

THE UNSW STAFF SOCIAL CLUB
(www.staffsocial.unsw.edu.au)
Jenolan Caves and Blue Mountains
Sunday 20 September 2015



Approximate Itinerary

7.15 sharp	Leave UNSW (just inside Gate 14, Barker St)
8.45	Morning tea (own expense) – McDonald Blaxland
11.15	Arrive Jenolan Caves
11.45-12.45	Guided tour of the Imperial Cave
1.00-2.00	Lunch at the Jenolan Caves House
3.30	Stop at the Three Sisters/Govetts Leap Lookout (Photo opportunity)
5.30	Arrive UNSW

Jenolan Caves – guided tour of the Imperial Cave:

This is the 'easiest' cave tour.

The Imperial Cave follows an ancient river passage. It is a wonderful, memorable experience for people of all ages, including children. The path is mostly level, with short sets of stairs. Cave features include 'The Sinkhole', 'Ridleys Shortcut' (with a story on how it got its name), 'Lot's Wife', the 'Alabaster Column' and the dramatic 'Crystal Cities' which looks like an ancient fortress. And as its name suggests, the 'Shawl Cave' is filled with delightful cave shawls. When the floor of the Imperial Cave was excavated in 1975, bones were discovered. The bones of a Tasmanian Devil (long extinct on the mainland) and a Wallaby are on display. As you walk through the cave, you can also see marine fossils embedded in the limestone roof and walls. This tour includes an visit to the northern 'Jenolan Underground River', via a 66 step spiral staircase. This part of the tour is optional for less mobile visitors.

Jenolan Caves House Restaurant:

A two course lunch (Roast Beef and Ice Cream)**** will be served. Drinks/tea/coffee: own expense.

Lunch will be held at the Historic Caves House Restaurant.

Caves House was designed in 1897 by Walter Liberty Vernon as a retreat for the wealthy Landowners of NSW. Mr. Vernon, a former Soldier, who was also the NSW Government Architect from 1890 to 1911, designed many landmark buildings throughout Australia, including the Art Gallery of NSW. At Caves House, Vernon's design included an enormous grand dining room, completed in 1924, which is now the magnificent Chisolm's Restaurant.

**** Please advise if you have dietary needs.

Govetts Leap Lookout/Three Sisters (photo opportunity):

Govetts Leap Lookout is a popular spot to stop and view the spectacular panorama before descending into the Grose Valley for one of the regions more physical walks where you can view the towering cliffs leading back up to Perry Lookdown and Evans Lookout.

The Three Sisters is the Blue Mountains' most spectacular landmark. Located at Echo Point Katoomba, around 2.5 kilometres from the Great Western Highway, this iconic visitor attraction is experienced by millions of people each year.

The Three Sisters is essentially an unusual rock formation representing three sisters who according to Aboriginal legend were turned to stone.

The character of the Three Sisters changes throughout the day and throughout the seasons as the sunlight brings out the magnificent colours. The Three Sisters is also floodlit until around 11pm each evening looking simply spectacular set against the black background of the night sky.

Each of the Three Sisters stand at 922, 918 & 906 metres tall, respectively.

That's over 3000 feet above sea level! The Legend

The Aboriginal dream-time legend has it that three sisters, 'Meehni', 'Wimlah' and 'Gunnedoo' lived in the Jamison Valley as members of the Katoomba tribe.

These beautiful young ladies had fallen in love with three brothers from the Nepean tribe, yet tribal law forbade them to marry.

The brothers were not happy to accept this law and so decided to use force to capture the three sisters causing a major tribal battle.

As the lives of the three sisters were seriously in danger, a witchdoctor from the Katoomba tribe took it upon himself to turn the three sisters into stone to protect them from any harm. While he had intended to reverse the spell when the battle was over, the witchdoctor himself was killed. As only he could reverse the spell to return the ladies to their former beauty, the sisters remain in their magnificent rock formation as a reminder of this battle for generations to come.

Cost including: transportation from and to UNSW, guided tour of a cave, lunch at the Jenolan Caves House, stop at the Three Sisters and Govetts Leap lookout: :

Member (max 2 each at \$60): \$60 each
Children (school-age) \$30 each
Guests: \$70 each

Sorry no telephone bookings and no refunds.

For any enquiries: please contact Nadia Withers, 9385-3652 or n.withers@unsw.edu.au Deadline: Friday 28/8/2015

To: Nadia Withers, School of Marketing, UNSW, Sydney NSW 2052
Jenolan Caves and Blue Mountains

Deadline: Friday 28/8/2015

Name: -----

School/Home address.: -----Extn. No -----

Email Address: -----Mobile No./Home No.: -----

*****Dietary Requirements: -----

---- places at \$60 each (max. 2 each at \$60)	\$-----
---- places at \$30 each (school age children)	\$-----
---- places at \$70 each	\$-----

<u>Total</u>	<u>\$-----</u>
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A cheque for \$----- made payable to The UNSW Staff Social Club is enclosed.
Cash OK – to be hand-delivered by prior arrangement (Quad Room 3033).
Bank transfer is possible. Please email or call Nadia for details.