Hervey Bay
Eco Marine Tours

Weenandin School Excursions

WEENANDIN (ROUND ISLAND) EXCURSION	
Suitable for Levels	Prep to year 6
Australian Curriculum Targets	* Earth and Environmental Science * Inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island History and Culture
Achievement Standards to be met during the excursion	* Full immersion with Butchulla people and their connection to Country * Understand the Butchulla history of the Hervey Bay region * Witness and participate in music and creative art expression with the Butchulla people * Learn the Butchulla language, practice sounds, intonation patterns * Understand how the Butchulla language and expressions have shaped their ways of thinking, behaving and viewing the world * Play, have fun and a unique experience through interactive participation
Excursion Activities	* Visit to Weenandin (Round Island) * Search for marine life: turtles, dolphins, dugongs, sea birds * Experience with the Butchulla community members * Dreamtime stories * Interactive activities with Butchulla art expressions and language
Inclusions	* Expert Marine Master with over 40 years of experience at sea * Marine Park Permit to support conservation * Glass bottom vessel * Indigenous guide/s * Direct beach landings * Wildlife search * Reef safe sunscreen * Donation to support Ecotourism and Culture programs around Australia
Our certifications & Risk Assessment	* Advanced Ecotourism - Eco Tourism Australia * ROC Certified (Respecting Our Culture) * GSTC Certified (Global Sustainable Tourism Council Certified) * Best of Queensland Experience Achieved 2019 by Tourism Queensland * Listed on 'Top 7 Kid Friendly Indigenous experiences in Queensland' by Experience Oz * Trip Advisor - Certificate of Excellence 2018 & 2019 * Full Risk Assessments and Liability Insurance

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Hervey Bay Eco Marine Tours

Weenandin School Excursions

A family owned business on a mission to create lasting change.

'Hervey Bay Eco Marine Tours' is a vibrant tour company operating in the beautiful waterways of Hervey Bay and the Sandy Straits, and we are excited to offer new opportunities for school excursions.

We are the *only* tourism company in Queensland that integrates Aboriginal culture and marine experiences together, with the Butchulla people as the main tour guides. This way, we ensure a unique experience for your students, fully immersing themselves in the Aboriginal history and connection to Country. Simultaneously, we do our best to assist teachers in meeting their learning outcomes throughout our fieldwork experience in a fun and unique way for everyone!

From Prep to year 6, our 'Weenandin Excursion' can match the achievement standards of the Australian Curriculum related to the inclusion of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island History and Culture. Through what we call the "Butchulla workshop", your students will experience the following:

* Socialise with Butchulla community members from beginning to end of the excursion.
* Inform students about different topics related to the Hervey Bay region and their link to the Butchulla history.
* Witness the music and creative arts of the Butchulla people by listening to the didgeridoo, watch their dances and take part in sand art, while understanding all associated meanings.
* Learn the official Butchulla names of the marine life, flora, fauna, islands and all landmarks of the region.
* Learn and pronounce the Butchulla native language; practice sounds, intonation patterns, spelling, etc.
* Understand how the Butchulla language and expressions have shaped their ways of thinking, behaving and viewing the world, and the role of language and arts in passing on knowledge.
* Play, use the imagination, cooperate, have fun and a unique experience with nature and the Butchulla people. Participation in all activities is encouraged at all times.

Our fun ‘Weenandin Excursion’ can be tailored to suit your needs and our expert guides will adapt the experience and information provided to students according to their cognitive learning process. Please see Appendix 1 to learn more about our itinerary and activities.

We understand the importance of safety, and even more when working with children. Our vessel, the Milbi, navigates *only* through smooth waters, and we have the most qualified staff who together with your teachers, will look carefully after your students. Moreover, we comply with several certifications, regulations, health and safety requirements, in order to offer you and all parents peace of mind at all times.

Why going outdoors with Hervey Bay Eco Marine Tours School Excursions?

We are a family business owned and operated by Wil and Jacqui Hikuwai. It has always been our wish to share our knowledge of the region in the most environmentally friendly and engaging way, whilst offering sustainable practices. We have worked hard to achieve an Advance Ecotourism Certification as well as a Respecting Our Culture Certification, and now we are ready to offer a customised experience to share the local Aboriginal knowledge to all students of Hervey Bay and the Fraser Coast.

All our visitors, and especially Australians, have found our combination of marine experience with Aboriginal culture of special value. The Australian society is now in pursuit of acknowledging and learning more from the traditional owners of this land, and what a better way of approaching this task than getting outside the classroom and connecting with the Butchulla people in their natural environment?

This is a memorable, informative and unique school excursion allowing students to experience not only the beauty of their backyard with their friends, but also to connect and

learn the ancient dreamtime stories of the Butchulla tribe, as well as a chance to form a deeper understanding of the ocean and our local wildlife.

If you are interested, we would love to have you and your school join us on board. All we hope is that you get the chance to learn, relax and immerse yourself in the beauty of mother nature and our backyard, whilst creating a memory to last a lifetime through your curriculum demands.

