



# Lower Southeast Venturer Caving Trip

**March 8th - 11th, 2024**

The first Scout Caving Group expedition of 2024 is a trip to the wet and wild Lower South East. We haven't been able to use this area for caving in some time, so this is a wonderful opportunity to go and see some rarely explored caves!

Mt Gambier is located 450 km SE of Adelaide, and is the home to the beautiful Blue Lake - a now extinct volcano. Surrounding Mt Gambier is a large block of limestone containing many caves. According to the Cave Exploration Group of South Australia's (CEGSA) website:

**Lower South East** *There are three main types of caves in this region. There are many cenotes (water filled sinkholes) and dry sinkholes, ranging from sheersided to gently sloping depressions. Ramps are often cut down to the waters edge for stock use. Long water filled joint plane caves with small roof hole entrances are common. Other caves consist of extensive rock collapse chambers, occasionally linked by a series of flatteners with mud, calcite or flowstone floors. There are tourist caves at Tantanoola and in and around Mount Gambier. There are now 501 recorded cave features in this region.*

Over the weekend we will attempt to visit a range of caves in the Mt Gambier area, as well as go snorkelling in the famous Ewens Ponds and maybe even climb one of the volcanoes in the area!

# Itinerary

*Note that the Itinerary is subject to change based on numbers, permit conditions, Ewens Ponds availability. Below will give you a guide as to what to expect.*

## Friday 8th

SCG Leaders will depart Adelaide at approximately 6:30pm, and drive to Rendelsham - just outside of Millicent. The drive will take approximately 5 hours, so expect a late night!

## Saturday 9th

We'll be up at around 7:00am for breakfast. Those on the trip will split into a couple of teams and visit a range of caves and features in the area. We'll stop for a packed lunch during the day, and expect to be back at camp sometime around 5pm.

### Team 1:

AM: Morgans Cave

PM: Ewens Ponds + Mt Shank

### Team 2:

AM: Sheathers Cave

PM Tindales Cave

## Sunday 10th

Sunday's plan will be similar to that of Saturday, except you'll get to visit what you missed out on the day before.

### Team 1:

AM: Sheathers Cave

PM Tindales Cave

### Team 2:

AM: Morgans Cave

PM: Ewens Ponds + Mt Shank

## Monday 11th

On Monday morning we'll be up early and all head across to pick up any caves we may have missed.

## Accommodation

We will be staying in the Noorla Yo-Long Blue Light Camp for the duration of the trip. We'll be sleeping on the floor of the gym, so make sure you bring a mattress. The facilities include male & female toilets & showers and a kitchen. It's the first time we've used this venue!

<https://www.noorlayo-long.com.au/>

## Catering

We will be catering as a large group on the weekend, and all food (excluding snacks) is included in the cost of the activity. **Note:** anyone with any specific requirements regarding food should make it known to me as soon as possible. Leaving it until Friday night will probably result in disappointment/starvation.

### Planned menu:

TBC

## Recommended Gear List

Here's a bunch of stuff I'd suggest you bring for the weekend:

- Sleeping bag
- Blowup air mattress, or something to sleep on - **no swags please as we'll have limited space**
- Pillow
- Towel
- Clothes for the weekend. Remember it can be quite cold in Mt Gambier!
- Toiletries
- Camera
- Book, iPod, something to help the long bus trip pass a little faster
- Dilly bag with knife, fork, spoon, bowl, plate, etc.
- Snacks
- Rain Jacket
- Wetsuit & Snorkelling gear (if you have them - see below)
- Caving gear:
  - Overalls, or other clothes suitable for getting dirty in.
  - Head torch - we can supply these but feel free to BYO.
  - Old boots, sneakers or something for your feet.

- Knee pads if you have them.
- A garbage bag, or something suitable to hold dirty and possibly wet clothes.
- *Helmets and vertical caving equipment will be supplied.*

If you have any questions regarding what is suitable clothing for caving in, then don't hesitate

to ask!

## Cost

The costs below are inclusive of fuel, food, accommodation, permit and caving gear hire

- Venturers: \$170
- Leaders: \$120

### Snorkelling cost:

The Scout Subaqua team is happy to hire equipment to Adult and Youth attending. You are welcome to bring your own if you have them too. This is in addition to the cost above

- \$5 for fins, mask & snorkel hire
- \$10 for wetsuit hire

**Note:** *you will also need a wetsuit for Sheathers Cave*

## Registrations

Registration for this event is via the link below:

<https://events.humanitix.com/lower-southeast-venturer-caving-trip>

Registrations will close on March the 3rd, so make sure you apply before then! Positions are limited

## Final Notes

This should be an excellent trip, and most of the caves we are doing are great fun regardless of if you're a regular caver, or if you've never been before.

The trip will go ahead rain or shine, so if it looks like it's going to be wet (unlikely at this time of year), bring gear accordingly. It never hurts to throw in a raincoat regardless of the forecast!

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