

Student group fact sheet - 2024

Wildlife Wonders			
Background	<p>Wildlife Wonders offers a glimpse into an Otways ecosystem before the arrival of predators such as foxes and cats, where native wildlife lives freely in a flourishing bushland environment.</p> <p>This eco experience showcases the beautiful ecosystems and inhabitants of the Otway Ranges set against a stunning ocean backdrop. It was designed and created by Brian Massey, an Art Director on 'The Hobbit' films and landscape designer of the award-winning 'Hobbiton' in New Zealand.</p> <p>Every visit to Wildlife Wonders supports a brighter future for nature across Australia and around the world. All proceeds from Wildlife Wonders support the crucial work of the Conservation Ecology Centre, supporting critical research and vital on-ground works to tackle the most urgent conservation challenges facing the wildlife and habitats of the Otways.</p>		
Walk with Wildlife – guided tour			
The experience	<p>Students will experience an educational guided tour through the sanctuary where they will learn about a variety of ecosystems found in the magical Otways and the interactions which exist in nature. The knowledgeable conservationist guide will share the secrets of the bush and the plants, fungi and animals who call the Otways home. With prior negotiation, the experience can specifically cater to a general curriculum focus required by the school. Please note: any deviation from our standard Walk with Wildlife experience will incur additional costs.</p> <p>The tour includes a pause at the Research Base to learn more about conservation and research projects currently being undertaken across the Otways by the Conservation Ecology Centre. Students will also observe some of the research work 'in action', including camera traps and nesting boxes, and learn about equipment ecologists use to conduct research.</p>		
Duration	75 minutes		
Curriculum topics	Including but not limited to Biology, Environmental Science, Geography, Science, ecology, ecosystems, interactions, natural sciences, environmental change and management, scientific research methods, business, tourism, hospitality.		
Prices, final numbers and cancellation policy*			
Walk with Wildlife tour	Primary school groups: \$20 per student	Secondary school groups: \$20 per student	Tertiary groups: \$29.50 per student
Teachers	1 teacher free of charge for every 10 students		
Lunches	Lunch options are available, including sandwiches, platters etc. Please contact us for pricing.		
<p>*Minimum booking is 10 students. Total cost will vary depending on group size, educational experience and staffing allocation. Please note that Wildlife Wonders is not able to accommodate student groups on Public Holidays. Price surcharges may apply on other days such as weekends. All prices are subject to change without notice.</p> <p>Final numbers to be confirmed at least 3 weeks prior to arrival. Groups will be invoiced at least 2 weeks prior to arrival with payment due 1 week prior to arrival. If you wish to cancel or modify a booking, you must let us know at least 1 week prior to arrival in order to receive a refund.</p>			

Contact details	
Reservations	For bookings, please call Wildlife Wonders on 03 7046 1664 or email bookings@wildlifewonders.org.au For curriculum specific enquiries and additional educational related information, please do not hesitate to email our Education Development Officer sasha@wildlifewonders.org.au
Accounts	For accounts enquiries please contact accounts@wildlifewonders.org.au
FAQs	
What to bring	The Wildlife Wonders experience is a 1.4km guided tour along a gently sloping and meandering path. We recommend wearing comfortable, enclosed walking shoes and checking the weather forecast before you visit. In summer, it may be quite hot, so we recommend you bring sunscreen and wear a hat. In winter, it may be cold, windy and rainy, so we recommend a warm jacket. It can rain at any time of the year in the Otways, so it's best to be prepared with a rainproof jacket.
Wet weather	Our tours run in almost all weather conditions and the bush is beautiful in the rain. However, we do reserve the right to delay or reschedule your tour if extreme weather threatens your safety.
Accessibility	The path is formed with a gentle gradient which can be managed by wheelchairs. Please contact our friendly Visitor Experience Officers on 1300 099 467 at least 48 hours prior to your tour time should you require assistance, so that we can support you to have the most wonderful experience.
Parking	There is ample parking for visitors at Wildlife Wonders. We are able to easily accommodate minibuses and coaches.
Animal list	<p>There are no cages at Wildlife Wonders – all animals are free to roam as they would in a bushland environment. Hence, we cannot guarantee wildlife sightings, however the following animals are onsite and it is quite rare that groups do not see koalas and more:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Eastern grey kangaroos ● Swamp wallabies ● Red-shouldered wallabies ● Red-bellied pademelons ● Southern brown bandicoots ● Long-nosed potoroos ● Eastern bettongs ● Emus <p>Aerial and arboreal wildlife including koalas, birds, possums and gliders come and go from the site at will. Without the predation threat from foxes and cats there are incredible levels of bird nesting activity through the spring and we only expect this to increase as the planting becomes increasingly established.</p> <p>There is also an army of frogs inhabiting the wetlands.</p>