

# KIDS GLOW WORM TUNNEL AND LOST CITY

Karl Stone, Tori Lester & Kids  
Mark & Christina Foreman & Kids  
Owen & Victoria Sentana & Kids  
Ray Cook & Grandkids  
Rizwan Ahamed Ali, Rizwan & Kids  
Remy & Jennifer Colinet & Kids  
Dan Whetton & Daughter  
Tim Stootman & Daughter

Whilst there was an official trip leader on this outing, with fifteen kids along for the day it was pretty clear who the real trip leaders were going to be.

The day started casually with everyone almost on time. After all, with that many kids along on a day trip would you expect the trip up to be issue free? We met at the Zig Zag railway entrance, the adults had a leisurely chat whilst the kids either started to get to know each other or reacquainted themselves once again. After a trip briefing we headed out on the journey to the Glow Worm tunnel. The road to the glow worms was an easy drive with the dirt road suitable for two wheel drives.

The parking area at the end of the road was a little busy but there was room enough for all vehicles. After a quick comfort stop we all headed out on the 2km walk to the tunnel. This is where the kids really started to get to know each other. There was a wide variety of ages and the kids gravitated for the most part to those of a similar age. The trip was easy going and just before the tunnel the parents distributed the torches and re-tied a couple of shoe laces.

There were a few other groups within when we first went into the glow worm tunnel. This meant the glow worms were not very... glowy. Persistence was the key though, especially with such a large group. We finally found a spot, eventually managed to get all torches turned out, and kept everyone quiet for long enough to see the glow worms really start to sparkle. We even experimented with noise and the effect that had on the glow worms. There were lots of "oooohs" and "Aaaaahs" through this whole process.



We were close to the far end of the tunnel at this stage so we walked through and let the kids play some more before making our way back along the track to the cars. We made our way to a relatively quiet spot to have a bite to eat. After food and a bit of a chat we saw some of the kids start to pull out tablets so we knew it was time to move on to the Lost City.

The track to the Lost City required four wheel drive but it was easily driveable for any unmodified 4wd. At the lost city we stopped for a quick photo where we managed to get most of the participants in it and then let the kids explore. Of course letting the kids explore meant parents were chasing the kids waiting to catch them if they put a foot wrong. By this stage of the day kids had really bonded and dragging them away was the challenge.

We all headed back to the starting point where we all aired up. Kids were playing and parents were talking, but we all eventually managed to get back into our cars and head off. It was a great day with all parents looking forward to future trips with the knowledge that the kids will become great friends over the years to come.

