

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 (3-4)

Levels: 3 - 4

Key Learning areas: Science, Geography

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. Students consider environmental factors and the difficult conditions faced by the plants and animals in the intertidal zone.

Minibeast Discovery (3-4)

Levels: 3 - 4

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. Students will explore the species' role in the ecosystem.

Tracks and Traces (3-4)

Levels: 3 - 4

Key Learning areas: Science, Geography

Students examine 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.

Living on the Edge (5-6)

Levels: 5 - 6

Key Learning areas: Science

Students explore the intertidal zone of Picnic Bay and discover the creatures that live on the edge of the sea. They identify a variety of species and focus on the adaptations of the plants and animals that enable them to survive. Students learn about the unique environment of the intertidal zone and the physical conditions that impact growth and survival.

Minibeast Discovery (5-6)

Levels: 5 - 6

Key Learning areas: Science

Students conduct a field investigation to discover the macroscopic creatures of Tidal River. Using dip nets students catch aquatic invertebrates and use microscopes to examine a variety of species and their adaptations. Students record and reflect on the data they have collected and its usefulness.

Tracks and Traces (5-6)

Levels: 5 - 6

Key Learning areas: Science

Students investigate the tracks and traces of animals living in the park. They identify a number of animal artefacts and examine the adaptations of each that enable survival. Using Tidal River as an investigation area, students search for signs of animal presence, record their data and reflect on the factors that influence their investigation. Using microscopes students are able to further explore some of the traces animals leave behind.



Estuarine Ecology

Levels: 7 - 8

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: Wilsons Promontory National Park

Levels: VCE

Key Learning areas: Outdoor and Environmental Studies

Wilsons Promontory has a varied history of land use from the earliest indigenous inhabitants to present day visitors. Using information provided, students investigate a historical event, exploring the human relationships and impacts on the environment. Students present their findings to the group, establishing a timeline of past uses at the Prom.



Costs

The current cost for a ranger-guided activity is \$6.20 per student, with a minimum charge of \$62 per session. Supervising teachers attend for free. An invoice will be sent via email after your visit to the park.

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

Session length

All activities run for 1.5 hours and begin at the Education Centre in Tidal River, Wilsons Promontory National Park.

Planning your excursion

To book and to discuss your school needs please email wpromeduction@parks.vic.gov.au or contact the Wilsons Prom Information Centre on 8427 2122.

On the day

- Ensure students are prepared for all weather conditions. Bring sunscreen, a drinkbottle, suitable clothing and study covered footwear.
- Local weather may vary from regional forecasts. Students should bring raincoats to all activities if local weather forecasts suggest rain. On wet days, encourage students not to wear cotton clothing as it cools the body very quickly and can lead to hypothermia.
- The healthiest food for wild animals is in nature. Do not feed or encourage animals to take any human food.
- Please take your rubbish home.
- For the safety of your students and to protect our natural environment, keep to the existing walking tracks.
- Encourage students to respect the park and other visitors by treading lightly and quietly when visiting.