

AUSTRALIA'S BEAUTIFUL CAVES

WORD SEARCH

D V X U C D W R W I C L Q B N N I K Z E R T V
W W I A P U Z O N E W D E G A T E T A Q W Y N
U F I C P M T A L O O N A T N A T H V K V J V
S Z Y Q T N A T J S A C U L S L M C L K K G R
Y O M A C O U R A I F P Z W Y M Y E I W P O F
M H C C Y A R K G C L P X D E W A R B Y P R I
A G A X A H L I I A U L M H R Q W B M K L I G
R V T Y R P A G A B R T A J A A H L U E P E T
A P H R A Y R P A F J E T B C P C E L L U N R
K D E I D H W I X R O E T A E F R G A L G T E
O G D A N H F Q C L D S W R O N A N B Y S H E
O J R F U I Q S K O P U S E O S A E X H P U V
P J A M G L Q Q V I R F P I L S E N H I F U X
A L L M M B M F U I A N F B L Q E T Z L V S B
U C N H C R A A I R O T C I V U B O I L F C R
V K S M S N I A L P S N N U G I G L I G N U Q

You are looking for:

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| 2 BALUMBIL | 11 GUNNS PLAINS | 19 NGILGI |
| 3 CALGARDUP | 12 JEWEL | 20 ORIENT |
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Words can go in any direction.
Words can share letters as they cross over each other.



GARRY K. SMITH

UNESCO International Day of Caves and Karst

13 SEPTEMBER

is a day to celebrate and protect the world's cave and karst systems.

Karst landscapes are where the dissolving of the bedrock has created features such as sinkholes, underground streams, caves and springs.

The most common karst bedrock is limestone, but other types include dolomite and marble.

Karst environments are important and often overlooked ecological systems.

Worldwide they provide drinking water for over a billion people, preserve unique biodiversity and contain precious geological and cultural records.

Celebrate the UNESCO International Day of Caves and Karst with this puzzle, and when you can, do visit some of these beautiful caves!



ARCHWAY CAVE (Abercrombie, NSW): This is the largest natural limestone arch tunnel in the Southern Hemisphere at 221 metres long. The arch is 60 metres wide at both ends and 30 metres high in the middle.

BALUMBIL/UMPHERSTON

SINKHOLE (Mt Gambier, SA): Once a cave, the sinkhole was created when the top of the former cave collapsed. Admire the awesome sinkhole from above and walk amongst the tranquil gardens in its base.

CALGARDUP CAVE (Margaret River, WA): Self-guided, so take your time and wander through this 300-metre cave and soak in the tranquillity. In wetter months, enjoy stunning reflections on the underground lake.

CAPRICORN CAVES (Rockhampton, Queensland): These tropical caves are largely above-ground in limestone towers, and the cave formations are mixed with daylight holes, tree roots from rainforest trees and expansive views. For the adventurous there's a wild cave option.

CAREYS CAVE (Wee Jasper, NSW): This is the closest show cave to Canberra and there are tours three days a week. Besides the beautiful sights inside the cave, the limestone outside the cave shows beautiful fluting (rillenkarren) where water has dissolved the limestone.

CATHEDRAL CAVE (Wellington, NSW): This magnificent cave contains limestone and crystal formation reaching up to 15 metres in height. As well as the caves, you can visit a science lab, examine fossils from a million years ago and learn about Australian megafauna.

CUTTA CUTTA CAVE (Katherine, NT): The cave is associated with the dreaming stories of the local Jawoyn First Nations People and is open to tours May to October, as it is subject to flooding during the wet season. The cave is habitat to the carnivorous and threatened ghost bat.

ENGELBRECHT CAVE (Mt Gambier, SA): This cave is right beneath a suburban street and part of the Mt Gambier area's extensive karst landscape where the limestone bedrock is slowly but continuously being dissolved to create caves, sinkholes and underground lakes.

FAIRY CAVE (Buchan, Victoria): Named not for a fairytale, but for Fairy Moon, the daughter of this cave's first white explorer. The exquisite cave will have you marvelling at magnificent features including pillars, shawls and rim pools.

FIG TREE CAVE (Wombeyan, NSW): A magnificent cave experience where you can set your own pace on a self-guided tour, pausing as often as you like to take in the beautiful formations around you. The carefully placed lighting means you won't miss a thing.

GUNNS PLAINS CAVE (Tasmania): Located in a picturesque rural valley and rich with beautiful formations, this cave is habitat to platypus and the endangered freshwater crayfish.

JEWEL CAVE (Margaret River, WA): Western Australia's largest show cave has three massive chambers, one of the longest straw stalactites in Australia and Tasmanian Tiger fossils.

JILLABENAN CAVE (Yarrangobilly, NSW): This intimate cave has you close to impressive displays of delicate straws and shawls, cave coral, stalactites and helictites. After your cave tour, why not have a relaxing soak in the 27°C mineral waters of the thermal pool.

KELLY HILL CAVE (Kangaroo Island, SA): This cave is formed in what were sand dunes that have hardened over time, forming a soft limestone. Rainwater percolating through the ground has since dissolved the limestone to create the cave and its stunning features.

LUCAS CAVE (Jenolan, NSW): Your journey begins with a 300-step climb and takes you inside a world of colossal limestone caverns where features such as the Pink and White Terraces, Mafeking Chamber and the lavish Proscenium will have you enthralled.

MARAKOOPA CAVE (Tasmania): Nestled beneath the Great Western Tiers, this cave has two creeks, glowworms, fossils, splendid shawls, sparking calcite crystals, calcite pools and more.

PRINCESS MARGARET ROSE CAVE (Nelson, Victoria): Located on the Glenelg River and named for the sister of Queen Elizabeth II, the cave is currently closed for upgrades but expected to reopen during 2027.

NEWDEGATE CAVE (Hastings, Tasmania): Named after a former Tasmanian governor, this regal cave in dolomite is rich with nature's colours and superb formations. The cave, easy rainforest walks, relaxed barbecue areas and a thermal water pool all make for a wonderful visit.

NGILGI CAVE (Yallingup WA): Another cave which you can explore at your own pace. The path to the cave immerses you in stories of this Ancient Land and people. There's a fun crawl tunnel for the kids and a nature playground outside.



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ORIENT CAVE (Jenolan, NSW): A jewel in the crown of the world-renowned Jenolan Caves, this magnificent cave is rich with beautiful sparkling formations. While there's still plenty of steps, this cave is considered one of the less arduous of the cave tours at Jenolan.

TANTANOOLA CAVE (via Mt Gambier, SA). This richly coloured and beautiful cave in dolomite is suitable for people using wheelchairs and walking frames. After a welcome from the guide, you can explore the cave at your own leisurely pace.

TREZKINN CAVE (Chillagoe, Queensland): Renowned for its stunning limestone towers and part of the Chillagoe-Mungana Caves National Park, the cave is also home to bats and insects, making every tour interesting for both wildlife enthusiasts and geology buffs.

UNDARA CAVES (via Mt Surprise, Queensland): Whereas most Australian caves are formed by the dissolving of rock, especially limestone, the Undara Cave system is formed in basalt lava that spewed from the eruption of a volcano about 190,000 years ago.

VICTORIA ARCH (Wombeyan, NSW): This majestic and towering open-air limestone arch has an array of colours created by bacteria which grow on the walls and roof. This stunning arch is about 120 metres long and 25 to 30 metres high.

VICTORIA FOSSIL CAVE (Naracoorte, SA): Here the past is captured in time in an extensive fossil bed. Now-extinct marsupial 'lions', enormous kangaroos and giant monitor lizards met their deaths here and were preserved by layers of ancient sands.