



## B15.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.



Photo: Elizabeth Webster

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.

#### 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 railway station 18 July 9.15 a.m.	Penrith railway station 22 July 5.00 p.m.	Min: 12 Max: 18	No (but may be preferred for extra warmth on cold nights.)	No.	All meals included.	Optional.	\$795



Photo: Elizabeth Webster

**Detail:**

Name of excursion.	B15.JC Jenolan Caves
Contact person.	Elizabeth Webster: <a href="mailto:nirpadayati@hotmail.com">nirpadayati@hotmail.com</a>
Overview of excursion.	<p>We will travel by private bus from Penrith with stops en route to Jenolan at some lesser known Blue Mountains areas. Our caving will include some of Jenolan's first tourist caves (now used for adventure tourism), explore some of the larger underground systems as well as spending a day walking the karst. There are likely to be options for those who wish to spend some time in harder caves which may involve SRT (this will be entirely dependent upon demand).</p> <p>The final morning will be set aside for participants to visit the show caves. Entrance fees to show caves is not included in the excursion price. Private tours for our group may be arranged if numbers are high and this will be confirmed at the beginning of 2017. Participants who wish to see more of the show caves can elect to skip other parts of the caving program. There are options for flexibility. For more details about the show caves please see <a href="http://www.jenolancaves.org.au">www.jenolancaves.org.au</a></p> <p>Participants will need a moderate level of fitness. An average day of activities will be six to eight hours of mostly horizontal caving. Two of these days will have a morning then afternoon activity and participants can choose to only complete the morning portion of the day if preferred. Potential participants should note that some of the caves have reasonably confined spaces.</p>
Starting place, date and time.	Penrith, railway station, Tuesday 18 July, 9.15 a.m.

Finishing place, date and time.	Penrith, railway station, Saturday 22 July, 5.00 p.m.
Min and max no of participants.	Minimum: 12 People Maximum: 18 People
Cost of excursion and what is included.	A\$795 per person. This includes all meals*, wild caving, transport and accommodation. This fee does not include show cave tours. *Please see meal details below.
Transport.	Transport will be by private bus from Penrith to Jenolan Caves and return. Optional day trips would involve transport in the private cars of trip leaders.
Accommodation type.	Accommodation will be in the Gate House (backpackers) rooms at Caves House. These are shared, very basic rooms each sleeping up to six guests. There is a communal kitchen on each floor as well as two communal toilets, a bath and a shower. Guests who wish to upgrade to different accommodation can do so by arrangement. Guests will also have access to the Caves House communal rooms with fires, pool tables, reading lounges etc.
Bedding requirements.	All linen, including a blanket is provided. However, a towel is not provided. Since overnight temperatures will be cold it is recommended that you bring a hot water bottle or sleeping bag/additional blanket. Please ensure you bring your personal toiletries with you as none are provided or sold on site. You might like to consider ear plugs in case of possible snorers.
What meals are included?	All meals will be provided by Caves House. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breakfast will be a hot buffet.</li> <li>• Lunch and morning/afternoon snack will be collected each morning from the bistro (sandwich, chips, piece of fruit and muffin).</li> <li>• The cost of the evening meal held in the Caves House restaurant has been included in the trip fee. (The cost of any main meal is included. *However, any additional item ordered such as entrees/starters, drinks and desserts are not included and will need to be paid for separately.)</li> <li>• Dinner on the Wednesday night coincides with the Caves House Yulefest (Christmas in July). This will be the only dinner option available at Caves House that night and the cost is included in the trip fee.</li> </ul> <p>Please bring your own personal snacks and drinks if required. Tea, instant coffee, Milo and milk will be provided.</p> <p>Special dietary requirements can be catered for where notified in advance. Only full-cream milk is normally offered, so please notify the organisers if you require other milk options. Vending machines for chips and soft-drinks are available and take coins only. You can find the restaurant menu at <a href="http://www.jenolancaves.org.au">www.jenolancaves.org.au</a> (follow links to Chisolm's Restaurant).</p>
Is SRT required?	There are one or two caves which if visited will ideally involve SRT, but they can also be laddered. These trips will only run if there is high interest from participants to go to them. Horizontal caving will be offered on these days, so SRT gear and experience is optional rather than essential.
Clothing requirements.	Though uncommon, Jenolan Caves can experience snow in July. You will need warm clothing and underwear for the five days, including gloves and a warm hat/beanie. Walking shoes for above ground.

