced to such amazing animals as the marsupial lion 'Thylacoleo', and the enormous 'Zygomaturus'. They will meet three megafauna species unknown to science until being discovered in Mammoth Cave! Students can participate in a 'bone dig' at the Lake Cave theatre and learn about the process involved in conducting a palaeontological dig. Last but not least, the experience culminates in a private guided tour of Mammoth Cave, the 'time capsule' that preserved more than ten thousand fossil remains of these ancient animals.

Available at: Lake and Mammoth Cave

Duration: Allow 2 hours

Ancient Riverbed Adventure Tour

A 'soft' adventure tour designed to take inexperienced cavers off the boardwalks and into the hidden areas of the cave. This tour winds its way into the red sandy soils of the ancient riverbed. On the journey, guides explain how the cave formed and point out some of the most amazing and beautiful cave decorations. These are a great team building exercise and extremely popular with school groups. Our adventure tours won the bronze medal in Western Australian Tourism Awards and can be tailored in difficulty to suit students from Yr 6 upwards.

Available at: Ngilgi Cave

Duration: allow 2 hours

Price: From \$22.50 per student depending on group size
1 teacher free per 10 kids

Legends and Lanterns

Explore the cave as people did 100 years ago! Lit only by the torch in your hand, expert guides take you through the boardwalks of the main showcave. Hear the beautiful Dreamtime stories associated with the cave and the tales of European explorers as they slipped, slid and fumbled their way through the darkness. An amazing tour, great for school camps.

Available at: Ngilgi Cave

Duration: allow 1.5 hours

Price: From \$14.90 per student depending on group size
1 teacher free per 10 kids

Explorer Tour

Designed to take students that little bit further, the Explorer Tour offers a new challenge for older or more able participants. Encompassing all the challenges of the Ancient Riverbed, cavers will head further into the darkness under the main showcave and tackle the legendary 'Footloose' and 'Double Squeeze'. Safety is foremost as always, and our certified guides will deliver your students back to the boardwalks after an unforgettable experience.

Available at: Ngilgi Cave

Duration: allow 2.5 hours

Price: From \$33 for students depending on group size
1 teacher free per 7 kids



Cave Education Programs

Climate Change Workshop

The Climate Change Workshop looks not only at the impact human activity is having on the Earth's climate but also examines the natural process of climate change through geological time. It is this 'gradual climate change' that has, for the past one million years, caused the evolution of the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge and the spectacular limestone caves nestled within. Students will participate in a presentation and discussion in the Lake Cave theatre.

They will examine stalagmite cross-sections to show how these cave formations are able to yield the weather records of past millennia and learn of the research being undertaken by scientists and staff into the hydrology of Lake and Jewel Caves. During a private tour of the stunning Lake Cave, students will descend through 62 metres and one million years of geology to see for themselves the effects of 'both kinds' of climate change and what we are undertaking to halt the rapid change evident in our caves.

Available at: Lake Cave

Duration: Allow 2 hours

Price: Adults \$18.50, students \$15
1 teacher free per 10 kids

Biodiversity Workshop

The southwest region is one of only 34 internationally recognised 'biodiversity hotspots' - regions described as 'the richest and most threatened reservoirs of plant and animal life on Earth'. This is the only Australian representative on the list. On our Biodiversity Cave workshop, students will learn of the unique micro-

ecosystems within Jewel Cave and the surrounding environment. Here dwell remnant populations of 'stygo fauna'; animals that live permanently in the underground water, many of them being ancient species and relics from the Gondwanan age. With the use of microscopes and magnifying lamps students can examine their surface dwelling relatives and examine enlarged models of stygo fauna before heading into Jewel Cave and experiencing their environment first hand.

Available at: Jewel Cave

Duration: Allow 2 hours

Prices: Adults \$18.50, students \$15
1 teacher free per 10 kids

Ngilgi School Cultural Tour

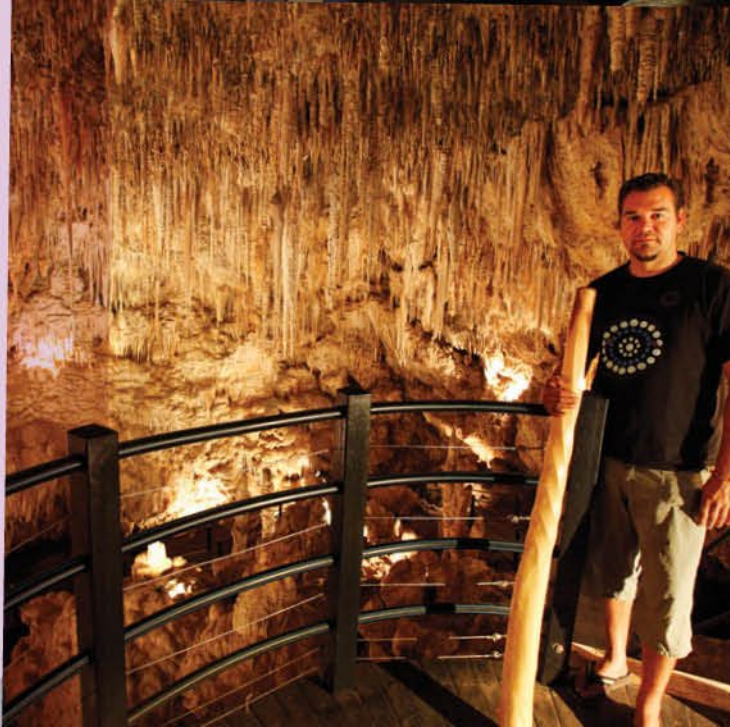
**Available only in conjunction with another tour*

