

MARBLE
ARCH
CAVES

*Explore fascinating worlds
above and below ground
with us!*

EDUCATION
PROGRAMMES & INFORMATION

Teacher Pack 2023/2024



The Marble Arch Caves offer the perfect location for exciting and inspiring educational fieldtrips for those of all ages, levels and abilities.

Each year we welcome thousands of students from schools, colleges, universities and educational groups from across the world

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INTRODUCTION

The Marble Arch Caves manages and has access to a number of local Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark Sites including; Marble Arch Caves showcave, Cladagh Glen, Killykeeghan Nature Reserve and the Cuilcagh Boardwalk Trail.

A suite of educational programmes has been developed to help students learn more about these fascinating landscapes and habitats above and below ground.



ABOUT US

Our trained team of Educational Assistants and Tour Guides are on hand to deliver exciting activities and sessions to inspire students to develop their understanding of the natural world and promote the conservation of these special places.

OUR PROGRAMMES

Each of our education programmes have been designed and tailored to help compliment, or meet requirements of, local school curriculum, particularly the Sciences (Biology & Geography).



Pre-school & Primary (KS1 & 2) & ROI Equivalents



Secondary (KS3, GCSE & AS/A-LEVEL) & ROI (JC, TY & Leaving Cert.)



Post-secondary & Higher Level (3rd/University)



Formal & Informal Leisure Learning (Education groups, community groups, scouts etc.)

PRIMARY OVERVIEW

At primary level pupils are invited to come for a day of exploration and discovery.

Primary Programmes include;

- Educational Guided Cave Tours
- Woodland Studies (Woodland Adventure and Wonders)
- Limestone Trails
- Outreach (Crazy About Caves, Myserious Minibeasts & Habitats at Home).
- Other bespoke options available.

Outdoor above ground programmes such as Woodland Studies include elements of practical hands-on learning and fieldwork data collection.



The Marble Arch Caves utilizes a range of fieldwork equipment; pooters, I.D charts and expert knowledge to encourage first-hand experience and development of new skills.



SECONDARY OVERVIEW

At secondary level students delve deeper into understanding the history and processes which have shaped our landscape.

Secondary Programmes include;

- Educational Guided Cave Tours
- Limestone Landscapes - exploring the geomorphic processes which have shaped the local karst geology.
- Woodland Studies - an introduction to woodland studies and fieldwork equipment.

Our above ground programmes compliment learning gained on the guided cave tour. Students link above ground landforms and features with what's happening below.



The Marble Arch Caves offers the use of a range of fieldwork equipment; quadrats, anemometers, hygrometers, I.D charts etc. encouraging the development of fieldwork skills.



POST-SECONDARY/HIGHER OVERVIEW

At post-secondary level/higher, e.g. University groups, the Marble Arch Caves offers adapted programmes which explore the landscapes in greater detail.

Examples of higher level programmes include;

- Limestone Trails
- Mixed programmes e.g Exploring our Geopark - Cuilcagh Mt. & Karstic landscapes
- Bespoke programmes (tailored to your requirements).

Post-secondary programmes often involve groups seeking a more bespoke experience during their time with us. We can work with you to create an experience suited to your needs.



If you are interested in planning a guided cave tour combined with another above ground educational programme please get in touch to discuss your options.





THE GUIDED CAVE TOUR

The standard guided cave tour is the Owenbrean River - Walking Cave Tour. Education groups join a Tour Guide and set off on a journey underground learning about this unique and captivating environment.

- Duration: 60- 75 minutes *
- Fitness requirement: Average fitness
- Steps: 154 on exit of the show cave
- Distance: 1.5 km Walking Tour (mixture of concrete path, boardwalk and stepped sections).

If boats are in operation tickets will be upgraded to the 'Martel Tour' FREE of charge. Tours may change during inclement weather.

Guided Cave
Tours operate
every 15 minutes
for education
groups.

Maximum
number of
students per
tour slot =
**20 students +
1 teacher**

OUR FIELD SITES & LOCAL ATTRACTIVE



Cladagh Glen Nature Reserve

Just a stone's throw away from our Visitor Centre, this ancient woodland provides the perfect location for field studies. Native trees and plants thrive in this unique natural habitat.



Killykeegan Nature Reserve

A short 5min drive away lays a beautiful karst (limestone) landscape. A geologists dream, this site offers stunning karst features (including pavement) and panoramic views of Co. Fermanagh.



