

Explore shipwrecks and learn about marine life for free these holidays

Exploring maritime and indigenous heritage and observing aquatic life are just some of the free guided activities available for locals and visitors at Jervis Bay Marine Park these school holidays.

Department of Primary Industries (DPI), Jervis Bay Marine Park Officer Sue Brown is encouraging families and individuals to take advantage of the free activities on offer and book in for a great adventure as places are limited.

"We have an exciting program and there is something to interest everyone including exploring shipwreck sites, rocky shores, estuaries, and local Aboriginal heritage," Ms Brown said.

"The Jervis Bay Marine Park is home to an amazing range of marine life, including the weedy seadragon, eastern blue devil fish, migrating whales, bottlenose dolphins, little penguins, fur seals and the endangered grey nurse shark.

"The guides share their knowledge of the park's complex intertidal plant and animal communities, rich maritime history and traditional Aboriginal practices, as well as some of the unique geological features of Tapalla Point in Huskisson."

The Jervis Bay Marine Park spans more than 100 kilometres of coastline and adjacent ocean between Kinghorn Point in the north and Sussex Inlet in the south.

"One of our most popular walks takes in the site where the SS Merimbula was shipwrecked at Currarong in 1908," Ms Brown said.

"Children love investigating what lies beneath the surface of the Currumbene Creek sandflats, which swarm with soldier crabs that are always a big hit.

"We also offer free Jervis Bay Marine Park marine education kits which help families explore the coastline at your leisure and includes a DVD featuring many of the animals found in the marine park."



A group explores a rocky foreshore in Jervis Bay Marine Park.

Holiday activity program

A Living Museum – Explore the maritime and indigenous cultural heritage by taking a guided walk of Abrahams Bosom where you will learn the ways in which Aboriginal people collected food and obtained shelter in this area. The walk will end at Whale Point where the wreck of the "Merimbula" rests and learn about other shipwrecks found within the marine park.

When: December 30 at 11.30am, January 10 at 10am and January 15 at 2.30pm.

Discover the Rocky Shore – Explore the complexities of intertidal communities, as well as some of the geological features along Tapalla Point in the Huskisson

Sanctuary Zone.

When: December 29, 11.30am, January 9, 10am and January 15, 2.30pm.

Exploring Estuaries – Visitors will be taken through the Currumbene Creek Mudflats Sanctuary Zone where they will be introduced to the animals and plants of the seagrass meadows, mangrove forests and intertidal mudflats and learn the cultural significance of this area to local Aboriginal communities.

When: January 2, 2.30pm and January 11, 10.30am.

For more information or to book call the Jervis Bay Marine Park office on 4428 3000.



A school holiday group is ready to learn about marine life in Jervis Bay.



Jervis Bay Marine Park

Photographer: D Harasti



HOLIDAY ACTIVITY GUIDE

Discover the Rocky Shore

Visitors will be taken along Tapalla Point in the Huskisson Sanctuary Zone to explore the complexities of intertidal communities, as well as some of the geological features including dropstones, glendonite beds and weathering.

Sunday 29 December 11.30am • Thursday 9 January 10am • Wednesday 15 January 2.30pm

Exploring Estuaries - Currumbene Creek, Huskisson

Visitors will be taken through the Currumbene Creek Mudflats Sanctuary Zone where they will be introduced to the animals and plants of the seagrass meadows, mangrove forests and intertidal mudflats. Learn how they have adapted to survive in these harsh conditions. Our guide will explain the cultural significance of this area to local Aboriginal communities.

Thursday 2 January 2.30pm • Saturday 11 January 10.30am

A Living Museum - Abrahams Bosom/Whale Point, Currarong

Visitors will explore the indigenous cultural and maritime heritage associated with the Jervis Bay Marine Park. A guide will explain the ways in which Aboriginal people collected food and obtained shelter in this area. The walk will end at Whale Point where the wreck of the "Merimbula" rests where the guide will explain its history and that of other shipwrecks found within the marine park.

Monday 30 December 11.30am • Friday 10 January 10am • Wednesday 15 January 2.30pm

Bookings preferred - numbers limited. For further information, please contact the Jervis Bay Marine Park office on 4428 3000

For more information and updates about school holiday programs happening in the Jervis Bay Marine Park follow @nswdpi on Twitter



Plan your Discovery adventure these holidays

NATIONAL PARKS DISCOVERY HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES 2-25 JANUARY 2014

Bushtucker, boomerangs, kites, rockpools and talking rocks; this summer's Discovery has family-favourite outdoor fun and brand new experiences. Plan your family's adventures these holidays with activities that include the following regular days at these locations:

- **Wednesday** mornings Minnamurra Rainforest Centre
- **Thursdays** at Depot Beach Murramarang National Park
- **Friday** mornings Fitzroy Falls Visitor Centre
- **Saturday** mornings Bomaderry Creek and Lady Denman Huskisson

FOR MORE INFORMATION PHONE 02 4887 7270 OR VISIT WWW.NATIONALPARKS.NSW.GOV.AU