



Geocache Australia

6-13 October 2026

A little more information....

Hi everyone,

I am delighted and excited to be able to lead you on a caching trip to my home country Australia.

Australia is a BIG place - it is almost the size of the USA - and so you can't expect to see the whole country in one trip. And so what we have designed is a trip to see (and cache) in some of the iconic places on the east coast. This includes Sydney, Canberra (the nation's capital) and of course, visiting EarthCache 1-Wasp Head (the worlds very first EarthCache).

And, because of my background, we will see some amazing landscapes and geology.

We will also provide you with information on some additional trips you might like to take at the end of this one to say visit the Great Barrier Reef or the deep center and Uluru (the true 'outback').

We are capping this trip to just 14 people. The trip is open to ALL geocachers and their partners/spouses and family (sorry - you have to be 16 years or older to attend).

Registration will open soon!

Gary

The details

Trip days/length

This is seven day (and seven nights) trip running 6-13 October 2026.

Activities and hikes

This trip will involved a few activities that will be moderately strenuous - short hikes on rough paths to caches etc. You need to be moderately fit to participate in ALL of those activities. If you are unable to hike or do those activities we ask that you self-determine and sit out. If a leader feels that an activity is not for you, they have the right to ask you to sit out. This is for your own safety and the safety of the group.

Be prepared for this trip - start walking a good number of months out and be able to hike a mile or two including up and down multiple flights of stairs.

Accommodation

We will be staying in shared accommodation as we travel around. You can expect to move every day or other day to a new location. They will be 2-3 star hotels and cabins - basic, but neat and clean. They will be 2-3 people in a space each night. A single room option will be available (for a fee).

Transport

Our plan is to travel in one vehicle on this trip - so everyone gets to hear the same stories and can share with the entire group. We will spend a lot of time traveling but they will always be scenic routes. The vehicle will have room to have all our bags on board as well.

When in Sydney, we will use public transport to get to/from city icons.

Meals

Breakfasts will be included on the trip. A dinner on the first night and last night will also be provided. Lunches, snacks and other dinners will be at your expense.

Entries to Parks etc

These are all included in the trip.

Weather

It will be spring in Australia - and we can expect temperatures around 60-70 F during the day or higher. It can be in the 40's F at night. There is always the possibility of rain (which never stops us having fun).

Animal spotting

It is never a guarantee, but we will be looking for grey kangaroos, wallabies, emus, echidna, koala, possums, dolphins etc. We will do our best to seek these out in the wild..and visit an animal park on our last day in Canberra.

Caching

We will be visiting caches as we go. Some will be very iconic places - like at the Sydney Opera House and on the Sydney Harbour Bridge. We will also grab them in the Blue Mountains, and along the coastline. While we will see Earthcaches, we will see loads of traditional etc. We will not stop for every cache (it is really not a 'cache-run' type of trip). It will be a good balance of caching and taking in all Australia has to offer in the fellowship of other catchers!

Insurance

We **strongly recommend** that you take our travel insurance to cover any medical costs, loss of baggage or if you need to pull out of the trip past the refund dates.

Leader

Gary Lewis is a passionate Earth science educator and the creator of the EarthCache program. He has a degree in geology from the University of Sydney and taught in schools in New South Wales. He established the education program at Geoscience Australia (the USGS equivalent) before moving to the USA to become the Director of Education at the Geological Society of America. Gary is now the president of GEOetc which aims to raise the awesomeness of the excitement and importance of Earth's science for everyone.

Being a Sydney Native, as well as spending 20 years in Canberra, Gary can take you to places in the cities and surrounding landscapes that most people don't even know about! And you might bump into friends and family along the way!

Trip Cost

Based on the current costs (and exchange rates) the cost for people who sign up early will be **US\$3,995 pp**. This cost does NOT include your airfare to and from Sydney Australia.

After 1 January 2026, the price will jump to US\$4,295 pp.

Single supplement (ie your own room) will be an additional US\$1,175

Refund Policy

Your deposit is fully refundable, minus a US\$50 administration fee, up until 90 days after you register - called your Deposit Refund Date - or 1 March 2026, whichever comes first. After this date you forfeit your deposit.

Full payment is due before March 31, 2026. There are no refunds after this date. It is strongly recommended that you will take out travel insurance to cover cancellations due to your health or other circumstances.

Questions

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Gary on gary@geoetc.com

TRIP PLAN *

Day 1 – Arrive and meet at hotel near Sydney airport

We will meet at 1 pm for orientation and meeting with the leaders. Then we are off for a visit to the heart of Sydney to see icons (Harbour Bridge, Opera House) and some of the historic convict areas of the city. This tour is led by our leader Gary – a native of Sydney.



Day 2 – Blue Mountains

Travel from the city to historic Katoomba in the Blue Mountains. See the Three Sisters rock formation, Echo Point, and Jamison Valley. Continue to Jenolan Caves on the winding roadway reaching down into the deep valley, leading through an immense limestone tunnel and the Grand Arch. Enjoy a guided inspection at Jenolan Caves. (If open)

Day 3 – Sydney Basin and the South Coast

Drive south through the Royal National Park to Stanwell Park. Explore the escarpments, see engineering for landslide hazards, and see coal outcropping on the beach. Travel to Bombo/Kiama to see amazing ancient lava flows and blowholes. Then continue down to the far south coast. Overnight in the Batemans Bay area.



Day 4 –Explore Murramarang National Park and EarthCache 1.

Visit the very first Earthcache ever created. See amazing coastlines (and animals). Find a variety of caches along the amazing coastline. Overnight in Batemans Bay Area.

Day 5 – Drive to Canberra

Drive up the Clyde Mountain through historic Braidwood and onto Canberra – Australia's capital. Tour of the city, parliament house, and amazing geology of the area. See faults, and fossils and smell a mineral deposit. Overnight in Canberra.



Day 6 – Explore Canberra & Tidbinbilla

Cache in Canberra and journey out to a local wildlife park to see more Aussie animals up close - kangaroos, emu's, koalas. Overnight in Canberra.



Day 7 – Drive inland back to Sydney

Stopping at old jails and caching all the way! We will visit the oldest cache site in Australia and cruise by Bondi Beach. Overnight in Sydney – ready to fly out for home or a new adventure.

* subject to change at any time