



## Capricorn Caves Outdoor and Environmental Education Centre







# INDEX



04 | INTRODUCTION

06 | CATHEDRAL CAVE TOUR

08 | ADVENTURE CAVING

10 | CLIMBING WALL, CRATE CLIMB AND HIGH ROPES

12 | INITIATIVE CHALLENGES, ORIENTEERING AND CAVE  
HABITATS TOUR

14 | FOSSIL TRAIL, FOSSIL SORTING AND QUEENSLAND  
MUSEUM DIG PITS

16 | CAMPER MAKING, CAMPFIRE, HOSTED CAMPFIRE

18 | SAVE THE RAINFOREST



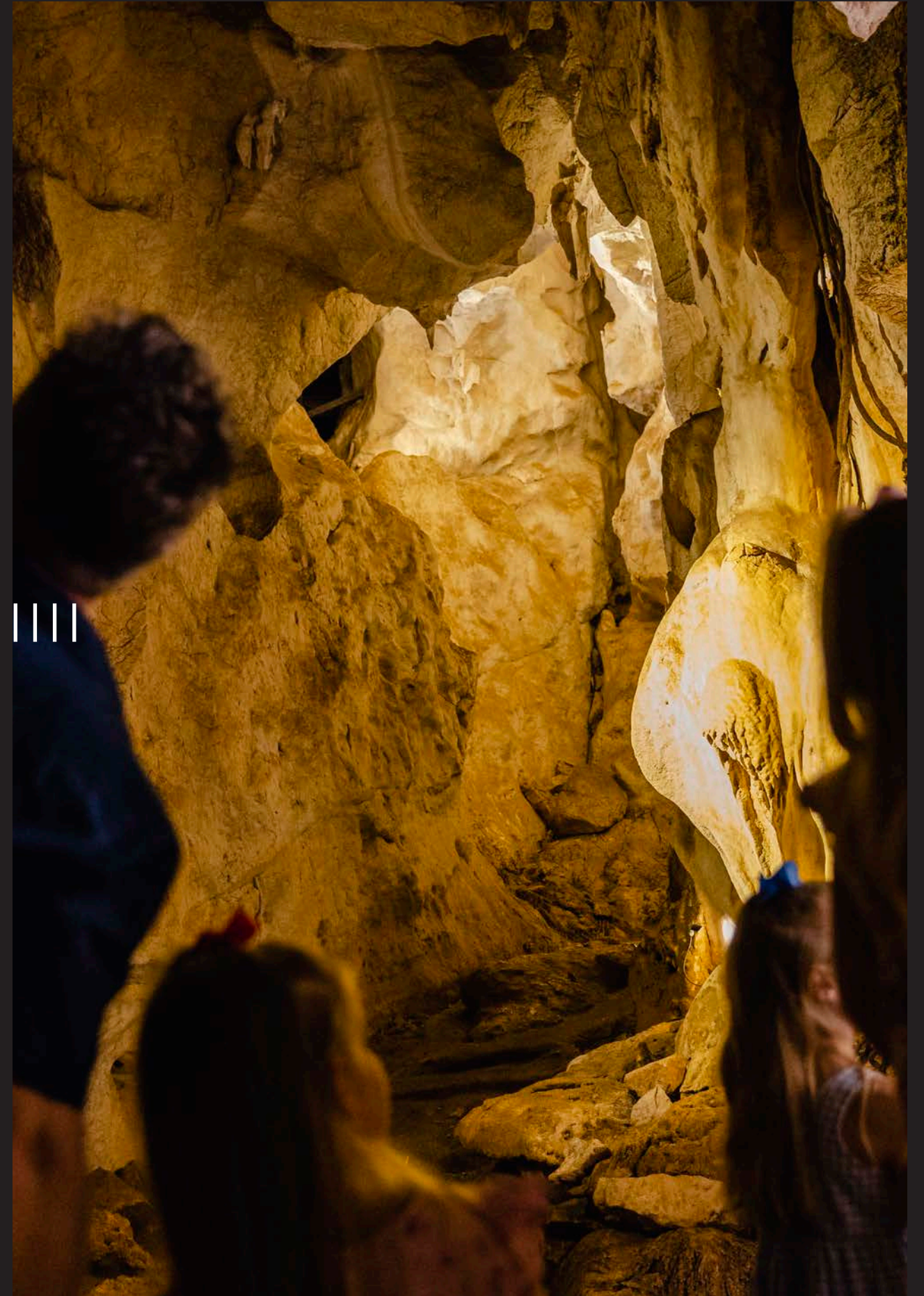




## Introduction

Capricorn Caves Outdoor and Environmental Education Centre offers groups the unique opportunity to immerse themselves in the local environment and history of central Queensland's premier limestone cave attraction. Whether you are planning your annual school leadership camp, or a subject specific excursion, our residential facility and day visit areas allows us to tailor camps and excursions to your specific needs. We welcome school groups from P-12, as well as youth groups and tertiary level students.

Our diverse program includes outdoor challenges, environmental immersions, citizen science experiences and camp staples such as team games, campfire, cooking and art. Of course, no visit is complete without a guided tour into the enchanting chambers of the Capricorn Caves. We invite you to explore our program offerings further on this website and get in touch to organise your visit. Our fully qualified staff are waiting to meet you, and share their sense of fun and friendship, passion for the environment and love of adventure.







## Cathedral Cave Tour

This popular tour has something for everyone!

This popular tour has something for everyone. Showcasing our most popular caves, this tour will leave your students with lasting memories of ancient geological history, early explorers, the wonders of wildlife and special cave acoustics. Navigating our cave exit through the Zig Zag passage and suspension bridges, your students will feel like explorers too. All caves are well lit.

## Cathedral Cave Tour Night option

Add a touch of adventure after dark and choose the Night option! Walking through the bush at night towards the caves, you may be lucky enough to see the cute microbats emerging for their nocturnal hunt.







# Adventure Caving

Prep-Year 12

