



Australian Government
Geoscience Australia

Geoscience Australia

Visit our Education Centre

An excursion that rocks!

Discover the geosciences through curriculum-linked, hands-on activities that keep students captivated, focused and looking for more.

Our Education Centre is an interesting and FREE school excursion destination. It provides engaging activities for a range of school-aged audiences and highlights geoscience as an interesting and relevant part of our lives.

The Education Centre is staffed by a small team of professional geoscience educators.

We also have a superb collection of world-class minerals, rocks, fossils, geoscience maps and historical equipment on display in our public foyer.

As well as the general school programs, we can tailor programs to develop an excursion that suits your needs. We are more than happy to cater your visit to the topic or style that suits you.

Geoscience Australia undertakes a wide variety of research into fields such as mineral exploration, energy resources, greenhouse gas storage, environmental land-use, Australia's maritime boundaries, the marine environment, groundwater, natural hazards and the associated risks and emergency management. Geoscience Australia also produces geoscience maps, satellite imagery and maintains gravity, geomagnetic and seismic networks.



Planning a Visit



Visit length is usually 1½ hours

Maximum group size is 50 to 60 students

When visiting you have the option to pick from the following subject areas and special visit activities:

- General visit – this will highlight a wide range of geoscience topics including natural hazards, geography, rock types, and the work that Geoscience Australia does. The general visit includes equal time in the Education Centre and Minerals Collection and includes worksheets for students.
- Natural Hazards – the visit is run with a natural hazards focus, covering earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis or we can more specifically focus on one hazard if you prefer
- Geography/Mapping – the visit would include a variety of activities that explore the use and development of mapping at Geoscience Australia. There is an array of map types to look at including satellite images, bathymetry/topography, geological, anomaly maps and many more.
- ATWS Tour (Maximum 15 students) – The Australian Tsunami Warning Centre tour involves seeing the actual warning centre, hearing from a seismologist about how the system works and the benefits from having such a system in place. (Dependant on scientist availability)
- SHRIMP Tour (Maximum 15 students) – The SHRIMP (Sensitive High Resolution Ion Micro Probe) is a mass spectrometer developed by the ANU, used for dating rock and mineral samples. The tour will include seeing the machine and hearing from one of the scientists about how it works and its use at Geoscience Australia. (Dependant on scientist availability)
- Geological Time Walk – Take a step back in time, literally. It is an easy one-kilometre walk that covers 4.6 billion years of the Earth's geological history. This can be either a guided or self-guided activity. (Weather dependant)
- 3D Edge Theatre – View the world from a unique perspective, using 3D technology (suitable for senior classes). Large groups will need to be split up into groups of 15 or less.
- We can also have scientists from within the agency come and speak to the students about a wide variety of geoscience topics during your visit.

Resources



The Geoscience Australia Education Centre produces and distributes a variety of school resources including an array of posters, educational activities and resource texts on a number of geoscience topics. These are available in hard copy to visiting teachers or on our website www.ga.gov.au/education

Shop



There is a Sales Centre onsite that offers a vast selection of maps and geoscience products. Polished semi-precious stones and many more geoscience related products are available for students to purchase at very economical prices (if appropriate). Any teacher visiting the education centre receives a 25% discount on Geoscience Australia products or mineral specimen purchases.

Café and BBQ Area



Café Rocco is situated to the rear of the foyer area, and is available for light refreshments (group bookings required). There is also an onsite BBQ area which can be utilised by school groups.

Bookings essential

Bookings for the Education Centre essential.

When booking please email the following information to education@ga.gov.au

- School name
- Teacher contact and phone number
- Class level
- Approximate number of students
- Any specific topics or tours of interest
- Preferred dates and times
- Special needs

For further information please contact the Education Centre: education@ga.gov.au

Phone: (02) 6249 9673

Or visit our website:

<http://www.ga.gov.au/education/>

Location



Cnr Jerrabomberra Ave and Hindmarsh Drive, Symonston, Canberra.

