

Hastings Cave and Thermal Springs



Planning Your Visit

Making a Booking

Bookings for educational programs must be made at least two weeks prior to the planned visit.. Please complete the **Booking Form** on line and email it to us (hastingscaves@parks.tas.gov.au), fax it to us on 03 62983103 or post a copy to:

Hastings Caves and Thermal Springs, 754 Hastings Caves Road, Hastings, Tasmania 7109

When making your reservations for students with additional needs, please include details of additional supervision requirements, and/or contact our staff to discuss your program by **email** or phone.

Choosing Your Program

Details of our various **Units** and **Focus Topics** are included on line for students from Grade 2 to Grade 10. These contain suggestions for pre- and post- visit topics which can enhance to the educational experience of your students.

Most of the Units can be adapted to suit any age group, or tailored to fit into your own school program. Teachers of younger students (K-1), and teachers of senior students who are following a more specialist program e.g. Tourism Studies, are invited to contact the Visitors Centre to discuss your program. If you require any other additional information please contact us on 03 62983209.

Cost and Payment Options

There are special **concessions** for school groups of 12 or more students. We can accept cash or a cheque on the day or invoice your school after your visit. Please ensure you provide your mailing address.

Pre-visit

Some of the **Units** include recommended pre-visit work topics and follow up areas for further study. To make the most of the visit, however, we strongly recommend that **all** students undertake some introductory study before their visit.

What to wear

Newdegate Cave is a constant 9 C, summer and winter, there are 500 steps on the tour and students will also have to walk for about 5 minutes from the bus to the Cave entrance. We recommend they bring a waterproof/windproof jacket and jumper, and suitable footwear.

If you intend to use the pool, please bring suitable bathers and towels.

What equipment do you need?

The Guides will provide essential equipment for the various programs but schools and colleges are asked to bring their own clipboards, writing paper and pen/pencil, and to download copies of any activity work sheets for each student to use. There are no photocopying facilities at the Visitors Centre.

Supervision

All educational groups must have at least one adult supervisor for every twelve children. The maximum size of any one group is 25 and larger groups may need to be split into smaller tour groups. Supervising adults enter the Reserve areas for free. See **Does and Don'ts** for further information.

NB Access to the Cave involves stairs, steep slopes, darkness and uneven surfaces and is not suitable for those students with physical disabilities. Students who are visually impaired must be individually accompanied by a supervising adult.



Arrival Times

Educational programs are best arranged on Monday to Friday between the hours of 10am and 3pm.

Cave tours for school groups are scheduled to be 45 minutes in length. This has proven to be the most appropriate length for the attention span of most classes but we can extend the time based on the assignment given to the children or on the subject matter covered. Please let us know in advance if you would like or need a longer tour. Include a little more time if you can in your trip schedule to avoid being too rushed.

Food

The Visitors Centre has a varied selection of snacks, confectionary, ice creams and drinks. Lunch can be provided if required but prior notification to the Visitors Centre is requested. Please refer to the attached [menu](#) suggestions and pricelist (current Dec 2012).

We suggest you plan for a snack or lunch break before you start your tour or activities.

Risk Management

Teaching out of doors (and underground!) poses problems of organisation and safety quite unlike any met in the normal classroom situation. Careful planning is required if the outdoor learning environment is to be used effectively and safely. Teachers in Tasmanian Schools are required to complete the School or College **Minor Excursion Approval** process (<http://www.education.tas.gov.au/outdoor/excursion/minor>) and complete the relevant safety and **risk management** (<http://www.education.tas.gov.au/outdoor/risk>) process. We can help with this if required!

Please note that most mobile phones and computers don't work in the area but an emergency land line is available if required.

Using the Pool

The pool is fed from a spring that supplies spring water at around 28 degrees Celsius (82.5 degrees Fahrenheit) all year round. It is hygienically controlled and has a paddling pool for children. If you intend to use the pool, let us know on the Booking Form if you need an Information Officer with a Swim Teacher Award Qualification there is a cost associated with this service. Contact the Visitors Centre on 03 62983209 for up to date information.

First Aid

First Aid kits are available on site for emergency use and staff are trained in First Aid. However, we do recommend you bring your own kits for use when travelling and for use in the field.

Rules and Regulations

The safety of our visitors and the conservation of the reserves area is of paramount importance. The general behaviour of the group is very much the teacher's responsibility. Please read the **Rules and Regulations** list before you leave and share them with your supervising adults, and with the students.

The team leader and accompanying supervisors are responsible for managing the behaviour and discipline of the students at all time.

Toilets

Toilets (including wheelchair-accessible toilets) are located at the Visitors Centre, by the Thermal pool and at the cave car park.

Feedback Form

At the end of your visit we would welcome your feedback so that we can improve the quality of our programs. Copies of the **form** are available on the web or your Guide can give you one to fill in before you leave.