Together we will explore the alien world of darkness and confined spaces, where students work in a team to negotiate small passages and squeeze through small holes. It is a challenging environment where students learn a lot about caves and even more about themselves. Our Outdoor Education instructors will select the best route to suit the age, ability and physical strength of your students. All activities are challenge by choice. Our pre-tour briefing gives students clear instructions on safe and minimal impact caving, as well as how to use the safety equipment.





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# Climbing Wall

## Prep-Year 12

Our Outdoor Education instructors are fully certified and loads of fun, and will safely introduce your students to a number of different climbs on the 8m high climbing wall. Each climbing route varies in difficulty level, so there is a challenge suitable for every student. Students can take their time and enjoy the challenge, or race classmates to the top in a time trial. This is a great confidence building activity that gets your students outside their comfort zone in a controlled environment. Students are provided with all safety equipment. Of course, teachers are encouraged to climb too!

# Crate Climb

## Prep-Year 6

Sharing ideas, thinking creatively, and lending a hand is critical to a successful crate climb. It is a real team effort, and your students will love co-operating and solving problems with such thrilling results! Our fully certified Outdoor Education instructors fit students with helmets and safety lines and help guide the thinking process. This is a great activity for primary school-aged students.



# High Ropes

## Yr 7 – Year 12

Working in groups of three, students navigate the challenging high ropes course. Accredited instructors teach correct belaying techniques and then oversee safety as the students belay each other. The success of this activity requires students to maintain trust, communicate effectively and be encouraging. An adrenaline rush, this character-building high ropes course is a rewarding experience for all.



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# Initiative Challenges

Lateral thinking and team dynamics play a key part in our series of problem-solving activities. Encouraging cooperation in a fun, safe and supportive environment, these games bring peers closer together. Our guides choose from a range of challenges to suit the age and objectives of your student group. Take this activity one step further and volunteer your student leaders to run a short activity with the support of our guides.

