



Additional Risk Assessment
Canyoning and Gorge Trekking
The Learning Adventure

Last Updated: 16/10/24

Risk Ranking

P = Participant AL = Adventure Leader

The following quantitative method has been designed as a measure of the total risk evident:

RISK = LIKELIHOOD OF OCCURRENCE X SEVERITY OF HAZARD

Likelihood

1. Remote 2. Possible 3. Probable 4. Likely

Severity of Hazard

1. No injury or repercussion 2. Minor Injury 3. Major Injury 4. Fatal

Overall Risk

1-5 LOW RISK

6-10 MEDIUM RISK

11-16 HIGH RISK

Only fully qualified instructors will be used for Canyoning / Gorge Trekking activities.

1: Canyoning / Gorge Trekking Activity

Risk	At Risk	Existing Controls	Likelihood of Risk	Severity of Risk	Overall Risk	Additional Suggestions
Equipment						

Equipment failure	P AL	Equipment is regularly maintained, serviced and, where required, tested to current specifications.	1	4	4	
Unsuitability	P AL	All equipment meets current specifications and/or accepted standards where applicable and is suitable for its intended use.	1	2	2	
Damaged	P AL	Instructors carry appropriate repair kit or spares for the activity.	1	1	1	
Wrongly fitted	P AL	Instructors check equipment at time of issue.	1	2	2	
Activity						
Slips & Trips	P AL	<p>Participants are equipped with appropriate PPE (helmets and buoyancy aids).</p> <p>Instructors brief the group as to hazards and monitor the conditions underfoot e.g. icy, slippery or unstable.</p> <p>Participants are instructed on safe moving skills: lower centre of gravity, keep to lower points, position feet in hollows or spiky / rough areas. Avoid smooth and / or high points. Get onto</p>	3	3	9	<p>Safety briefing given to participants before the start of the activity with clear guidelines.</p> <p>The Adventure Leader/school staff will use a first aid kit for minor injuries. For serious</p>

		<p>bottom or all fours if required. Move with caution.</p> <p>Slide technique adopted for sliding down rocks: elbows tucked in feet together and knees bent.</p> <p>Supervision of the participants by a suitably trained and experienced instructor.</p>				<p>injuries, the Adventure Leader will call emergency services for further assistance.</p>
Falls	P AL	<p>Participants are equipped with appropriate PPE (helmets and buoyancy aids).</p> <p>Instructors will manage locations where a fall is possible in an appropriate manner (top rope / spotting)</p> <p>Participants are instructed on safe moving skills: lower centre of gravity, keep to lower points, position feet in hollows or spiky / rough areas. Avoid smooth and / or high points. Get onto bottom or all fours if required. Move with caution.</p> <p>Participants are briefed on jumping technique: one foot planted, step out, hips forward. Enter water with a slight bend in the knees.</p> <p>Supervision of the participants by a suitably trained and experienced instructors.</p> <p>Instructors to brief participants before any abseils or use of rope systems.</p>	2	4	8	<p>Safety briefing given to participants before the start of the activity with clear guidelines.</p> <p>The Adventure Leader/school staff will use a first aid kit for minor injuries. For serious injuries, the Adventure Leader will call emergency services for further assistance.</p>

		<p>Instructors to ensure that participants do not abseil in the direct path of waterfalls and that they are not lowered into fast moving water.</p> <p>Take-off and landing areas are controlled by the instructors. Landing areas are to be kept clear (one client within the jumping area at a time).</p> <p>Pool landing areas to be depth checked.</p>				
Banging Head	P AL	<p>Helmets must be worn at all times.</p>	2	2	4	<p>Safety briefing given to participants before the start of the activity with clear guidelines.</p> <p>The Adventure Leader/school staff will use a first aid kit for minor injuries. For serious injuries, the Adventure Leader will call emergency services for further assistance.</p>
Falling Rocks	P AL	<p>Helmets must be worn at all times.</p> <p>Instructor manages the participants and is vigilant and aware of surroundings.</p>	1	4	4	<p>The Adventure Leader/school staff will use a first aid kit for minor injuries. For serious injuries, the Adventure Leader</p>

