

Field Excursions—an overview

A range of field excursions have been organised to visit a number of varied karst and cave localities around Australia and New Zealand. We have endeavoured to provide a range of experiences to cater for the varied interests, budgets and styles of the people who we anticipate will be coming to the 17th ICS.

From the tropics of northern Australia, the vastness of the Nullarbor Plain, the tall forests of the Margaret River area, the karst and caves of cool-temperate Tasmania and several excursions in the congress host state of NSW, and much more. There are many options to see a variety of *Caves in an Ancient Land*. In addition there are three post-congress excursions being hosted by the New Zealand Speleological Society. For cave divers who have craved a chance to dive in the caves of the Nullarbor, post-congress diving trips are being organised by the Cave Divers Association of Australia.

There are options to stay in cosy guest houses, caving club huts, cabins and motels or tent out under star-filled skies; we've tried to cater for a range of styles. In the following pages you'll find the details of 30 pre and post-congress trips. Generally there is a summary for each excursion with a link to extended details. If you are still unclear re what excursion will suit you best, please email the leader of a particular excursion (email addresses are with each excursion) or the field excursions coordinator Cathie Plowman:

Speleo2017-excursions@caves.org.au

Bookings for pre and post-congress excursions:

These will open on 1 August 2016 and will generally remain open until 15 January 2017. In some cases, there will be a request to book earlier for a particular excursion. To secure your place, payments for excursions will need to be made one month from booking.

After 15 January, we will review registrations for excursions to determine if there are adequate bookings for a particular trip to proceed. We will confirm with registrants by 15 February if the excursion that they have booked is proceeding or otherwise. If a particular excursion is cancelled we will offer alternatives or a full refund of money paid.

After 15 February, you may still be able to book onto an excursion, depending on if that excursion is proceeding, available places and what suits the excursion leaders. We encourage early booking to have the best range of options.

Travel insurance:

Anyone travelling to Australia from overseas is strongly encouraged to obtain travel insurance. Everyone registering for a pre or post-congress field excursion will need to provide evidence of an Australian Medicare Card or travel insurance.

White Nose Syndrome:

Australia is free of this disease. There are guidelines in this circular for the management of White Nose Syndrome in association with the 17th ICS. Excursion leaders will be given instructions for managing the risk of WNS and all people registering for excursions will be provided with details. Please ensure that you minimise this risk by being diligent in rigorously cleaning all caving clothing, boots and equipment before coming to Australia and complying with the specific WNS guidelines. Thank you.

Quarantine:

Australia has strict quarantine laws. Please visit the link below to familiarise yourself with the necessary details. www.australia.gov.au/information-and-services/passports-and-travel/customs-and-quarantine

Different states of Australia also have quarantine laws and restrictions designed for protection of agriculture and/or native wildlife. Please check these details if travelling between different states of Australia. www.quarantinedomestic.gov.au

Those planning to travel to New Zealand for the post-congress excursions should visit the site: www.customs.govt.nz/inprivate/onyourarrival/quarantine

Tipping:

This is not part of the Australian culture and is not necessary in Australia. However, your donation in charity boxes will be most appreciated.

Charging batteries and applicances:

Australia has a three flat pin inlet with 240 V x 50 Hz cycle system.