Cuilcagh Mt. Park

There's more than just a 'Stairway to Heaven' here. The peatland bog found at this site is home to rare flora and fauna. All within walking distance of the Marble Arch Caves.

FACILITIES & WHAT TO EXPECT



VISITOR CENTRE

A modern Visitor Centre equipped with a classroom, Virtual Reality room, Wi-Fi, café and shop. Free parking for cars, buses/coaches. Areas to have lunch available.



INTERPRETATION

As a Geopark site our Visitor Centre is equipped with interpretive signage, historical artifacts, museum items and models so that visitors can learn as they go.



INFORMATION POINT

Quick and convenient check-in of your group at reception. Welcoming staff to assist with your booking, group management and offer directions and advice.



CAFE & GIFT SHOP

A café offering fresh food and beverages which caters to all dietary requirements. A gift shop stocked with a range of gifts and souvenirs to remind you of your visit.

EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

PRICING, PAYMENTS & CAPACITY

GUIDED CAVE TOUR (STANDARD) - 60 -75MINS)

Pre- primary School Student	£4.50
Primary School Student	£4.50
Secondary School Student	£5.00
University Student	£6.50
1x Teacher per 20 students	FREE
Additional Teacher(s)	£8.50

** Guided Cave tours are capped at 21 participants (20 students plus 1 teacher). Tours operate every 15mins, depending on availability. **

OUTREACH PROGRAMMES (75MINS SESSIONS)

	<u>price per session</u>
Crazy About Caves	£35.00
Mysterious Minibeasts	£35.00
Habitats At Home	£35.00
Deal (3x sessions)	£90.00
<u>Additional travel charge</u> - Calculated from distance from Marble Arch Caves VC	
0 - 5 miles	FREE
5 - 10 miles	£6.00
10 - 20 miles	£12.00
20 - 30 miles	£24.00
30 - 40 miles	£36.00
40 - 50 miles	£48.00

OUTDOOR LEARNING PROGRAMMES (60 -75MINS) (AT LOCAL ABOVE GROUND GEOPARK SITES)

Sites include - Cladagh Glen Nature Reserve & Killykeeghan Nature Reserve

Pre- primary School Student	Woodland Wonders	£5.00
Primary School Student	Woodland Adventure Limestone Trails	£5.00
Secondary School Student	Limestone Landscapes	£5.00
University Student	Limestone Landscapes (Higher)	£6.00

** If booked in conjunction with a guided cave tour - £1 off the above prices. **

Some programmes require travel via your own bus/coach to local field sites <10mins from Marble Arch Caves

PAYMENT FOR SCHOOL VISITS

Preferred method of payment is by card or sterling cash on the day. We accept euro notes with sterling change given. In exceptional circumstances an invoice will be issued. Cheques payable to 'Fermanagh and Omagh District Council'. Shared education - 1 school must take sole responsibility for processing and payment for the entire booking.

EXAMPLE FIELD TRIP ITINERARY

GUIDED CAVE TOUR & LIMESTONE LANDSCAPES (SECONDARY)