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Appendix 1. Example Weenandin Excursion Itinerary.

Your group will be met and welcomed on the deck in front of our office at the Marina. We will explain to them what they are about to experience and the importance of the excursion related to the teacher's curriculum. We will introduce all our guests to their Butchulla guides so they can learn their names and meanings. We then will escort the group to the vessel and the adventure begins!

9:30-10:00 Depart from the Marina and arrive to Weenandin (finish all transfers). Spotting marine wildlife, locating K'gari (Fraser Island), pier, bays and all the bay landmarks found along the way.

10:00-11:30 On Weenandin: Welcome to Country; dreamtime stories; sand arts and dance explanations; didgeridoo playing; cultural song and dances; questions and answers. Student participate in activities at all times.

11:30-12:30 Lunch time. Play and explore the island with the guides.

12:30-13:00 Departs Weenandin and arrive to the Marina.

What is included:

Inclusions:

- Expert first-hand knowledge on local landmarks, history and the ocean relayed by Wil Hikuwai, skipper with over 40 years experience at sea
- Marine Park Permit - to support conservation and monitoring of the Great Sandy Straits and local reef systems
- Indigenous Guide/s
- Direct beach landings
- Wildlife search
- A portion of ticket supports Advanced Eco Tourism and Respecting our Culture programs, which promotes sustainable and ethical practices through tourism activities in all Australian National Parks.

Students are to bring their own picnic lunch and water bottles. * It is our aim to minimise plastics on the vessel; therefore, we ask that the student bring refillable water bottles.

Appendix 2. Testimonials from Agnew School who has been on board with us:

Thank you for the fantastic day. We utterly enjoyed our time and thank you to all the staff for making us feel welcome and sharing their knowledge and expertise. Thank you to Aaron for sharing your knowledge on your island with us. We appreciated all the time and effort into making this day fun and educational.

Student testimonials:

- I liked the GF choc-chip biscuits and I liked doing the dance - S.
- I liked drawing on the sand - S.
- I loved the turtles, the dance was so fun and cool and the little dance costume was amazing - A.
- I liked looking through the glass panels at coral. I also liked trying to spot the turtles – L.
- I liked listening to the didgeridoo, drawing in the sand and commentating – A.
- I loved listening to the aboriginal history and loved the didgeridoo I also liked drawing pictures in the sand – J.
- I liked drawing in the sand – T.

Kind regards,

Lennie Gorissen – Agnew school

Finer Details

Experience Certifications

Tourism Queensland - Listed on 'Top 7 Kid Friendly Indigenous experiences in Qld'
Tourism Queensland - Awarded 'Best of Queensland Experience 2019'
Trip Advisor - Certificate of Excellence 2018 & 2019
Advanced Ecotourism Certified - Eco Tourism Australia
ROC Certified (Respecting Our Culture) - GSTC

Risk Assessment

We obsess over safety. We ask ourselves, "How can we make activities as safe as possible while still ensuring your students have fun?". We evaluate hazards and if we determine an activity is too risky, we do not do it. A risk assessment is provided to ensure your safety is our number one concern.

COVID-19 Guidelines

Social distancing: The Milbi the vessel is surveyed for a maximum of 38 passengers. However, in the best interests of passenger comfort and social distancing awareness, we have reduced the maximum passenger numbers to 26; as such we have the capability for social distancing if required by allowing even less passengers on board.
Sanitation: Extra hygiene measures are put in place in our shop, equipment and our vessel. Hand sanitiser and sink with soap are readily available on board.

Expert Guides Matched to Your Educational Goals and Budget

Your Captain Wil Hikuwai has 40 years experience at sea so you can rest assured that you are in the safest of hands on the water. Tour guides are Butchulla descendants to provide you with on point, first-hand knowledge.

Cultural Experience

Expert local Butchulla guide shares his knowledge of the region presenting the many different facets of Butchulla Culture. Journey along story-lines of the traditional custodians on beautiful Weenandin (Round Island). Opportunities are available to take part in interactive cultural activities. Gain new appreciation for the stunning coastal landscape as you hear the history and its significance to the Indigenous Butchulla people.

Activities: Activities are safe and exciting whilst being culturally sensitive and marine based.

Meals and Snacks: Bring own lunches, snacks and drinks.

Custom Tours for Your Budget

Your excursion can be customised to your own specifications. This is your trip and we are here to ensure the tour meets your expectations and needs.

Price Guarantee: Guarantee fixed price per head, prices will only be subject to change if guest numbers alter.

Satisfaction That Your Trip is Eco Friendly

The Milbi offers a minimal carbon footprint. We minimise waste and recycle wherever possible and use recyclable products and materials. We participate with Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in Reef Health Impact monitoring programs. The vessel is serviced regularly to maintain optimum fuel efficiency. Above all, your students will learn to respect the land and sea environments.

Giving Back to the Community

Hervey Bay Eco Marine Tours proudly donates tours to much needed fundraising events in our local community and surrounding districts.

Bathroom Facilities on Board & Vessel is Wheelchair Accessible