



Explore the ancient wonders of Ngilgi Cave, deep below the limestone ridge which forms Cape Naturaliste. Filled with amazing stalactites, stalagmites and crystal decorations, Ngilgi Cave (formerly known as Yallingup Cave) is one of the regions most renowned tourist attractions.

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PURPOSE OF THE EXCURSION

Ngilgi Cave offers an exhilarating and awe inspiring nature experience suitable for students of all skill levels. We have a range of tours from fully interpreted guided tours of the main show caves through to our award winning adventure tours which take students off the boardwalks and into some of the most pristine areas of this magnificent cave.

Ngilgi has rich historical and regional significance and the stories of this cave have been passed down by the Wardandi Aboriginal people through dreamtime stories for generations.

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

- Ngilgi Cave is located 6 kilometres from the popular tourist town of Dunsborough in the Cape Naturaliste Region.
- 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.
- The Adventure Tours for students are considered 'soft adventure'; however a greater level of mobility is required and a moderate level of fitness. There are short sections of the cave which are smaller and may cause claustrophobia in some students, however due to their brevity are almost always accessible with the careful assistance of our trained guides.

1.1 Environment (cont.)

- There is a total of 350 stairs in the cave separated by rest and viewing platforms and participants will descend to a maximum depth of 37m on the Fully Guided Tours and 45m on the Adventure 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. 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 guides are first aid trained and have Working With Children certificates.
- We have rigorous emergency protocols covering all aspects of our show cave and adventure 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 caves, varying from National Park campsites to commercial campgrounds and a number of private residences for more details contact Dunsborough Visitor Centre on 9752 2066.

1.2 Transport Arrangements

- Ngilgi Cave is located two and a half hours from Perth and only twenty five minutes from Busselton. 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 Yallingup Caves Road. There are also several walking trails providing access to the cave grounds from Yallingup township and surrounding areas.

1.3 Student Capacity

- 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.

1.4 Supervisor/Supervisory Team

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:

- 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

1.5 External Providers

Our staff have:

- Department of Environment and Conservation Caving Leadership Accreditation

- Senior First Aid Certificate
- Working With Children Checks

Upon request a copy of Working With Children Checks can be provided.

Ngilgi 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.

2. SUPERVISION STRATEGIES

We prefer a ratio of:

1 teacher : 25 students for Fully Guided Showcave Tours

1 teacher : 10 students for Adventure Tours

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. We employ full safety briefings for all Adventure Tours.

3. IDENTIFICATION OF EXCURSION PARTICIPANTS

In the board walked show cave tours this is the responsibility of the school; however students are always accompanied by guides and school supervisors. With Adventure Tours students will be wearing helmets and headlights so are easily identifiable at all times

4. INFORMATION TO PARENTS FOR THEIR CONSENT

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 have radio contact and relay throughout the cave and are never more than five minutes from assistance. We are able to contact the office, which has a dedicated emergency phone if further help is required from emergency services.

6. EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANNING

In the case of an emergency, please follow the directions of Ngilgi Cave staff who are responsible for implementing the emergency response plan, including evacuation procedures.

Ngilgi Cave has an extensive set of Emergency Response Plans. If you would like details of these emergency plans please contact us at ngilgi@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 DEC emergency contact details

7. BRIEFING STUDENTS AND SUPERVISORS

Tour Program

Prior to Tour

- Check all safety equipment and communications
- Confirm numbers
- Introduce guides to students and teachers
- Demonstrate and assign safety equipment, divide into groups
- Depart office
- Onsite health and safety briefing

Commence tour

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

Tour Close

- Debrief and return safety equipment
- Return to office

8. OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

Ngilgi Cave has been operated by the Margaret River Busselton Tourism for the past 22 years and remains one of the regions most visited attractions. We offer a range of products to suit different participants and our Adventure Tours were nominated for Western Australian Tourism Awards in 2008 and took home a bronze medal in 2009.

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