

Survival Skills & Secrets



The Program

Key Knowledge/Skills: Unit 2 Biology: Adaptations of organisms

Outline: Students enter the marine environment and investigate the numerous adaptations that organisms have to help them to survive. Why dolphins swim around in pods? How do seals keep themselves warm? Why are gannets monogamous? By analysing both the biotic and abiotic factors that have led to these adaptations, students will be able to answer these questions by the end of their journey through Port Phillip Bay.

The Tour

The tour generally consists of three snorkels - all of which are led by Qualified Snorkel Instructors. Students are introduced to the water at Pope's Eye, where they are taught safe snorkeling practices in a sheltered environment. Part of the Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park, Pope's Eye has become a very popular dive site due to its abundance in marine life. Once comfortable with their equipment, students are then introduced to a population of young male Australian Fur Seals, followed by a snorkel with a pod of Bottlenose Dolphins. Due to their wild nature a swim with the dolphins cannot be guaranteed, but in the event that we do not find them we will endeavour to have a snorkel elsewhere. While on the boat, students will be entertained with activities such as a ride on the boom-net, a duck spa, and if time permits - fishing. Generally the program runs for 3.5 hours, but this can easily be shortened according to your needs. All equipment is provided - including wetsuit, fins, mask and snorkel, with snacks and drinks served throughout the journey.

Key Knowledge/Skills

- Environmental factors: biotic and abiotic
- Structural, Physiological, Behavioural and Reproductive adaptations
- Use scientific terminology and conventions appropriately

Feel it, Hear it, Taste it, Smell it, Sea it!