



A6.ND

Nullarbor Diving

Western Australia

This excursion is separate to other ICS organised excursions. It is being organised and conducted under the auspices of the Cave Divers Association of Australia (CDAA). Applications must be lodged direct with the CDAA organisers.

For all enquiries about joining this trip please contact the excursion organiser direct, Tim Featonby; tim.featonby@hotmail.com with your expression of interest. Bookings and payment for this cave diving excursion will not be available via the ICS Registration facility. If accepted on the excursion participants will be advised about details and a method of payment by the excursion leader.

Suitably experienced and qualified cave divers will be able to experience some of the best-known Nullarbor cave diving opportunities.

Local cave divers will organise two base camps so that visiting cave divers will have permits and some logistics organised for them. There will also be guidance and advice from local cave divers as well as opportunities for instruction. However, cave divers will still need to organise their own transport, food and equipment. The organisers can provide advice to assist with planning your trip.

The camps will be located 1270 and 1530 kilometres from Adelaide. This is remote, semi-arid



Photo: Tim Featonby



Photo: Tim Featonby

country. There are no towns, just some small settlements located at the roadhouses that are strung along the Eyre Highway to service travellers. All of these roadhouses have very limited services and none have any emergency facilities.

Details:

Name of excursion.	A6.ND Nullarbor Plain, cave diving
Coordinator/leader.	Tim Featonby: tim.featonby@hotmail.com Telephone: +61 (0) 402 129 253
Overview of excursion.	<p>This excursion is being organised and conducted under the auspices of Cave Divers Association of Australia (CDAA).</p> <p>There are a number of world famous cave dives in the Nullarbor Plain such as Cocklebiddy Cave with over seven kilometres of underwater tunnel and three sumps, Murra el-eleven, and Weebubbie Cave to name but a few. Most of the caves lie about 100 metres below ground level and are quite extensive.</p> <p>These caves offer crystal-clear, extensive and very rewarding dives to all levels of experience in some of the most remote locations in the world.</p> <p>Participants will have to be qualified cave divers (not cavern) and will be required to obtain visitor permits as part of the CDAA. The CDAA has agreed to provide free visitor membership to suitably qualified persons.</p> <p>There will be camps set up for three weeks post-congress at Weebubbie Cave and Cocklebiddy Cave where divers can camp and dive for as long as they like as well as allowing for day excursions to some of the nearby cave dives or combine the trip with a few days diving and, if suitably skilled, perhaps join the Bunda Cliffs trip (A7.NP) being organised on the Nullarbor at the same time.</p> <p>Participants will be required to arrange travel out to the sites and will need to bring basic camping equipment such as tent, sleeping bag, food, dive equipment, helmet, light and boots.</p> <p>The camps will be at remote sites with no amenities of any kind. There will be spare tent room and sleeping bags so if participants require any equipment this can be arranged, provided plenty of notice is given.</p> <p>The camps will be staffed by suitably qualified and experienced CDAA volunteers who would like to show our caves to the world. Come and experience expedition-type diving where most of the work and heavy equipment set-up is already done for you.</p> <p>There is some capacity for training while out there. Contact the leader for further details.</p>
Starting date.	Camps set up from Thursday 3 August 2017.
Finishing date.	Camps will be closed on Thursday 24 August 2017 unless prior arrangements have been made with the leader.
Min and max no of participants.	It is preferable that all parties advise the leader of their planned arrival date in advance.
Cost of excursion and what is included.	There will be a daily fee of A\$120 to cover camp organisation and equipment as below. As this excursion is being organised and run through a separate, independent organisation and not the ICS committee, bookings and payments will need to be made direct with the excursion coordinator (Tim Featonby) rather than through the ICS booking system.

	<p>Facilities to be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 240 v power. - Kitchen area and cooking equipment. - Fridge. - Water. - A shovel (you dig your own toilet hole). - Dive tanks if required. - Power and lighting inside the cave at the water's edge. - Air compressors and 300m fill whips to fill dive tanks at the water's edge. - Guides or dive-buddy if required as well as maps and advice. - UHF radios. - First-aid and oxygen equipment as well as satellite telephone for emergencies. 								
Transport.	There may be options to arrange travel with other divers or cavers travelling to the area. If you are looking for transport or plan to hire a vehicle that you are happy to share, please send your planned travel dates to the trip coordinator who will endeavour to link you up with others.								
Accommodation type.	Camping.								
Bedding requirements.	Warm sleeping bag (to suit -0° C temperatures) and sleeping mats required. The desert is freezing cold at night. Minus Celcius temperatures and strong winds will occur.								
What meals are included?	No meals will be provided. You will need to organise your own supplies or link up with others, There is a quarantine check-point at Eucla, Western Australia and all vehicles are thoroughly searched by government bio-security officers. No fresh food (i.e. no fresh fruit, vegetables, honey) can be taken west of this point. You will need to bring non-perishable items. Arrangements can be made for food to be transported by bus to Eucla. However, this will be expensive.								
Local services.	There are roadhouses on the Nullarbor which provide overnight accommodation, camping, cooked meals and limited supplies of grocery items. Prices can be relatively expensive due to the remote locations and cost of transport.								
Is SRT required?	Yes, some caves require SRT to descend into the cave.								
Clothing requirements.	Besides cave diving equipment, you will need clothing to survive the cold and windy conditions at the campsites, The days can be warm and sunny (and require sun protection) while the nights are often extremely cold. Multiple layers of warm clothing will be required, including a wind-proof outer shell, warm hat and gloves. A wide-brimmed hat with a chin-strap will be required above ground in the day.								
Average weather details for August (Eucla).	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Min temp</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Max temp</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Rainfall</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Daylight hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7.5° C</td> <td style="text-align: center;">19.5° C</td> <td style="text-align: center;">27 mm</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10.5 hrs</td> </tr> </table>	Min temp	Max temp	Rainfall	Daylight hours	7.5° C	19.5° C	27 mm	10.5 hrs
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<p>Travel considerations: remote area, phone coverage, medical access, money access, local quarantine issues.</p>	<p>Phone reception is limited and generally only available in the immediate vicinity of roadhouses. Reception is often limited to Telstra. There are no medical facilities in this remote part of Australia and any medical emergency will require transport to a designated part of the Eyre Highway that can be used as an emergency landing strip for light aircraft. Emergency help can take many hours to arrive.</p> <p>For quarantine requirements for entering Western Australia check: www.quarantinedomestic.gov.au</p>
<p>Other special requirements.</p>	<p>All caving clothing and equipment must be clean prior to being used in WA, especially if you have come from a White Nose Syndrome infected area or country.</p>



Photo: Tim Featonby