

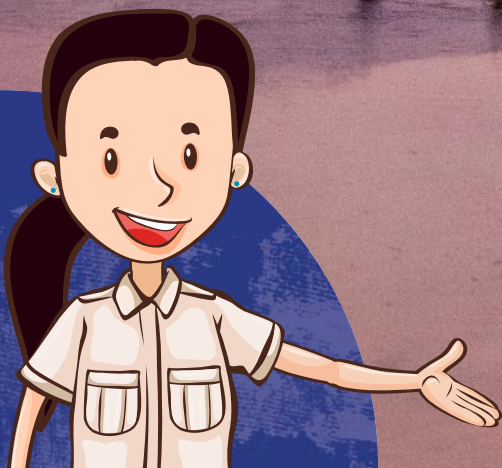
SELF-GUIDED TOURS

TEACHER'S GUIDE TO THE PENGUIN PARADE

Womin jeka to Millowl, welcome to Phillip Island and the world-famous Penguin Parade.

Phillip Island is on Bunurong Country.

We encourage teachers to share with students that they are visiting Bunurong Country, a significant place for people and wildlife.



Phillip Island
**NATURE
PARKS**

For more information or to make a booking please contact us on:
T (03) 5951 2835 E bookings@penguins.org.au
penguins.org.au

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live, work and learn, the Bunurong. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

Little Wonders
PENGUIN
PARADE



PREPARING YOUR STUDENTS

- **Rug up, its usually colder than students expect. Bring lots of layers!**

Checking in

- Make sure you have confirmed student numbers 24hrs prior to visit with our Booking Office.
- Arrive at the Penguin Parade at least one hour prior to the expected arrival time of the penguins.
- On arrival have your booking reference number and school name on hand and make yourself known to one of our staff.
- A ranger will meet your group for a welcome and orientation.
- Rangers will be located throughout the Parade. If a student loses contact with the group they can approach any ranger who are all equipped with radios and can help bring together students and groups if there is a need.



Making use of the displays

The displays throughout the Penguin Parade Visitor Centre provide a wonderful start to learning and engaging with our Little Penguins and their life histories. The visitor centre however, can be quite busy just prior to and after the Parade so to make use of the displays with your group we suggest arriving early.

WHAT YOU WILL FIND:

- 1 Penguin Foundation display** – who are the Penguin Foundation and what do they do? Also learn all about ‘penguin jumpers’ and how and why they are used.
- 2 Meet our Penguins** – this station (in front of café) shares the movements of individual penguins over the seasons.
- 3 Little Wonders wall** – discover the penguins of the world.
- 4 Summerland Story** – (in front of restaurant) this display tells the fascinating story of the Summerland Peninsula and the changes that have occurred across this area over the years.
- 5 The Habitat Zone** – this is a family and child-friendly zone, it includes an interactive game (it allows 2 students to engage at a time); wildlife carer in the rehab zone with x-ray station and facilities; share stories in the reading nook; take a closer look at penguins habitat with the magnet wall; explore Bunurong language with a look at the use of language for some of the plants and animals you may see. This area is suited to small groups at a time and may not be suitable to larger groups.
- 6 Research area** – this display looks at popular research efforts through video and displays, however, only accessible for small groups at a time.
- 7 ‘Succor’** – marine debris seal sculpture; take a moment to share this amazing sculpture work with students and explore why marine debris is an issue and how they can help!



PENGUIN PARADE VISITOR CENTRE DISPLAYS MAP



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PREPARING YOUR STUDENTS

Toilet options

- **Near bus park**
Unisex toilets – 4 standard + 1 ambulant
- **Inside Visitor Centre**
Female – 16 standard cubicles
+ 2 ambulant
Male – 13 urinals + 4 cubicles
+ 1 ambulant
Unisex – 1 wheelchair accessible toilet
Changing Place – powerlift & lavatory
- **Outside in the Parade areas**
(at the bottom of hill)
Female – 8 standard cubicles
Male – Urinals + 4 cubicles



Water stations

There are 3 water stations available, one out near bus carpark toilets; one near the outdoor seats at the front of the Centre adjacent to the café; and one outside the back doors of the Visitor Centre.

Shops

Within the visitor centre there is a café, restaurant and souvenir shop. Only contactless transactions are available at all ticketing, retail and food & beverage outlets – cash not accepted.

Student Menu



We have partnered with Create Catering to deliver delicious meals.