						will call emergency services for further.
Foot entrapments: walking/abseiling	P AL	<p>The location and route is carefully selected according to the groups ability.</p> <p>Guided abseil for the participants.</p> <p>Pool landing areas to be depth checked.</p>	1	3	3	The Adventure Leader/school staff will use a first aid kit for minor injuries. For serious injuries, the Adventure Leader will call emergency services for further
Waterborne disease	P AL	<p>Avoid high-risk waterways.</p> <p>Avoid rivers immediately after flooding.</p> <p>Wash hands before lunch.</p>	1	3	3	The Adventure Leader/school staff will use a first aid kit for minor injuries. For serious injuries, the Adventure Leader will call emergency services for further.
Flash Flood	P AL	<p>Checking of weather conditions and forecast before and during the activity.</p> <p>Instructors will ensure there is no scheduled release from a dam upstream ahead of the activity.</p>	1	4	4	The Adventure Leader/school staff will use a first aid kit for minor injuries. For serious injuries, the Adventure Leader will call emergency services for further.
Drowning	P AL	Wear appropriate PPE (buoyancy aid) and ensure weak or non-swimmers are closely supervised.	1	4	4	The Adventure Leader/school staff will use a first aid

		<p>Check water levels before entering the canyon.</p> <p>Instructors will ensure there is no scheduled release from a dam upstream ahead of the activity.</p> <p>Instructors and the Adventure Leader have emergency numbers.</p>				<p>kit for minor injuries. For serious injuries, the Adventure Leader will call emergency services for further.</p>
Weather Conditions						
Extreme weather, (cold or heat illness or injury)	P AL	<p>Instructors obtain information regarding weather/tides and makes an assessment based on the activity and location.</p> <p>Participants must dress appropriately for the conditions and have suitable clothing for the excursion / activity. Dry spare clothing should be carried.</p> <p>In hot sunny conditions participants should be encouraged to wear a hat and sunscreen and be reminded to drink water regularly.</p> <p>In cold conditions participants must wear warm clothing, go indoors when appropriate and be encouraged to stay dry. Staff to monitor for early signs of hypothermia or frostbite.</p> <p>Instructors will modify or curtail the activity if prevailing conditions are inappropriate for the group or the planned activity.</p>	1	3	3	<p>Kit list provided to participants ahead of trip.</p> <p>Teachers to help enforce wearing of appropriate clothes.</p> <p>The Adventure Leader/school staff will use a first aid kit for minor injuries. For serious injuries, the Adventure Leader will call emergency services for further assistance.</p>

		<p>additional food, clothing, and equipment is available to suit the expected conditions and nature of the activity.</p> <p>Close monitoring and supervision of the condition of the group, and early/first signs of illness to be recognised and promptly treated.</p>				
Dehydration	P AL	<p>Ample water supplies will be given out each day before excursions.</p> <p>All participants are advised to bring and drink water to avoid dehydration prior to, and during the activity.</p>	2	3	6	<p>Participants to be fully briefed prior to the start of the activity.</p> <p>The Adventure Leader/school staff will use a first aid kit for minor injuries. For serious injuries, the Adventure Leader will call emergency services for further assistance.</p>
Sunburn	P AL	<p>Participants are briefed at the start of the session on being sun smart.</p> <p>Sunscreen to be reapplied at regular intervals.</p> <p>Participants to wear hats (preferably broad brimmed) and either a wetsuit or rash vest and shorts.</p>	2	2	4	<p>Participants to be fully briefed prior to the start of the activity.</p> <p>Kit list provided to participants ahead of trip.</p>

						<p>Teachers to help enforce wearing of appropriate clothes.</p> <p>The Adventure Leader/school staff will use a first aid kit for minor injuries. For serious injuries, the Adventure Leader will call emergency services for further</p>
Access to Activity						
Access	P AL	Instructors will plan the route to avoid access issues - Both entrance and exit locations will be planned.	1	3	3	Participants to be fully briefed prior to the start of the activity.
Environment	P	Participants to be briefed regarding code of conduct in wild and rural places, including dropping of litter.	1	1	1	Participants to be fully briefed prior to the start of the activity.
Livestock / Wildlife	P AL	<p>If livestock is encountered Instructors will advise participants of the best approach.</p> <p>Participants are instructed not to approach or touch the animals.</p>	2	3	6	Participants to be fully briefed prior to the start of the activity.

Roads / Tracks	P AL	<p>Participants to be carefully monitored by staff around roads. Adventure Leader to walk at the front of the group when moving together. Other staff should spread themselves through the group with a teacher at the back of the group.</p> <p>Participants reminded to be aware and vigilant around traffic.</p> <p>Instructors to supervise any crossings and avoid roads where possible.</p>	1	4	4	Participants to be fully briefed prior to the start of the activity.
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