



**A4.JC**

**Jenolan Caves**

**New South Wales**

Jenolan Caves are the world’s oldest, known and dated, open cave system. They contain Silurian marine fossils. The cave network has over 40 kilometres of multi-level passage, more than 300 entrances and 11 show caves.

The caves are located in the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and are about a three hour bus trip west of the congress venue of Penrith. The caves are set in a picturesque valley surrounded by limestone cliffs, spectacular arches and caves.

Options are available to upgrade your accommodation at additional cost, see detail information below.



Photo: Garry K Smith

**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 A\$ (Incl. GST)
Penrith, Panthers (meet outside near main entrance) 30 July 9.00 a.m.	Central Railway Station 5 August Approximately 12.00 p.m.	Min: 16 Max: 20	No (but may be preferred for extra warmth on cold nights).	No	Breakfasts and lunches. Dinner additional at own expense.	Optional	\$705



Photo: Garry K Smith

**Details:**

Name of excursion.	A4.JC Jenolan Caves
Contact person.	Andrew C Baker: <a href="mailto:Andrew.Baker@environment.nsw.gov.au">Andrew.Baker@environment.nsw.gov.au</a>
Overview of excursion.	<p>Our half-day coach trip to Jenolan Caves will include stops at the famed lookouts at the Three Sisters and Govetts Leap.</p> <p>The excursion will include four days of wild caving trips, with an option for vertical caving on one of these days (weather dependent).</p> <p>The Wednesday will be a free day for participants to pursue activities as they choose (show caves, walking, photography and just enjoying the tranquil Jenolan environment at your own pace).</p> <p>Participants will need to be physically fit and able to sustain up to seven hours of moderate exercise and climbing agility for each day of wild caving. Some caving trips will be much shorter and most caves don't require SRT. Only people with a very good level of stamina and rope skills will be able to participate in the optional vertical trip involving SRT, which will be the most demanding trip on the program (weather dependent). There should be options for participants to choose horizontal trips each day. There will be a few squeezes and a little mud on some trips. Participants may opt out of any days planned activities to relax or visit a guided show cave (at additional expense).</p> <p>All show caves (optional activity for the Wednesday free day) involve steps and require a moderate level of fitness. No caving equipment is required for the show caves.</p>

Starting place, date and time.	Penrith, Panthers (outside main entrance) Sunday 30 July, 9.00 a.m.
Finishing place, date and time.	Sydney, Central Railway Station, Saturday 5 August, approximately 12.00 p.m.  Alternatively, for those wishing to extend their stay in the Blue Mountains, there is the opportunity to disembark from the coach at Katoomba Railway Station (approximately 10.30 a.m.).
Min and max no of participants.	Minimum: 16 people Maximum: 20 people
Cost of excursion and what is included.	A\$705 per person. Includes coach transport to and from Jenolan Caves, dormitory accommodation at the Gate House, full buffet breakfasts, packed lunches, one show cave ticket, four days of wild caving trips, private vehicle transport to and from wild caves. Evening meals are not included in the package. Options available to upgrade accommodation at additional cost.
Transport.	Coach and private vehicles.
Accommodation type.	The accommodation costed for this package is at the backpacker lodge, named the Gate House, which has bunk beds with four or six persons per room.  People wishing to upgrade to any of the following accommodation options can add one of the following amounts to the standard A\$705 package. If upgrading, you need to nominate, for booking purposes, who is to be booked into the same room as yourself. Please see the attachment 'Room Description' for additional details.  All prices below are the full additional cost covering the accommodation upgrade for the seven day package. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classic: add A\$200 per person. Only two people per room, queen bed.</li> <li>• Grand Classic: add A\$350 per person. Only two people per room. king bed or two twin beds per room.</li> <li>• Mountain Lodge King: add A\$170 per person. Only two people per room, king bed.</li> <li>• Mountain Lodge Family: add A\$270 per person. Only two people per room, king bed plus two single beds.</li> <li>• Mountain Lodge Family: add A\$40 per person. Must have four people per room, king bed plus two single beds.</li> </ul>
Bedding requirements.	All accommodation includes pillow, sheeting and blanket. Gate House accommodation does not include a towel. (You might wish to bring a sleeping bag for extra warmth.) Ear-plugs are advised in case there is a snorer in your room.
What meals are included?	Buffet breakfast each morning and packed lunches (sandwiches and fruit) are included in package cost. A plastic reusable lunchbox will be supplied to each participant so sandwiches can be carried in cave packs. Please bring a one litre re-fillable water bottle. Evening meals (dinner) are not included in package.

Arrangements for meals not covered and anticipated costs.	Chisolm's Restaurant at Caves House is open each evening for dinner. Orders need to be made by 7.30 p.m. each evening. Prices for evening main meals, range from A\$20 and upwards. For further details see <a href="http://www.jenolancaves.org.au">www.jenolancaves.org.au</a> Alternatively, if you bring your own groceries for evening meals, there is a small kitchen in the Gate House where you can prepare meals. Please note that groceries would need to be purchased before the excursion commences in Penrith. Also, the cost of the excursion is set to include breakfasts and lunches and this cannot be reduced by selecting to self-cater for these meals.								
Is SRT required?	SRT skills and personal equipment is required for people wishing to participate on the optional vertical caving. Personal equipment includes: harness, descenders (no figure 8s please), ascenders and gloves. All ropes and anchor attachment hardware will be supplied by trip organisers.								
Clothing requirements.	Personal helmet, leather gloves, main headlight plus two other backup lights, sturdy footwear, cotton coveralls or caving suit, long-sleeved thermal top and pants, cave pack, small personal first aid kit, urine bottle (used drink bottles are excellent). Generally you will not get wet while caving, the exception being one vertical cave, where it may be necessary to walk a short distance in knee-deep water.  Participants must have appropriate clothing for the winter conditions. Air temperature inside the caves will be about 15° C. However, atmospheric temperature gradients during winter may cause a breeze through narrow entrances with temperatures as low as 7° C for some distance into the caves.								
Average weather details for August (Oberon).	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Min temp</td> <td>Max temp</td> <td>Rainfall</td> <td>Daylight hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td>0.7° C</td> <td>10.5° C</td> <td>73 mm</td> <td>10.5 hrs</td> </tr> </table>	Min temp	Max temp	Rainfall	Daylight hours	0.7° C	10.5° C	73 mm	10.5 hrs
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Travel considerations: remote area, phone coverage, medical access, money access, local quarantine issues.	There is one pay phone at Jenolan and mobile phone (only Telstra) coverage is limited to about 0.5 km around Jenolan Caves House. The nearest hospital is about a one hour drive from Jenolan. No medical supplies are available at Jenolan. There is ATM money access and credit cards are accepted.								
Other special requirements.	We ask that all caving gear be clean prior to coming to Jenolan Caves, especially if you have come from a White Nose Syndrome infected country.								