Visit penguins.org.au to download the menu and pre-book dinner through our Booking Office: bookings@penguins.org.au

Accessing the Parade

- The walk through the visitor centre, from entry to exit, measures 90m then the walk to the beach is approximately another 500m. If anyone in your group has walking difficulties, there is a buggy service that can transfer individuals needing assistance to the beach area. If this is required chat to the ranger outside the back doors.
- The walk from back doors to the top of the stands is via the shearwater boardwalk. Look out for both Little Penguin and Short-tailed shearwater burrows along the way.
- Use our Biodiversity Survey (on page 4 of this resource) to challenge your students to make a list of the wildlife they might spot as you walk towards the beach. Common species include swamp wallaby, Cape Barren Goose, Purple swamphen, Silver Gulls and in the summer Short-tailed shearwaters. If your especially lucky you might see a native eel in the creek or an Eastern barred bandicoot. You will also see some natural and artificial penguin burrows. The artificial burrows help our research team study and learn about the Little Penguins.

Social Scripts

Social scripts may be useful for members of your group. They can be found here: penguins.org.au

Learning Experiences

Phillip Island Nature Parks' learning experiences are facilitated by eco-accredited rangers who are Registered Teachers or hold current Working with Children Checks. Choose an experience here: penguins.org.au

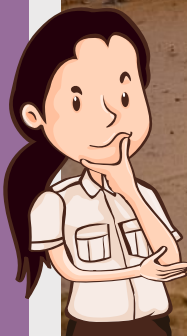
Other Teacher and Student Resources

[Nature Notes](#)

[Penguin Count Data Set](#)

Waiting for the Penguins to arrive & arrival

- Listen out for the 'huk, huk' of penguins as they form into groups (called rafts) off-shore. On some days you will even be able to spot the rafts before they arrive.
- What is that? The building between the stands is known as the Sky Box, within a ranger will be kept busy making a count of the penguins for the night.
- We count the penguins every night for 50 minutes once we get a start of 4 penguins arriving. We then keep the lights on for the duration of that 50 minute count. We recommend you spend some time enjoying watching the beach crossing. A ranger will be in the area and will be able to help out with questions.
- After the count we gradually turn off the lights. The walk back to the visitor centre provides lots of amazing viewing and the chance to see plenty of social interactions taking place. Make sure you leave some time for the return walk, which will take you on an alternative pathway up the hill from which you came down.



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BEFORE YOUR PENGUIN PARADE EXCURSION

PENGUIN RESEARCH - What do you know about penguins? Whole class brainstorm.

Where do penguins live?

What type of animal is a penguin?

How big is a penguin?

What colour are penguins?

What do penguins look like?

What do penguins eat?

Do penguins build nests?

How does Phillip Island Nature Parks learn about and protect penguins?

What type of penguins live on Phillip Island?

Create another question you have about penguins:

.....

Circle the resources you will use to gather information and answer your question:

School Library	Observations during the excursion to Penguin Parade	Ask a ranger at the Penguin Parade
Online Investigation	Use information from the displays at the Penguin Parade Visitor Centre	Discuss with a friend

Penguin Research at Phillip Island

At Phillip Island Nature Parks, we study Little Penguins in different ways using a range of techniques and technology to understand behaviour, features, adaptations and importantly, their needs. This information allows our Conservation team to take action to protect the species. One important part of penguin research is the nightly count. Each night a ranger, using binoculars, counts the number of Little Penguins crossing the Summerland beach. This count of penguins returning from the ocean to their burrows has been done in

the same way since the 1960's making it one of the longest running wildlife studies in the world.

The nightly count provides valuable data about the population of the Little Penguin colony. It also gives us information about how far from shore the penguins have been foraging (feeding). If the penguins food is close to shore they can come and go more frequently. If food is further away, penguins can spend longer (up to 3-4 weeks) out in the ocean hunting.

★★★GOOD NEWS★★★

In 2023, the Little Penguin colony is in great health with about **40,000** breeding penguins calling Phillip Island home.

CHALLENGE!

During your excursion discover one action you can take which will help protect native wildlife like the amazing Little Penguin.



DURING YOUR PENGUIN PARADE EXCURSION

The Summerland Peninsula is a significant place for people and wildlife as it has a range of biodiversity (variety of plant and animal life). As you walk towards the beach, complete a biodiversity survey to understand the types of animals and plants in the area. Keep a look out for both native and introduced species. You are looking for both flora (plant life) and fauna (animal life).

The date my class visited the Penguin Parade: _____

The season is _____

Last night there were: _____
 (number of) Little Penguins that crossed the beach and counted in 50 minutes.

Tonight, the penguins are expected to cross the beach at _____ (insert time).

Based on last night's count, I estimate tonight there will be _____ penguins counted.

