

Jenolan River Bushwalking – Caves to Carlons

“A 37km river expedition over 5 days through spectacular wild and remote country in the Kananga Boyd and Blue Mountains National Parks”

Newsletter 1

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8:00 am Sunday 1st October to 6:00 pm Thursday 5th October 2017 NP We may extend to Katoomba if running early and if the kids would like to.

- Start location: Katoomba Station and finish location: Megalong
- This route covers a distance of 37 to 40 km. This would increase if we extend to Katoomba.
- Due to the technical aspects and river obstacles on this hike delays can occur, so we have allowed more time so we don't have to rush. We will have mobile coverage in the Megalong so we can notify home. We are expecting to return to Megalong 6 pm on Thursday.

Based on previous expeditions and depending on conditions we normally have time to hike along Megalong Road to Old Ford Reserve where it becomes a sealed road to be picked up there so parents don't need to drive on the unsealed road. Old Ford Reserve 1363 Megalong Road

- The bus company has an online booking system for the Coach to Jenolan Caves approx. \$31 to \$40). Coach departs Carrington Hotel at 10:35 am.
- Travel duration is approx. 2 hours. Arrival at Jenolan Caves 12:30 pm for 1 pm start.
- Desirable experience: A couple of overnight hikes under your belt, comfortable with pack under load, comfortable in water up to chest
- There are no toilets so come prepared for bush toileting and hygiene.

Confirmation of attendance to Tristan due: Sunday 3rd September. This provides one month for team preparation.

Route *PC Possible Campsite E Evacuation DP Deposited Plans Legal boundaries of land*

Caves House – Blue Lake – Pheasants Nest Creek – Bulls Creek (PC) – Beautys Gully – Oaky Creek/Filly Creek – Slithery Bull Gully – Sweet Ridge

Creek – Hellgate Gorge – The Point (PC) – Round Mound Creek – Diable Creek – Biddys Creek – Moorara Boss Trail / Ford (E) – Cronje Point – Moorara Point (DP757059 33) (PC) – Sassafras Creek – Bees Nest Creek – Brumby Gully – Whipcrack Spur – Lower Jenolan Gorge – Gubba Gully – Mumbedah Creek – Black Creek – Confluence (E) – Coxs River – Wallaroo Point – Breakfast Creek PC – Carlons Creek – Carlons Farm – Megalong Road (E)

Trip Details

Jenolan Caves to Carlons Farm via Jenolan River, Hellgate Gorge and Lower Jenolan Gorge. An adventurous hike in the Kanangra Boyd National Park. The distance is 37 km over 5 days, features some hard grade. The route follows the Jenolan River from Jenolan Caves to its confluence with the Coxs River.

Spectacular wild and remote country. There are some wades and possible swims, rock scrambles and river crossings. Quite manageable for active kids.

It is 25 km from Jenolan Caves to the confluence of the Coxs River and another 12 km to Carlons Farm. Walking up or down the Jenolan River can be slow and tedious at times due to the terrain and obstacles. In many sections it is easier to walk in the river itself as the banks are overgrown. In other places the banks are replaced by steep embankments. The key is to stay close to the river and avoid the temptation of going to higher ground. The draw back and reason for attempting this in summer is the time spent in the water.

The section through **Hellgate Canyon** involves wading and or swimming. Packs can be carried above or floated on the water. There are rock scrambles and waterfalls to negotiate. I would recommend a pack liner at least one size larger than your packs capacity to enable the contents to be sealed watertight. In addition, I would use two dry bags to seal electrical items. There is one main escape route between the Gorges. It is possible to come back/reverse out of the Gorge and return to Jenolan Caves in the event that conditions are unsafe.

There are no charges except for self catering and Coach tickets. The Coach from Katoomba to Jenolan Caves is operated by the Blue Mountains Bus Company. Please bring some money for morning tea at Jenolan Caves and afternoon tea in Katoomba.

The **Kanangra-Boyd Wilderness** is among the largest and most rugged wilderness areas in New South Wales. Situated to the south of Katoomba in the Blue Mountains and the Kanangra-Boyd National Parks. Participants are to come prepared for 5 days, bring a hike pack, personal gear, supplies for meals/snacks, water and their own or a shared tent.