	<p>Caving boots (sports shoes with good-grip are fine underground), overalls, harness or caving belt with cows-tails, three separate light sources, helmet, caving gloves, caving pack, above ground walking pack, personal first-aid kit, outdoor personal toilet pack. A water-proof outdoor jacket is required. You might also consider a second set of caving shoes in case your primary pair get wet. Please bring a re-fillable water bottle.</p> <p>Temperature inside caves approximately 15° C.</p>								
Average weather details for July (Oberon).	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Min temp</th> <th>Max temp</th> <th>Rainfall</th> <th>Daylight hours</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>-0.1° C</td> <td>8.8° C</td> <td>65 mm</td> <td>10.5 hrs</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Min temp	Max temp	Rainfall	Daylight hours	-0.1° C	8.8° C	65 mm	10.5 hrs
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Travel considerations: remote area, phone coverage, medical access, money access, local quarantine issues.	<p>Jenolan Caves is a one hour drive to the nearest hospital and 30 minutes to the nearest regional town. Please make sure you have covered any medical requirements you may have for your stay at Jenolan. The only mobile reception is with the Telstra network, although there is a public payphone (coin operated) located at Caves House. An ATM is available at Jenolan Caves but it is recommended you bring your anticipated cash needs with you and advise your bank that you will be travelling to Australia during July, as they will not be able to contact you to verify your location. Most cave tickets and additional food/expenses at Caves House can be paid for with EFTPOS/credit card but again please ensure you check that your cards are accepted in Australia and that you have advised your bank of your travel dates. No internet is currently available at Jenolan, however WiFi may become available before our trip. There are public buses which travel to and from Jenolan once each day if there is any need to leave/arrive mid-trip. Tickets on these buses will need to be pre-purchased at around A\$55 per person.</p>								
Other special requirements.	<p>All caving gear must be clean prior to being used at Jenolan, especially if you have come from a White Nose Syndrome infected country.</p> <p>Road access between Penrith and Jenolan Caves can be closed by snow. This is extremely rare and usually closes the highway for one day only. In the event of road closures, we would re-commence the excursion as soon as possible. Please consider this unlikely possibility when booking your excursion and selecting your travel insurance.</p>								

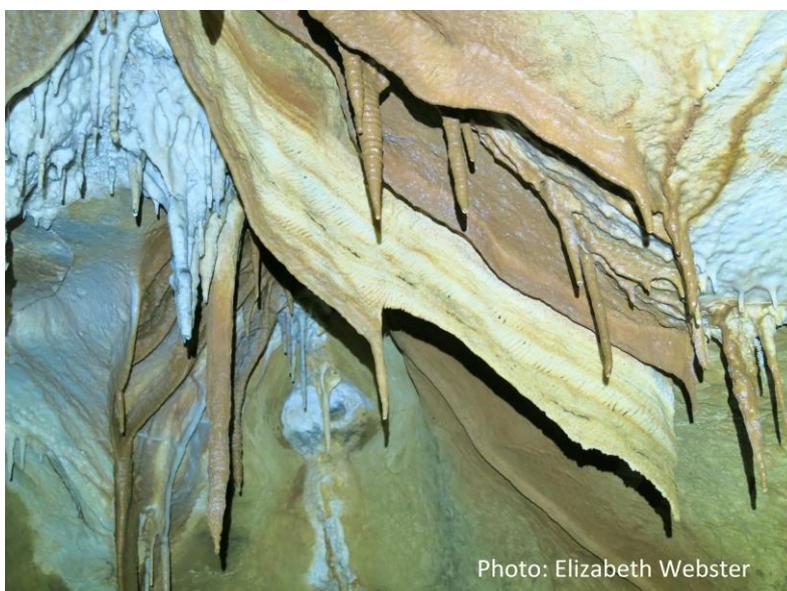


Photo: Elizabeth Webster