



Going underground at Parys Mine

INSURANCE

Parys Mine is not a show mine, Everybody going underground must have British Caving Association (BCA) “active caver” public liability insurance. This is a membership benefit when you join the BCA. **It is up to you to join the BCA and obtain insurance before we can take you on an underground trip.** This insurance is like third party car insurance; it does not benefit you if you have an accident but does protect you from any claim if you injure someone else while underground.

There are two routes to BCA membership.

- You can join the BCA as a “direct individual member” see <https://british-caving.org.uk/wiki3/doku.php?id=membership:dim> Members get a red BCA card.
- You can join (or may already belong to) a caving club which is a full member of the BCA. Its members will apply through the Club to become “club Individual members”. Both routes offer identical insurance benefits but club individual membership is £5 cheaper as the club handle much of the administration. However, this saving is usually offset by the cost of club membership. For more details see <https://british-caving.org.uk/wiki3/doku.php?id=membership:cim> Members get a green BCA card.

Notes

- When getting insurance it **must** be as “an active caver” (red or green card), NOT as a “non caver” (social member only - orange card), nor as a club “Temporary member” (no card or payment but your new club will have a record of new members).
- Once you take out BCA insurance it provides you with public liability caving insurance worldwide for the rest of the calendar year.
- If you go down the club route be aware some clubs may require that you join as a temporary member until you have been on some trips before you can be accepted as a full member and pay for insurance. Temporary membership of another club will not cover a Parys Mine trip.
- Timescale: For direct members BCA are usually fairly quick about sending out cards, although as this is done by volunteers allow 3 weeks from your payment before you get the card. With club membership much depends on the club membership secretary, they may hold applications until they have several. However, once your payment has been accepted by them you will be insured even if you have not received your card. If necessary we will accept sight of your bank statement showing payment to BCA (for direct membership) or to a caving club (for club individual membership). This can be on paper or smartphone and done on the day of the trip.
- Cost: This varies according to membership type. Active caver insurance is (2019) £17.00 for the calendar year but reduced to £8.50 if you join from July. Direct members pay an additional £5.00, but discounts are available for two people living at the same address and for students. See membership form M1 for direct individual insurance <https://caves.org.uk/payments/bca/forms/M1.html>

What else do you need to know?

About the trip

- If you are new to the mine we usually take people on the introductory route. This route is not dangerous, but this is not a show mine. It is very much in the state it was when abandoned 100 - 150 years ago. There is no underground lighting. There are unprotected drops and deep pools of acidic water. The passage floors are muddy, wet and uneven.
- Your visit will involve climbing some ladders (max. 25 feet (8m.) high), passages where you have to stoop, and a couple of short “hands and knees” crawls. We have a traverse line in place, which requires the use of traverse equipment; your party leader will show you how to use this. You will not be roped, although in places there are handlines to hold on to. We usually descend about 30 fathoms(180ft. 60m.) and spend about 3 hours underground.
- TAKE CARE UNDERGROUND. Look to your own safety and that of others. You must follow any instructions given by your Party Leaders. Do not leave your group.
- The mine is an area of scientific, archaeological and historical research; please take care not to damage anything. Do not touch the formations. They are fragile, and we want to be able to show them to others in future! We do not allow the collecting of specimens.
- We do not take youngsters aged under 15 underground. Those between 15 and 17 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian who will take responsibility for them.
- If you have any medical condition that could affect you while underground please inform us. We will make every effort to accommodate you providing that it will not affect the safety of the rest of the party.

BCA participation statement. The BCA recognises that caving, cave diving and mine exploration are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement.

Kit Check - You will need

- BCA Insurance card (or proof of BCA insurance)
 - Caving oversuit, overalls or old clothes (they may well get stained) but they do not need to be waterproof.
 - As trips constantly move around and there is no wind underground you do not need thick under-clothing.
 - Caving headlamp, weight bearing waist-belt (which may also carry the lamp battery), helmets and cow's-tails.

You can hire these items from us for £4, paid in cash (preferably coins) on the day of the trip. We need to know in advance as the lamps are kept off-site so they are fully charged.
 - Knee length wellington boots – there is water up to 30cm deep in some passages
 - Gloves. Industrial rubber gloves or rubber gardening gloves are ideal as the mine is very muddy.
- PUG has a small random assortment of old overalls, used gloves and wellington boots but it is much better to bring your own.
- You are welcome to take (non-commercial) photographs but be aware the mine is muddy, damp, and acidic so you will need to protect your photographic equipment.

Meet in the public car park at the top of the mountain, beside the B5111 (Amlwch to Rhosybol/Llanerchymedd road). Grid Ref: SH438905.
<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?x=243732&y=390515&z=120&sv=243732,390515&st=4&ar=y&mapp=map.srf&searchp=ids.srf&dn=713&ax=243732&ay=390515&lm=0> This is also the starting point of the surface Heritage Trail (car park sign refers to this), which is worth looking around if you have time. We look forward to seeing you.