## Orienteering

Students explore the bushland surrounding the Capricorn Caves in this challenging outdoor activity. Using a map and compass, students will hone their new navigational skills to find their way to given points around the property. Students can work in small groups and race to be the fastest finishing team!

## Cave Habitats Tour

Your students will discover the diversity of our unique local environment firsthand. Starting with a bushwalk and an interactive scavenger hunt through the remnant dry rainforest that surrounds the caves, our guide will reveal rare and threatened flora and fauna that have adapted to past climate change in ingenious and fascinating ways. As your students venture into the cave, our guide will explain the unique ecosystems, life cycles and interspecies relationships that flourish in the remarkable tropical karst limestone caves. Your students will also uncover the impacts of recent major natural disasters, introduced species and the importance of preserving habitats and threatened species such as the Ghost Bat and Cave Fern. Your students will complete this tour with a new found appreciation for cave food webs, ecosystems, and animal and plant adaptations.







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## Fossil Trail

Your students travel back through time as our guide slowly reveals how these karst limestone caves were formed over time, beginning with the coral reef deposits in ancient shallow seas, to tectonic upheaval, and ending with continual weathering which continues to shape the caverns today. At the Queensland Museum palaeontological dig site inside the spectacular Colosseum Cave, your students will learn how modern scientific research is unearthing evidence of past climate changes, and link this knowledge with current environmental predicaments. This tour is often paired with Fossil Sorting for a more comprehensive activity.

## Fossil Sorting and Queensland Museum Dig Pits

At the Visitor's Centre Discovery Room, your students will enjoy a hands-on experience with real fossils, discovering how living organisms have adapted and evolved due to changing environmental conditions. They will put their observation skills to the test with a fossil-sorting activity. All students will then have an opportunity to dig for real fossils in the outdoor 'Dig Pits'. Fossils are then collected and sent to the Queensland Museum for further research. Your students might even discover a new extinct species! A true citizen science experience.



# Damper Making

Minimum 25 students applies

A classic camp activity, students will start from scratch to make a scrumptious treat. This activity requires students to work together in small groups measuring ingredients and following recipe instructions, but also gives them the opportunity to add their individual flair to the final product. Cooked over hot coals around the campfire, and served with butter and spreads. Yum! (Food allergies are catered for too.)

# Hosted Campfire

The iconic school camp experience is the evening campfire amongst a beautiful natural bush setting. Your students will enjoy their classmates company, reliving the days adventures and sharing stories by the flickering fire light. Marshmallows are supplied for toasting.



# Self Hosted Campfire

The iconic school camp experience is the evening campfire amongst a beautiful natural bush setting. Our Capricorn Caves staff will prepare a firepit for your exclusive use in the evening. Your students will enjoy their classmates company, reliving the days adventures and sharing stories by the flickering fire light. What a relaxing end to a busy day. School staff are required to safely put the fire out at the end of your self-hosted evening.



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# Save the Rainforest

The Capricorn Caves encompasses some very unique habitats, including remnant dry rainforest. These habitats are critical to the survival of many native flora and fauna, including the threatened Ghost Bat and Cave Fern. Unfortunately due to the destructive forces of Cyclone Marcia, and subsequent bushfire and drought events, a section of the dry rainforest on our property was destroyed. We need your help to save this habitat. We invite you to get your students involved in some hands on environmental education whilst here. Depending on the season, activities may include weeding, seed collecting or planting saplings. It is our hope that through their service, your students develop lifelong skills for environmental stewardship, as well as a deep sense of pride in their accomplishments. Students will need a hat, water bottle, lunch and long protective clothing and shoes. We will provide gloves, safety glasses and hazard vests. The students may be working in an off-track section of bush away from the Kiosk day visitors area.







# Capricorn Caves

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