

Mammoth Cave is a magical set of caverns and natural time capsule located in the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park. It is home to the ancient fossil remains of long-extinct giant animals known as Australian Megafauna. This site is one of Australia's most important paleontological digs in the early 1900s and the cave still contains the fossil jawbone of one of these giant marsupial species embedded within the limestone wall - 50,000 years after the animal roamed the forests above.

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PURPOSE OF THE EXCURSION

Mammoth Cave is the most easily accessible of all the show caves in the region, with the first chamber actually accessible by wheelchair. Our expert guides will take you on the boardwalks and platforms through majestic caverns, show you the huge array of formations, explain the geology and the history of the unique fossils still on display. A visit to Mammoth Cave finishes with a winding walk through the beautiful marri forest, with whistling birds and stunning flora displays. Mammoth Cave is much more than a cave - it is a complete nature experience.

Enjoy a guided tour with our friendly and knowledgeable guides or combine your visit as part of the Megafauna Workshop and learn all about the incredible megafauna with an introductory discussion and presentation at our Lake Cave theatre.

Our tours combined with our education resource packs available from the education Officer 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

- Mammoth Cave is located 20 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, however access to the first chamber only is possible by wheelchair. Discuss with staff if you have any questions.
- There is a total of 540 stairs (return) in the cave separated by rest and viewing platforms.
- We have oxygen and Ventolin inhalers on site in the rare event that an issue arises.
- Tours are tailored to suit student ability at all times, our school group guides are first aid trained and have Working with Children Certificates.
- We have emergency protocols covering all aspects of our show cave tour products, these documents are available from our education Officer upon request.
- Accommodation is available at a range of sites located near the cave, varying from National Park campsites to commercial campgrounds and a number of private residences. For more details contact Margaret River Visitor Centre on 9780 5911.

<p>1.2 Transport Arrangements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mammoth Cave is located three and a half hours from Perth and only 20 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 Caves 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 guides have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior First Aid Certificate • Working with Children Certificates <p>Mammoth 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 style="text-align: center;">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

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.

In the event of an emergency, we are never more than 10 minutes from assistance. Our site office has emergency phone service if further help is required from emergency services.

6. EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANNING

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.

Mammoth 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.

Please note that our protocol covers:

- 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

Tour Program

Prior to Tour

- Check all safety equipment
- Confirm numbers
- Introduce guides to students and teachers
- Divide into groups
- Depart office
- Onsite health and safety briefing

Commence tour

- Group stops at regular intervals to assess students' wellbeing and for further safety information

Tour Close

- Debrief Return to office

8. OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

Mammoth Cave has been in operation as a Showcave for the past 110 years. It has been managed by the Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association (formerly the Augusta Margaret River Tourism Association), since 1956, and remains one of the regions most visited attractions.

More details are available at www.margaretriver.com

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

This information is valid until 31st December 2017