

Blue Mountains excursion suggestions

Focus: Blue Mountains World Heritage Site and Geography Tools

The following guide has been developed to provide some assistance in planning a field work excursion for Stage 4 students on the Introductory Topic 4G1 Investigating the World - specifically "the tools geographers use - fieldwork and data collection" and at the same time learning more about "World Heritage Sites". The suggested excursion has attempted to make allowance for different size groups and differing travel times. Expenses will also vary according to whether commercial venues are used e.g: National Parks and Scenic World that might allow for an extended time (arranged independently by schools).

The worksheets provided can be a stand alone excursion lasting approximately 2.5 hours (add travel times and meal breaks). To reduce large group numbers the program is divided into two parts that allow two smaller groups to be formed and the venues swapped around to reduce crowding.

PART 1 - Echo Point stop and walk along the Prince Henry Cliff Walk to Katoomba Falls.

PART 2 - Reid's Plateau and walk down towards the Furber steps

The central point for bus change-overs, on the completion of each Part, and for meal breaks, is the park above Katoomba Falls - a short walk from Scenic World. This would also allow a longer program to include a program at Scenic World and a ride either up the Scenic Railway or the Scenisender (arranged independently by schools)

The planning for the basic program could look **something** like this.

Note: Activity 1 on worksheet is completed on the way up the Great Western Highway. Student look out for signs on side of highway showing elevation of towns from the Nepean River to Katoomba. A graph is also drawn.

Group 1

- 10.00 - dropped off at Echo Point
 - exercises on interpretive signs and field sketch
- 10.30 - begin Prince Henry Cliff Walk
 - plant observations and lookouts on the way
- 11.15 - arrive Katoomba Park for meal break
- 11.45 - walk to Reid's Plateau - weather and climate observations
- 12.15 - walk down towards the Furber Steps - interpretive signs, microclimate recording (to Sign 5)
- 13.00 - walk back up to Katoomba Park for lunch then return to school at time to suit (or extend program to include Scenic World - arranged independently by schools).

Group 2

- 10.15 - starts at Kiosk near Katoomba Falls - weather and climate etc at Reid's Plateau lookout
- 10.45 - walks down towards the Furber Steps - interpretive signs, microclimate recording (to Sign 5)
- 11.15 - walk back up to Katoomba Park for meal break
- 11.45 - dropped off at Echo Point
 - exercises on interpretive signs and field sketch
- 12.15 - begins Prince Henry Cliff Walk
 - plant observations and lookouts on the way
- 13.00 - arrive Katoomba Park - lunch

Penrith Lakes staff will meet bus/es at Echo Point at 10 am. If bus is not at Echo Point by 10 am please contact Bran Lazendic on 0411 051 721 or PLEEC 4730 3630.

Could you please supply us with a mobile phone number that will be ON the BUS.