

# Wilsons Promontory National Park

## Education Program

Wilsons Promontory, or the Prom as it's affectionately known, is the southernmost tip of the Australian mainland. From sun-drenched summer beaches to secluded winter walks among rainforest, the Prom has something for everyone. The Prom provides fantastic opportunities for students of all ages to learn about the intertidal zone, adaptations and ecosystems, park management and local history.

## Excursion topics

### Living on the Edge

*Levels: 3 - 6*

*Key Learning areas: Science, Geography*

*Location: Picnic Bay*

Exploring the intertidal zone of Picnic Bay students become familiar with the unique southern waters. They discover the creatures that live on the edge of the sea, identifying and discussing a variety of species and their features/adaptations. Students consider environmental factors and the difficult conditions faced by the plants and animals that impact growth and survival in the intertidal zone.

### Minibeast Discovery

*Levels: 3 - 6*

*Key Learning areas: Science, Geography*

Students discover the microscopic creatures of Tidal River in an interactive field activity. Using dip nets students will investigate aquatic invertebrates and use microscopes to identify a variety of species and examine their features/adaptations. Students will explore the species' role in the ecosystem. Levels 5-6 will also record and reflect on the data they have collected and its usefulness.

### Tracks and Traces

*Levels: 3 - 6*

*Key Learning areas: Science, Geography*

Students examine and identify a variety of artefacts including bones, skulls and scats and undertake a walk around Tidal River to observe evidence of animals. Students discuss the importance of signs of animal presence and use microscopes to observe some features of different types of evidence. Levels 5-6 record the animal presence data and reflect on factors that influence their investigations. Using microscopes students are able to further explore some of the traces animals leave behind.



### Estuarine Ecology

*Levels: 7 - 8*

*Key Learning area: Science*

Students conduct a scientific investigation into the estuarine ecology of Tidal River. They collect samples from estuarine habitats to examine and compare the biodiversity of organisms. Microscopes are used to identify, classify and record a variety of species. Students share results and discuss the usefulness of the data collected.

### EstuaryWatch

*Levels: 9 - 10*

*Key learning areas: Science*

Students learn about the dynamic nature of Tidal Rivers estuarine environment and the important role it plays in supporting unique and diverse ecosystems. Students use a variety of scientific monitoring methods to track changes in estuary health based on the citizen science program EstuaryWatch.

### Past Uses of the Prom

*Levels: VCE*

*Key Learning areas: Outdoor and Environmental Studies*

*Location: Prom Wildlife Walk or Darby River*

Past Uses of the Prom comprises of seven lessons, each designed around a specific location at Wilsons Promontory National Park. The Prom has a varied history of land use from the earliest indigenous inhabitants to present day visitors. Students will become familiar with the rich history through experiencing locations within the park and with a Parks Victoria's Education Ranger-led session. Ranger-led sessions are available at Darby River (nation building) or the Prom Wildlife Walk (industrialisation) where students will have the opportunity to discuss other time periods with rangers and understand how they too shaped the Prom.



## Park Management

Levels: VCE

Key Learning areas: Outdoor and Environmental Studies

Location: Tidal River or Yanakie Isthmus

Students gain an insight into Parks Victoria's management strategies for healthy and sustainable environments at the Prom. They look at impacts of environmental threats, characteristics of healthy habitats and past conflicts of interests. Students participate in a management program and use scientific monitoring methods to assess the health of a habitat (Coastal Dunes or Coastal Grassy Woodlands) and examine the conditions, threats and strategies.

## Putting back into the Prom: Volunteer

Levels: 7 – Tertiary

There are two free activities designed for students to be active and informed citizens while contributing to the health of the environment:

- **Coastal Weed Removal:** Students learn about an invasive coastal weed and its impact to the Proms coastline and assist rangers in its management.
- **Marine Debris:** Students learn about the impacts of pollution to marine/coastal life and assist rangers to clean up our coastlines.

## Tertiary Groups

The Wilsons Promontory Education Program also caters to tertiary students. Contact the Education Officers to customize an excursion.

## Digital Nature Education Resources

A range of pre and post visit digital nature education resources have been developed to complement your in-park experience. Contact the Wilsons Prom education team to find out more.

## Costs

The current cost for a ranger-guided activity is \$6.30 per student, with a minimum charge of \$63 per session. Supervising teachers attend for free. An invoice will be sent via email after your visit to the park.

Putting back into the Prom volunteer activities are free.

## Session length

Activities times vary from 1 – 1.5 hours dependent on the education session. Education sessions are run in Tidal River except where specified.

Parks Victoria

Phone 13 1963

[www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au)

## Teacher/Student Ratios

School staff are expected to participate in the sessions provided and supervise and manage student behaviour at all times. Parks Victoria recommends the following supervisor-to-student ratios:

- 1:1 for special needs
- 1:2 for under 5 years
- 1:5 for Years Prep – 2
- 1:10 for Years 3 – 12

## Accessibility & inclusion

If you have students with access or other additional needs, please inform education staff prior to the activity. Outdoor components of excursions may take place on unsealed tracks with uneven surfaces. All-terrain TrailRider wheelchairs and beach wheelchairs are available to use (free of charge) for students with restricted mobility. The wheel-chairs can be used on surfaces that are not accessible with conventional wheel-chairs. School staff are responsible for the safe transfer of user. Advanced bookings are required.



A social script is available for children on the autism spectrum. The social script has photographs and simple text to show children what they may see and experience during their visit to Wilsons Promontory National Park. View this resource here - <https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/get-into-nature/all-abilities-access/autism-friendly-visits>

## Planning your excursion

To book and to discuss your school needs please email [wpromeducation@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:wpromeducation@parks.vic.gov.au) or contact the Wilsons Prom Information Centre on 8427 2122.

## On the day

- Ensure students bring sunscreen, a drinkbottle and pens/clipboard. Gloves and safety goggles are required for Putting back into the Prom volunteer activities.
- Students must wear suitable clothing and sturdy covered footwear (no thongs or crocs).
- All education sessions will run in strict accordance with current DHHS guidelines.
- Local weather may vary from regional forecasts. Check the local weather and dress accordingly.
- The healthiest food for wild animals is in nature. Do not feed or encourage animals to take human food.
- Please take your rubbish home.
- For safety of your students and to protect our natural environment, keep to walking tracks.
- Encourage students to respect the park and other visitors by reading lightly and quietly when visiting.