



B5.YB

Yarrangobilly Caves, Kosciuszko National Park

New South Wales.

Caves at Yarrangobilly are among the longest, deepest and most spectacular in south-eastern Australia, renowned for their extensive and delicate decoration. This rugged limestone area is hidden within tall eucalypt forests of Kosciuszko National Park in southern New South Wales, and is the premier sub-alpine caving area on the Australian mainland.



Participants will see a representative selection of wild caves in the area and will experience large, highly decorated chambers, underground rivers, fossil stream passages, a few short crawls as well as scrambles over and through large breakdown blocks. Special trips will also be arranged into all the show caves in the area.

Accommodation is in the recently refurbished Caves House, an ideal base for relaxation and enjoying nature, including close-up views of local wildlife.

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)
Sydney airport Monday 17 July 8.00 a.m.	Penrith Saturday 22 July. Approx 6.00 p.m.	Min: 4 Max: 18	No	No	All meals (except two lunches while travelling to/from the area.)	No	\$890 Room upgrade available at \$200 extra.



Photo: John Brush

Detail:

Name of excursion.	B5.YB Yarrangobilly Caves, Kosciuszko National Park New South Wales
Contact person.	Cathi Humphrey-Hood: cathi@emeraldimages.com.au
Overview of excursion.	Caves at Yarrangobilly are among the longest, deepest and most spectacular in south-eastern Australia, renowned for their extensive and delicate decoration. This rugged limestone area is hidden within tall eucalypt forests of Kosciuszko National Park in southern New South Wales, and is the premier sub-alpine caving area on the Australian mainland. Participants will see a representative selection of wild caves in the area and will experience large, highly-decorated chambers, underground rivers, fossil stream passages, a few short crawls as well as scrambles over and through large breakdown blocks. Special trips will also be arranged into all the show caves in the area. All participants will be accommodated in the historic and recently refurbished Caves House. After caving, you will be able to take a hot shower, relax in the comfortable lounges of Caves House, swim in the nearby open-air thermal pool, look for platypus in the river or watch kangaroos from your bedroom window or from the verandahs. Yarrangobilly is a beautiful, natural area above and below ground. This field excursion will cater for all levels of caving experience. Leaders for this trip will be experienced cavers from the Metropolitan Speleological Society Inc (MSS) and the Canberra Speleological Society Inc (CSS) who are familiar with the area.
Starting place, date and time.	Monday 17 July 2017, Sydney airport at 8.00 a.m. We will arrive at Yarrangobilly late Monday afternoon. (A pick-up from another location may be possible, please contact the leader to discuss.)

Finishing place, date and time.	Saturday 22 July 2017, Penrith, approximately 6.00 p.m.			
Min and max no of participants.	Minimum: 4 People Maximum: 18 People			
Cost of excursion and what is included.	A\$890 per person, which includes transport, accommodation for five nights in Caves House in either a single or two-person room (on a twin-share basis, no ensuite), bed linen and towel, guidebook, all meals while in the Yarrangobilly area, national park entry fees and entry to show caves at Yarrangobilly. A limited number of ensuite rooms are available for an extra A\$200 per person (twin share), i.e. total additional payment of A\$400.			
Transport.	Bus and/or private vehicles (depending on numbers).			
Accommodation type.	All participants will be accommodated in Caves House in either single (limited number) or two-person rooms (on a twin-share basis). Standard rooms are cosy and have shared bathroom facilities but more comfortable rooms with ensuite facilities are available at extra cost. Two three-person family rooms may also be available. We will endeavour to meet your room preferences, but the final configuration will depend on how early you book and the total number of participants.			
Bedding requirements.	All bed linen and towels for showers will be provided. Please bring your own towel to use at the thermal pool as house towels cannot be taken there.			
What meals are included?	All meals from dinner on Monday night to breakfast on Saturday morning are included. The only drinks included are juice for breakfast and coffee/tea with meals. Fresh spring water is available from all taps at Caves House. Meals will be prepared for you so this will be a truly relaxed caving getaway.			
Arrangements for meals not covered and anticipated costs.	Participants will need to buy lunch on the first and last days, when the bus stops for fuel and/or breaks. Approximate cost A\$12 per person/meal for takeaway meals. All drinks for the week (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic) will also need to be purchased on the way to Yarrangobilly (a special stop will be made for this purpose). There are no shops at which to buy food or drink at Yarrangobilly itself (apart from a limited supply of snacks and soft drink at the visitor centre).			
Is SRT required?	No.			
Clothing requirements.	Cave temperatures in this sub-alpine area are generally 4-11° C (low for Australia). For caving, overalls and an under-layer of wool or polypropylene are strongly recommended. Wet suits will not be needed. Some caves have short sections of knee-deep water and most of the wild caves to be visited involve surface walks of 30-60 minutes. Being winter, temperatures on the surface will be cool to cold and snow is definitely a possibility. Rain jackets and warm clothing will be required, and rubber-soled boots (such as dairy boots or gumboots/Wellingtons) are recommended for caving. Caves House is heated to a comfortable temperature and normal house clothing for winter months should be fine while indoors.			
Average weather details for July (Cabramurra 26 km distant and higher altitude).	Min temp -0.8° C	Max temp 4° C	Rainfall 115 mm	Daylight hours 10.5 hrs

<p>Travel considerations: remote area, phone coverage, medical access, money access, local quarantine issues.</p>	<p>As this is an isolated area, Yarrangobilly generates its own power and has its own water supply (from a pure mountain spring). There is no mobile phone or internet coverage and there are no restaurants or bars nearby. There are no automatic teller machines or pharmacies and medical/hospital services are over an hour away so please bring any medical supplies that you may need.</p>
<p>Other special requirements.</p>	<p>Please note that due to our accommodation booking, this excursion must be booked and payment made by 15 December 2016.</p> <p>We will be arriving in the Penrith area the day before the ICS begins. You will need to make arrangements for accommodation on the night of Saturday 22 of July. We can arrange to drop you near your accommodation if it is in this area and you let us know in advance.</p>



Photo: John Brush

Caves House accommodation, Yarrangobilly Caves