Caving activities
Feeling more adventurous? We arrange deep level visits for pre-booked groups of around 10 people. We’ll supply miners’ helmets, lamps and an experienced guide. These trips are safe, great fun and very dirty! Call for details. AALA licensed.

Opening times
From 16 February to 31 October, daily, 10am to 5pm (last entry).

Special openings
Christmas Fantasy
1 to 24 December, and 27 to 31 December, 10am to 5pm. We can open at other times by prior arrangement.

Reach out and touch the mining heritage of the Royal Forest of Dean. Take the route made by miners over thousands of years as they followed the iron ore deep underground. These natural caves cover 245 hectares (600 acres) with miles of passageways and impressive caverns. At Clearwell Caves, you wander through nine large caverns – some big enough to hold parties for 350 people! Or come as a group and be led through the caves by one of our experienced and entertaining guides.

Group organiser
Please call to book your guided visit. Schools and youth groups a speciality.

Clearwell Caves
Nr Coleford
Royal Forest of Dean
Gloucestershire GL16 8JR
Telephone (01594) 832535
www.clearwellcaves.com

- A family adventure
- Nine impressive caverns
- A great underground experience
Iron ores have been mined at Clearwell Caves for thousands of years. You can still meet local Freeminers here – men whose ancient birthright entitles them to dig for minerals within the ‘Hundred of St Briavels’ and the Forest of Dean. The iron from these caves has been used over the centuries to make tools, weapons and machinery. Some iron ore occurs as powdered oxides – red, yellow, purple and brown. Highly valued as pigments, we still mine them here today.

The story of iron
The formation of iron deposits millions of years ago and how it has been mined for thousands of years, up to the present day, is told in displays throughout the caves.

Above ground
We have a fascinating gift shop selling unusual gifts, books and mineral jewellery, and you can also buy the ochres mined here. Enjoy delicious snacks in our café or, if the weather is fine, there is a large picnic area.

Christmas fantasy
Enjoy Clearwell Caves, then come back again during December when they are transformed into a magical world of light and sound. A very special family event.

Recommended by the Daily Telegraph

Whatever the weather, the temperature underground is always a constant and comfortable 10°C (50°F).