

Tour Description: Orient Cave Mineralogical / Speleothem Tour Jill Rowling

More helictites and things with capillary controlled growth.
See large calcite blades on the sides of large stalagmites in Commonwealth Chamber.
Think about the domed roof: Does it have a hydrothermal origin?
A little bit of Lechuguilla only at Jenolan.
Places you don't expect aragonite.
Acid holes and drip cones.
Recrystallised calcite speleothems and a large heligmite?
Rods, wings, hands and other bizarre shapes. Medusa's heads.

Tour Description: Mineralogical tour of Chifley Cave, Jenolan Jill Rowling.

Far from a tour of "dead and desiccated" speleothems as some person inelegantly described it, the Chifley Cave offers an interesting and rather different selection of moonmilk-coated speleothems compared with other Jenolan Caves tours. Look at the dark coralloids where air moves between Imperial and Chifley Caves. Niches show cauliflower-like efflorescences. A small deposit of "potatoes" indicates where acids from an ancient bat guano pile have reacted with the bedrock producing a different kind of speleothem that has some of the characteristics of soils. Moonmilk-coated speleothems are mostly actively depositing. This is the cave where Iain McCulloch's "Fluffy Stuffite" is still being deposited. See the helictite complexity of Trickett's Mystery. Wonder about the rather large calcite crystal deposits just before exiting to the Grand Arch.

Tour Description: Jubilee Cave Mineralogical / Speleothems Tour Jill Rowling

Jubilee Cave is the type locality for Ribbon Helictites.
We will be seeing these, many other speleothem types and discuss some of the reasons behind smooth vs. microgour flowstone, teeth on shawls; gour pools; triangular calcite flowstone. Colonies of micro-organisms or mineral deposits? This tour involves a bit of bending in low passages.



Steve Reilly and the Kraehenbuehl clan

Arthur Clarke