The Wardandi people of the Busselton, Dunsborough and Margaret River areas have walked this ancient land for almost 50,000 years. Take this opportunity to experience the country through their eyes. Taste bush tucker, learn bush medicine, discover the art of traditional re lighting and tool making, and meet the animals, plants and Dreaming spirits that have enriched the lives of Wardandi people since time began.

Available at: Ngilgi Cave

Duration: allow 1.5 hours

Price: Adults \$18, students \$9 minimum booking 20pax
1 teacher free per 10 kids



Lighthouse Education Programs

Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse

With tales of shipwrecks, ghosts and mercury madness Cape Naturaliste has it all. This operational lighthouse built in 1903 offers an outdoors experience like no other. Introducing students to Australia's magnificent maritime history, the tales surrounding this rough and isolated light station will entertain and ignite the imagination. With incredible views of rugged coastline, marvel at this engineering masterpiece as you learn about the working lives of the keepers and their families.

Duration: 30 minutes; dependent on group size

Price: From \$5.70 per student dependent on group size
1 teacher free per 10 kids

Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse

The tallest lighthouse on mainland Australia, Cape Leeuwin has stood guard over the Southern and Indian Ocean for over 100 years. From wild winter storms to stunning summer days, the view from the top of Cape Leeuwin's 39 metre tower is one of the most dramatic in the southwest. Students listen to real stories told by lighthouse keepers and families who lived at this remote outstation on the audio headsets in the grounds before heading inside and up the top of the lighthouse on a fully guided tour. Be sure to pack your camera. On the ground and in the air, you'll love it here.

Duration: 30 minutes; dependent on group size

Price: Adults \$15, students \$9.5
1 teacher free per 10 kids

Culture and Heritage Program

Spend some time with one of our expert guides at the Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse where students are entertained and intrigued by the stories of the spectacular and harsh environment experienced by the first Europeans to sight, shipwreck and settle in this unique landscape. Be introduced to the Noongar Aboriginal culture and its 'six seasons'. Enjoy a private tour of the lighthouse and gaze out to the meeting point of two great oceans: the Indian and Southern. Stories of the life of the early settlers and lighthouse keepers are unveiled and brought to life against this iconic backdrop.

Available at: Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse

Duration: allow 2 hours.

Price: Adults \$15, students \$12.50
1 teacher free per 10 kids

Tracks 'n' Scats Fieldtrip

Students head outdoors for a scientific expedition to track the local fauna of the capes region. A practical and engaging activity, the Tracks 'n' Scats Fieldtrip introduces students to a host of familiar and not-so familiar local fauna. Highlighting the importance of scientific research in the conservation of native species, students spend an introductory session discussing native wildlife and the methods used to record their activity before heading out onto the trails to 'track' a variety of different species.

Available at: Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse.

Duration: allow 2.5 hours.

Price: Adults \$15, students \$13
1 teacher free per 10 kids



Testimonials

They had an “amazing” and “awesome” time! They “saved isopods” and “liked the Aboriginal Dreamtime story” and “one of the best parts was when all the lights were put out in the deepest part of the cave. There was no light nor sound”

– *Phil Gregory - Bunbury Senior High School*

The whole tour was awesome, stunning place, professional and friendly guides who really made the place come alive.

Thanks to you and the team for everything, hope to see you again!

– *Simon Miskin - South Coast Baptist College*

It was FANTASTIC! Thank you very much for the great experience. As for late notice, you actually reminded me that I still have the kids fan mail. I have been meaning to post that since before the school holidays so I will send it this week. The students favourite parts are detailed in their letters =) Personally I loved the adventure and the engagement levels that were invoked in the kids. The knowledge you all had was awesome. Thank you very much for the wonderful experience.

– *Chelsea Woodcock - St Anne's School*



Location

The Margaret River Region is located 2.5 hours south of Perth and refers to the stretch of coast between Cape Naturaliste, Cape Leeuwin and inland. For schools visiting the area, there is a myriad of outdoor activities to engage all students including caving, hiking, camping, mountain biking, surfing and snorkeling to name a few. Featuring a rich Indigenous, European and maritime history, there is a host of cultural experiences available to cater to all interests. The area is also listed as an international biodiversity hotspot, being home to a collection of unique and endangered flora and fauna protected in the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park.

Accommodation

There is a range of accommodation options available in the Margaret River Region from campsites and dormitories through to villa style accommodation. For more information or to make use of our free booking services please contact us on 9755 2152.



Booking Your Cave or Lighthouse Field Trip

To book any of the tours in this teacher guide contact us on the details below:

P. +61 (8) 9755 2152

E. education@margaretriver.com

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