



A7.NP

Nullarbor Plain, Bunda Cliffs

South Australia

The Nullarbor Plain is one of the world’s largest single exposures of limestone and is about 200,000 square kilometres in area.

It is remote, flat, almost treeless, semi-arid country, has no towns and only a handful of small settlements with very limited facilities.

In recent years, the Cave Exploration Group of South Australia (CEGSA) has conducted a series of speleological expeditions at the Bunda Cliffs, on the Great Ocean Bight, at the edge of Nullarbor; a 173 kilometre long cliff-face reaching up to 100 metres above the sea.

A major expedition is planned for August 2017, following the 17th ICS.

This expedition will involve bush camping in a very remote area. The camp will be close to the cliffs, approximately 100 kilometres east of the border between South Australia and Western Australia and approximately 1200 kilometres from Adelaide, the nearest major city.

CEGSA is inviting expressions of interest from skilled vertical cavers attending the 17th ICS to join the expedition, but places are limited.



Only participants approved to join this excursion may book their place via the ICS registration facility. Refer also to the additional details and application advice document. Expressions of interest must be received by 1 December 2016.

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\$ (including GST) |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Adelaide, SA 30 July 10.00 a.m. | Adelaide 12 August 8.00 p.m. | Places are limited | Yes. | Yes, but can be arranged with leader. | All meals, excluding travels days. | Yes. | \$1650 ex Adelaide. |



Photo: Banunga Cavers

Detail:

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| Name of excursion. | A7.NP Nullarbor Plain, Bunda Cliffs (vertical caving expedition) |
| Contact person. | Steve Milner: steve.milner@adelaide.on.net |
| Overview of excursion. | <p>We are inviting expressions of interest from skilled vertical cavers attending the 17th International Congress of Speleology to join the expedition. Places are limited. Please also read the additional details document. If you would like to join the expedition, please send details of your vertical caving skills to Steve Milner at the email above. Places are limited and expressions of interest should be made by 1 December 2016.</p> <p>The expedition will descend the cliffs to enter unexplored target caves; close to sea level and mid-cliff. The caves above sea level are likely to be dry; around 18° C. When working underground, the caves are a very pleasant temperature, but there is no drinking water. Cotton-type overalls are generally required.</p> <p>The descent of the cliffs is hazardous, but safe when undertaken with due care. A very high degree of vertical caving competency is essential and references to confirm this competency are required.</p> <p>As full members of the expedition, it is expected that people will fully and enthusiastically contribute to the discovery, exploration and record-keeping (including photography and mapping) of caves which have never been explored before.</p> <p>It will be mid-winter and there is a reasonable possibility there will be uncomfortable weather conditions including high temperatures, heavy rain, strong winds, and freezing overnight temperatures. There is little shelter, so high-quality outdoor clothing for the probable range of extreme weather conditions is essential.</p> <p>The Bunda Cliffs are in an area of outstanding natural beauty and there are also opportunities for photography, bird watching, whale/dolphin/seal watching, etc. We also expect to engage with the local indigenous community on this expedition.</p> |

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| | Note: there will also be options for capable vertical cavers on the Nullarbor Diving excursion (A6.ND) to experience the beauty and grandeur of the Bunda Cliff Caves. Accredited vertical caving competency or equivalent is required. |
| Starting place, date and time. | Adelaide, South Australia, Sunday 30 July, 10.00 a.m. |
| Finishing place, date and time. | Adelaide, Saturday 12 August 8.00 p.m. |
| Min and max no of participants. | Places are limited. |
| Cost of excursion and what is included. | Price will be A\$1650 ex Adelaide (includes local taxes - GST). Transport from Adelaide to the Nullarbor and return to Adelaide. All transport costs, basic cabin accommodation at Ceduna while travelling to the Nullarbor and back (two nights total), all breakfasts and dinners at camp are included. Meals while on the way to the Nullarbor and back are not included (we will drive over 3500 kilometres in total). |
| Transport. | Trip leader's vehicles and potentially an additional hired four-wheel drive. |
| Accommodation type. | Bunk accommodation while travelling (Ceduna) including hot showers. Bush camping for 12 nights, water is rationed. There are no showers (recommend flannel baths). An excursion to a roadhouse will be planned for Day 6, where a hot shower can be had. An outdoor latrine toilet will be constructed near camp. At camp it is expected that participants will fully engage in the expedition and share all camp duties, including cooking, cleaning and other tasks. If the weather is conducive, a wood fire may be built for warmth while socialising in the evenings. There are no battery charging facilities. |
| Bedding requirements. | Tent, sleeping bag for as low as -7° C, sleeping mat. Please advise if you require a tent (extra cost). |
| What meals are included? | Breakfasts and dinners (evening meal) will be included in the expedition. You will need to buy your own meals while we are travelling to and from the Nullarbor. You will also need to organise your own daytime food for the caving days (i.e. lunches and snacks). You will also need to bring any 'luxury' food preferences and alcohol. |
| Arrangements for meals not covered and anticipated costs. | At the town of Ceduna, where we stop overnight on the drive to the Nullarbor, there is a supermarket and hotel (pub) where supplies can be purchased. |
| Is SRT required? | This is a trip for highly-skilled vertical cavers, There are multi-pitches with deviations; descents may be up to 100 metres, but 20-70 metres are most common. Agility and skill are required to enter caves. Bring your own SRT equipment including a Petzl shunt or equivalent. |
| Clothing requirements. | Participants will need to bring their own summer-weight and winter-weight clothing, wet weather clothing, caving gear, lights, etc. Cotton overalls for caving, knee pads, durable gloves, and eye protection (to protect against wind-blown dust). |

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| Average weather details for August (Eucla). | Min temp 7.5° C | Max temp 19.5° C | Rainfall 27mm | Daylight hours 10.5 hrs |
| Travel considerations: remote area, phone coverage, medical access, money access, local quarantine issues. | <p>Mobile phone reception is limited and generally only available in the immediate vicinity of roadhouses (located on the highway approximately every 200 kilometres between Adelaide and the Nullarbor). Reception is generally limited to Telstra.</p> <p>There are no medical facilities in this remote part of Australia and any significant medical emergency will need to be covered by the Royal Flying Doctor Service (light aircraft). For minor medical treatment there is a medical clinic in Eucla (approximately 150 kilometres away from camp) and there is also a small hospital in Ceduna (approximately 400 kilometres from camp). Caving and camping on the Nullarbor is a serious undertaking.</p> <p>Use cash or Visa credit cards where possible (Amex is rarely accepted). There are automatic teller machines in Ceduna.</p> <p>For quarantine requirements for entering South Australia and Western Australia check: www.quarantinedomestic.gov.au</p> | | | |
| Other special requirements. | <p>All caving gear must be clean prior to being used on the Nullarbor, especially if you have come from a White Nose Syndrome infected area or country.</p> | | | |



Photo: Banunga Covers