

State Coal Mine Heritage Area

Education Program

Being at the heart of the region's social and economic development, the State Coal Mine fosters an understanding of Australia's cultural heritage with an authentic underground tour experience. The mine remains just as it was in its working days. Tools and equipment are still in place, as if the miners have just walked away. Seams of 130 million year old coal glisten under dim lighting, while empty skips stand idle to rust in the silent tunnels. Guides tell stories from mining days past and explain mining methods and social history. Many guides have personal connections to the mine, with a special few being retired miners.

Excursion topic

Life Underground in the Early 20th Century

Levels: Prep – Tertiary

Key Learning areas: History

The State Coal Mine offers students a journey back in time to discover what life working in a coal mine was like in the 1900s. Students will journey underground through the dark network of tunnels with our guides to discover the technologies used in coal mining and learn how Victoria's workingmen extracted the black gold. Above ground students will have access to historical sources that help demonstrate how people lived and worked at that time.

During the tour, students will discover Wonthaggi's modest beginnings as a tent city, uncover the beginnings of the coal industry in Victoria, and explore the lives and working conditions of some of the mine's early workers. Students will also learn about the mining technology of the time and how it supported Victoria's energy independence, and examine how new ideas and technological developments contributed to change in Australia's society and economy during the early 1900s.

Group size

Group sizes are flexible and can be negotiated with the State Coal Mine Visitor Centre. Please email statecoalmineoffice@parks.vic.gov.au for more information.

Availability

Tours are available each day and must be booked in advance. Tours run for 60 – 90 minutes. The State Coal Mine is also open for self-guided exploration each day between 10am and 4:30 pm

Booking your visit

For more information about excursion costs and availability, please contact the State Coal Mine Visitor Centre. Please email statecoalmineoffice@parks.vic.gov.au.