



biodiversity

Discover Australia's only internationally recognised "Biodiversity Hot Spot" and its unique ecosystems in and around our fascinating caves!

experience an interactive presentation

explore Jewel Cave

examine the rare flora and fauna within the cave and the karri forest above.

Book your school or tour group into a Biodiversity experience tour today!

Phone: +61 8 9757 7411
or email our Education Officer Mandy McLauchlan
on mandy@margaretriver.com

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The south west region of Western Australia is one of the 34 internationally recognised 'biodiversity hotspots', the only one on the Australian continent. These hotspots are described as 'the richest and most threatened reservoirs of plant and animal life on Earth.'

Impressive plant endemism in south west Australia is attributed to millions of years of isolation from the rest of Australia by the country's vast central deserts. Iconic tree species include three eucalyptus; the jarrah, marri and karri. Karri trees can grow as high as 80 meters, making this endemic species one of the tallest trees on earth.

Living on this diverse plant life and in the soil and leaf litter of the forest floor is an amazing array of invertebrate life. These animals clean, control, regulate and recycle, maintaining a healthy forest environment and water filtration through to the caves below.

In the waters of Lake Cave and deep within the Jewel Cave system exist organisms known as 'stygofauna'; animals that live permanently in the underground water. Many of them are ancient species; Gondwanan relics. However their habitats are under threat, water levels in the caves are declining fast and it is essential that we act now to protect these unique micro-ecosystems.

The experience begins with an interactive presentation at the Jewel Cave Centre, where students are introduced to the biodiversity within the caves and the karri forest above. The group is then guided through a private exploration of the spectacular Jewel Cave. Participants will be able to see for themselves the amazing diversity of life, and better understand the need to protect it now.

When: Every day of the year, except Christmas!
Duration: Approximately 2 hours, including cave tour.
Cost: \$15.00 per student, \$18.50 per adult,
School Special – 1 free adult per 10 students.

Please note: our educational packages can be tailored to suit different age groups and complement the Science and Society and Environment syllabus.

To book your tour or school group into a Biodiversity Discovery Tour, simply contact us on +61 8 9757 7411 or email mandy@margaretriver.com

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