BIODIVERSITY SURVEY - FAUNA











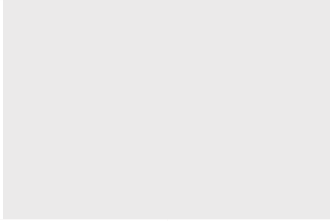
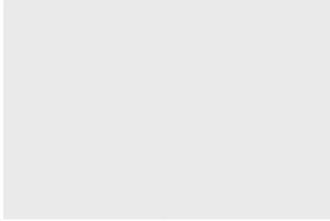



Purple Swamphen  Native <input type="checkbox"/> Introduced <input type="checkbox"/> Tick if observed <input type="checkbox"/> Number _____	Swamp Wallaby  Native <input type="checkbox"/> Introduced <input type="checkbox"/> Tick if observed <input type="checkbox"/> Number _____	Rabbit  Native <input type="checkbox"/> Introduced <input type="checkbox"/> Tick if observed <input type="checkbox"/> Number _____	Silver Gull (Sea Gull)  Native <input type="checkbox"/> Introduced <input type="checkbox"/> Tick if observed <input type="checkbox"/> Number _____
Little Penguin (Adult)  Native <input type="checkbox"/> Introduced <input type="checkbox"/> Tick if observed <input type="checkbox"/> Number _____	Little Penguin (Chick)  Native <input type="checkbox"/> Introduced <input type="checkbox"/> Tick if observed <input type="checkbox"/> Number _____	Cape Barron Goose  Native <input type="checkbox"/> Introduced <input type="checkbox"/> Tick if observed <input type="checkbox"/> Number _____	Eastern Barred Bandicoot  Native <input type="checkbox"/> Introduced <input type="checkbox"/> Tick if observed <input type="checkbox"/> Number _____
Little Raven  Native <input type="checkbox"/> Introduced <input type="checkbox"/> Tick if observed <input type="checkbox"/> Number _____	Short-tailed Shearwater  Native <input type="checkbox"/> Introduced <input type="checkbox"/> Tick if observed <input type="checkbox"/> Number _____	Draw and name any other animals observed  Native <input type="checkbox"/> Introduced <input type="checkbox"/> Tick if observed <input type="checkbox"/> Number _____	Draw and name any other animals observed  Native <input type="checkbox"/> Introduced <input type="checkbox"/> Tick if observed <input type="checkbox"/> Number _____

Image Credits: Purple Swamphen - Lip Kee (Creative Commons), European Rabbit - Chris Lane (Agriculture Victoria), Little Raven - Black Swan (Creative Commons)

DURING YOUR PENGUIN PARADE EXCURSION

BIODIVERSITY SURVEY - FLORA

Bower Spinach		Kikuyu Grass		Native Grass (Poa, Tussock)	
					
Native	Introduced	Native	Introduced	Native	Introduced
Tick if observed <input type="checkbox"/>	Number _____	Tick if observed <input type="checkbox"/>	Number _____	Tick if observed <input type="checkbox"/>	Number _____




Kangaroo Apple		Coastal Banksia		Drooping She-oak	
					
Native	Introduced	Native	Introduced	Native	Introduced
Tick if observed <input type="checkbox"/>	Number _____	Tick if observed <input type="checkbox"/>	Number _____	Tick if observed <input type="checkbox"/>	Number _____

Image credit: Kikuyu Grass – Harry Rose (Creative Commons)



A variety of native plants, trees, shrubs and grasses, are essential for a healthy biodiverse habitat. At the Nature Parks the Conservation team manage the vegetation by mapping and weeding invasive flora and by planting key native species.

Which species of flora is in this image (left)

HINT: penguins will often dig a burrow underneath it

**Why do you think this plant is important for Little Penguins?
What does it provide for them?**

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AFTER YOUR PENGUIN PARADE EXCURSION

Choose a theme or question to guide further investigation and create a presentation to share with your class, friends, or family.

- 1 Little Penguins: biology, features and behaviour
- 2 Threats to Little Penguins and actions we can take to protect them.
- 3 Biodiversity: why is biodiversity so important for people and for wildlife?
- 4 Little Penguin Research: what are the techniques that Phillip Island Nature Parks uses to understand and protect Little Penguins.



Resources and Strategies

- Work as a team with classmates
- Ask lots of questions
- Be an active investigator — use the school library, use your online research skills
- Send an email to an expert

Web Links

[Little Penguin Nature Notes](#) — facts, figures and information about the mighty Little Penguins of Phillip Island and the research and conservation programs which are used to understand and protect them. Nature Notes outline key structural features and behavioural adaptations enabling this iconic animal to be successful in the wild.

[Conservation Programs at Phillip Island Nature Parks](#) — learn about our major conservation programs and the management strategies used to keep Phillip Island a wild and natural place.

[Penguin Research Programs at Phillip Island Nature Parks](#) — discover the details of our world-leading penguin research.

[Video Interviews with Conservation Rangers](#) — explore the Nature Parks YouTube channel for videos about our wildlife and conservation programs.

[Learning Resources from Phillip Island Nature Parks Education Team](#)

— explore this web page to discover more links about the Little Penguins and other wildlife of Phillip Island.

[Phillip Island Nature Parks Sketchfab](#) — interact with 3D models of our key species: Little Penguins, koalas and Australian fur seals using a web browser.

