

ST KILDA PENGUINS

WUMINDJIKA WELCOME TO ST KILDA PENGUIN VIEWING EXPERIENCE

St Kilda is home to approximately 1,400 little penguins who nest amongst the rocks of the breakwater.

When foraging in the ocean, little penguins are independent. At sunset, the penguins returning to their burrows that day will start to gather in groups we call 'rafts' as they move closer to shore.

blue

white

CAMOUFLAGE

Little penguins are countershaded — **dark across their back** and **light across their front**. Their **BLUE FEATHERS** camouflage them against the deep dark sea, making the penguin almost invisible to birds of prey overhead.

A **WHITE UNDERBELLY** blends with sunlit waters above, making it difficult for predators as well as prey to spot a penguin from below.

Listen for: 'huk huk huk' as penguins locate each other before coming ashore.

The volcanic rocks used to build the artificial breakwater provide a safe environment for the penguins to nest amongst.

GOOD LITTLE DIVER

Eudyptula minor is the scientific name for **little penguin** and it means 'good little diver'.

Little penguins can **dive hundreds of times each day** looking for food.

Little penguins wait for dusk to come ashore to avoid predators such as Pacific gulls and sea eagles.

The diet of St Kilda's penguins consists of mainly anchovies with pilchards, garfish and squid also being consumed.

St Kilda's little penguins are known to utilise man-made shipping channels when out hunting in Phillip Bay. They are not known to venture outside the bay.

