



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Gorham's Cave Complex
inscribed on the World Heritage
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Gorham's Cave Complex, Gibraltar, World Heritage Site

Visiting the Sea Caves – Access, Welfare, and Health & Safety Advice for Visitors

Gorham's and Vanguard Caves are spectacularly sited on the eastern shore of Gibraltar, and visiting them is a very memorable experience. However, they are moderately difficult/difficult to access on foot. No visits are allowed within 48 hours of bad weather, and visits may have to be postponed at short notice if the weather is adverse.

Areas of the sea cave complex that can be visited and numbers of visitors allowed may vary from time to time. The standard tour for up to 7 people, is to the entrance of Gorham's Cave, but not inside, in order to protect the fragile archaeological deposits. All visits must be escorted by guides from the Gibraltar Museum.

Access to the sea caves is through a restricted area, and there is normally no parking in this area. Visitors will need to supply details of their identity cards or passports in advance and, where applicable, their vehicle registration, and bring their ID/passport on the visit. Photography is not permitted on the access road.

Access is down (and back up) 344 steps on the cliff face; and across a boulder field, which has a partial path, to Gorham's Cave.

Visitors need to be reasonably fit; it is not suitable for people with health problems or difficulty in walking. It is also not suitable for people who suffer from vertigo.

It may also be difficult for children, so normally children under 12 years old are not allowed on the tours.

Visitors should wear comfortable clothing and good walking shoes, boots or robust trainers. All visitors are advised to carry a bottle of water, preferably in a backpack in order to keep their hands free.

Hard hats will be supplied and must be worn at all times, unless the guide advises they can be removed. Visitors should be aware that there is a possibility of rock falls, and obey any instructions from the guides.

All visitors should keep to the paths and walkways. Visitors should not touch (or stand on) any archaeological deposits or lean on sensitive areas of the caves' walls.

Visitors should not pick up any material or metal objects, as there is a possibility that there may be occasional munitions on site.

There will be gulls in the area, and at times there may be bats or nesting birds in the caves. Disturbing any wildlife is strictly prohibited, and noise should be kept to a minimum in the caves.

There are no toilet facilities on site, though a toilet is available by the entrance office.

Mobile coverage can be poor, but there is a telephone at the entrance security point in case of emergency.

There will be a safety briefing at the start of each visit. Please listen carefully and abide by the instructions.

Please write to neanderthals@gibmuseum.gi if you have any queries; or telephone 200 74289 and ask for the Head of Cultural Heritage.