



A11.WV

Waitomo and Volcanoes

North Island, New Zealand

New Zealand cavers are offering three consecutive excursions that link together, so you can choose to select any one, two or all of the excursions.



Photo: John Brush

The first trip will be based at Waitomo for four days and then travel south down the North Island, via the volcanic area of Taupo–Ruapehu to Wellington. From Wellington the ferry will connect participants with the second excursion on the South Island.

The cost of this excursion includes group transport only. There are a range of accommodation and meal options in Waitomo so participants can choose

what suits their style and budget. The local organisers are well-acquainted with all the local options and are happy to assist participants with accommodation options.

Because this excursion is outside Australia it cannot be paid for with other registration charges. ICS registrants who book this and or the other New Zealand excursions will be advised the method of payment after booking.

Summary:

Starting place, date and time.	End place, date and approximate time.	Number of participants.	Sleeping bags required.	Camping gear (tents) required.	Included meals.	SRT required.	Cost
Auckland, New Zealand, 31 July Late afternoon, city and airport.	Wellington, New Zealand, 6 August.	Min: 8 Max: 14	Depends on the accommodation you select.	No.	None	Optional, depending on interest of the group.	\$210 NZD



Detail:

Name of excursion.	A11.WV Waitomo and Volcanoes North Island, New Zealand
Contact person.	Dave Smith: dave.smith.nz@gmail.com
Overview of excursion.	<p>The excursion will be based at Waitomo for four days and then travel south down the North Island, via the volcanic area of Taupo–Ruapehu to Wellington.</p> <p>Two options will be available on each of the first four days (Tuesday to Friday). These will be either wild caves or show caves/karst walks.</p> <p>The trip leaders will be Dave Smith and Pete Chandler who both live in the Waitomo area, work in caves and are recreational cavers.</p>
Starting place, date and time.	Auckland, Monday 31 July. Pickups late afternoon at both CBD and airport.
Finishing place, date and time.	Wellington, Sunday 6 August. The journey will connect to the South Island ferry, allowing participants to continue on to A12.NL (South Island). Alternatively, the excursion can be completed at Wellington.
Min and max no of participants.	Minimum: 8 people Maximum: 14 people
Cost of excursion and what is included.	\$210NZD per person for transport. Besides the transport cost, the excursion will be ‘pay as you go’ as far as practical. This allows people to select accommodation and eating options that suit their preference and budget. We will help you find accommodation that suits.
Transport.	Mini-van and one private car.

Accommodation type.	Options include hotels, bed and breakfasts, backpackers, campground, and caving club hut. We will help you find accommodation that suits. The local caving club hut is about \$12NZD per person per night, with other Waitomo accommodation up to \$200NZD per person per night. Transport will pick people up from their accommodation each day. Accommodation mid-week at Waitomo during winter is readily available and does not need to be booked far in advance.			
Bedding requirements.	Varies with the accommodation option you select.			
What meals are included?	None.			
Arrangements for meals not covered and anticipated costs.	Again we want to provide people with options to suit their budget. We can take you to a supermarket at the start of the excursion for self-catering. Hopefully the group will choose to dine communally at some local cafe/pub/restaurant each night. Typical cafe/restaurant meals are \$20-\$40NZD, plus drinks. Cafe breakfasts are about \$10-\$20NZD, and a packed lunch \$5-\$10NZD.			
Is SRT required?	For those wanting to do wild caving in Waitomo we will see what range of participants we have and advise. There are plenty of good caves that do not require SRT.			
Clothing requirements.	It will be winter in New Zealand. Bring raincoats and warm, layered clothing for general travel. Wild caves will be cool and damp. Thermal clothing, helmets, lights, overalls and solid footwear required. It is unlikely we will do any SRT or wetsuit caves unless the whole wild cave group has expressed interest. Show caves will be about 13°C. Please bring a refillable water bottle.			
Average weather details for August (Te Kuiti).	Min temp 3° C	Max temp 18° C	Rainfall 103 mm	Daylight hours 10.5 hrs
Travel considerations: remote area, phone coverage, medical access, money access, local quarantine issues.	Mobile phone coverage is available in Waitomo but not always in the surrounding area where we will be caving. ATM and credit card facilities are readily available. Larger service towns with supermarkets, pharmacies and doctors are about 20 minutes away from Waitomo, transport provided as required. New Zealand has strict quarantine requirements. Please don't mess around on the customs declarations when you enter the country. Clean your caving gear too as New Zealand customs officers will check gear assiduously and charge a cleaning fee if required.			



Photo: Greg Martin