ARRIVE AT THE MARBLE ARCH CAVES
@ 10:30AM

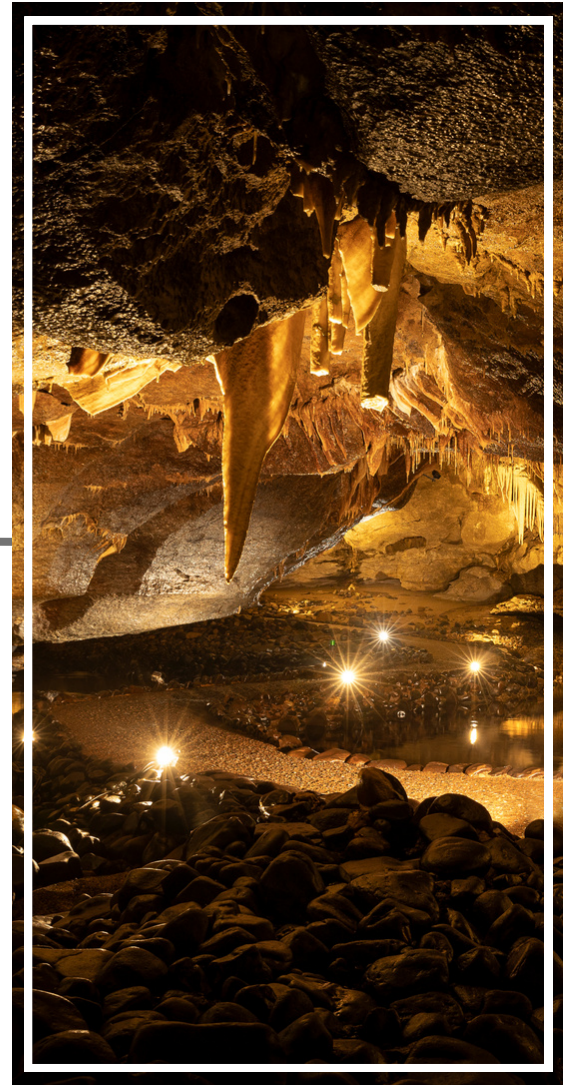
SET OFF ON A GUIDED CAVE TOUR
@ 11:00AM

GUIDED CAVE TOUR (60-75MINS)
11:00AM TO 12:15PM

BREAK / LUNCH
12:15PM TO 1:00PM

LIMESTONE LANDSCAPES
1:00PM TO 2:15PM

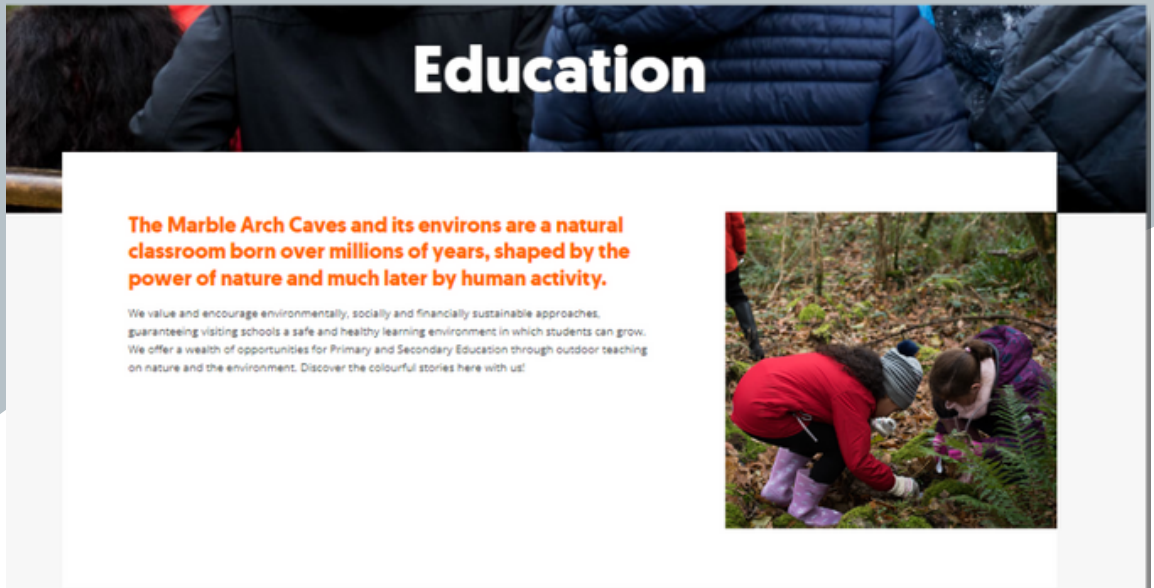
DEPART
2:15/2:30PM



FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE SCAN

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE


FURTHER INFORMATION







Education

The Marble Arch Caves and its environs are a natural classroom born over millions of years, shaped by the power of nature and much later by human activity.

We value and encourage environmentally, socially and financially sustainable approaches, guaranteeing visiting schools a safe and healthy learning environment in which students can grow. We offer a wealth of opportunities for Primary and Secondary Education through outdoor teaching on nature and the environment. Discover the colourful stories here with us!



Educational Programmes

 <p>Plan your visit</p> <p>find out more</p>	 <p>Primary Education</p> <p>find out more</p>	 <p>Secondary Education</p> <p>find out more</p>	 <p>Resources</p> <p>find out more</p>
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For more information on the educational programmes we offer, course programmes, details on how to plan a visit to the Marble Arch Caves and more, please visit our website at;

CONTACT US



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WEBSITE

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