



A12.NL

Nelson

South 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 three of the excursions.

Nelson is the second of the three excursions and will follow on from the A11.WV (North Island) excursion. You can either join this excursion as an extension of A11.WV or make your own way to Nelson to meet on the evening of Sunday 6 August.

The Nelson excursion will introduce participants to the different Nelson karst areas and a variety of caves to suit their ability. The excursion will begin with one night in Nelson, followed by two nights on Takaka Hill and two nights in Golden Bay. There will be talks and presentations introducing the Nelsons karst (at different times).

The Nelson excursion will link to the third New Zealand excursion (A13.WCK).

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
Nelson city, New Zealand, 6 August, evening	Nelson, New Zealand, 11 August.	Three groups varying between 4 and 16 people.	No.	No.	Meals for two days included in cost. Other meals readily available at local cafes/restaurants.	Depends on which group you choose.	\$290 NZD



Photo: Neil Silverwood

Details:

Name of excursion.	A12.NL Nelson South Island, New Zealand
Contact person.	Alison Pickford: NelsonWestCoastExcursion@caves.org.nz
Overview of excursion.	<p>The Nelson karst contains the deepest and longest cave systems in New Zealand. Every year a significant amount of new caves and passages are discovered. Due to it being winter it will not be practical to visit our alpine cave systems. The Takaka Hill is the closest karst to Nelson, approximately one hours drive away. Takaka Hill marble contains extensive cave systems to a depth of 400 metres. Golden Bay is a further one hours drive to the west of Takaka Hill. Golden Bay has diverse karst areas ranging from subtropical forest, to coastal and steep hill country. The limestone caves here tend to be horizontal.</p> <p>The excursion will begin with one night in Nelson, followed by two nights on Takaka Hill and two nights in Golden Bay.</p> <p>Up to three options will be available each day:</p> <p>Takaka Hill Karst 7 and 8 August</p> <p>Option 1: Caving trips to extensive vertical cave systems: participants will need a high level of fitness and be experienced SRT cavers. Time underground eight to 10 hours each day.</p> <p>Option 2: Easier caves: time underground four to six hours each day.</p> <p>Option 3: Surface karst walks: interpretation tours and some sightseeing options.</p>

	<p>Golden Bay Karst 9 and 10 August</p> <p>Option 1: Easier caves: time underground four to six hours each day. Option 2: Surface karst walks: interpretation tours and some site seeing options.</p> <p>Participants intending on going caving will need to provide a brief history of their recent caving experience and general fitness. Participation in caving options will depend on the trip leader's decision that applicants are suitably skilled and physically capable of the excursion.</p>
Starting place, date and time.	Nelson city, New Zealand, Sunday 6 August, evening. Participants coming from A11.WV (North Island) will be met at the Picton ferry terminal on Sunday afternoon and will be driven to Nelson.
Finishing place, date and time.	Friday 11 August after breakfast. Participants can finish the excursion at this point or join A13.WCK which will depart the Nelson area and travel down to the West Coast (for the third New Zealand excursion).
Min and max no of participants.	Option 1 experienced SRT cavers: Minimum 4, Maximum 8. Option 2 easier caving option: Minimum 4, Maximum 8. Option 3 surface tours: Minimum 8, Maximum 16.
Cost of excursion and what is included.	\$290NZD This will cover all transport costs including transport from the Picton ferry terminal to Nelson, two nights accommodation on Takaka Hill and meals on 7 and 8 August. Plus the use of ropes and rigging.
Transport.	Private or hired vehicle.
Accommodation type.	A full range of accommodation other than the two nights on Takaka Hill will be available from \$40NZD up to \$200NZD per person per night. Participants will 'pay as you go' as far as practical. This allows people to select accommodation and eating options that suit their style and budget. We will help you find accommodation that suits.
Bedding requirements.	All accommodation will have bed linen, towels and cooking facilities, crockery and utensils.
What meals are included?	The meals for the Takaka Hill section of the excursion are included in the cost. Meal options will be readily available in the other locations.
Arrangements for meals not covered and anticipated costs.	<p>Typical cafe/restaurant meals are \$20-\$40NZD, plus drinks. Cafe breakfasts might be \$15-\$20NZD. Hopefully the group will choose to dine communally at a local cafe or restaurant each night.</p> <p>There will be time to visit supermarkets at the start of the excursion, so that participants have the best opportunity to buy food that suits their tastes and dietary requirements. The group will visit the supermarket together, to allow for discussion and help in purchase decisions.</p>
Is SRT required?	Those doing caving will need to bring all their personal caving gear: light, helmet, suit, undergarments, boots, caving pack and SRT gear. SRT gear should be set up for European-style SRT for multiple re-belays.
Clothing requirements.	It will be winter in NZ. Undergarments of two sets of leg thermals (or similar) and three thermal tops are standard clothing for local cavers. A spare warm top should be carried. An over-suit of either PVC or heavy-duty Cordura is needed. Gloves for protection. A balaclava is

	recommended. Footwear is usually gumboots/Wellingtons with thick socks or wetsuit socks. Wetsuits are not required A change of clothing to wear in the transport for the return from the days caving will be required.			
Average weather details for August (Nelson).	Min temp -1° C	Max temp 17° C	Rainfall 72 mm	Daylight hours 10 hrs
Travel considerations: remote area, phone coverage, medical access, money access, local quarantine issues.	Mobile phone coverage is available over 90% of the excursion area. ATM and credit card facilities are very common. Pharmacies will often be 30 minutes to one hours drive away. Transport provided as required.			

