



Little penguin viewing



Photo: Liz Lawley



Photo: Perviz F. Marker



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If you are intending to visit our little penguins, please remember that they are wild birds and being able to view them in their natural habitat is very special.

To get the most out of your penguin experience, we highly recommend that you join a guided tour. Tours are a great way to learn more about these amazing birds, they know the best viewing spots and they are less disruptive to the penguins.

Please follow these important guidelines to keep the penguins safe so everyone can enjoy them.

Penguin viewing guidelines

- Penguins will generally start to leave the water at last light as this helps to protect them from predators. Settle yourself comfortably before last light. Remain quiet and keep movement to a minimum. Penguins have excellent vision and easily spot movement. They are very vulnerable and wary at this time. If they sense a threat or are disturbed by torchlight or loud noise they may not come in at all, which means their young will be left in the burrow, alone and unfed.
- Read and observe any information signs placed along the foreshore.
- Wear warm, dark clothing for camouflage.
- Join other groups of people already gathered for penguin viewing so that the birds only have to pass one group, this will cause less stress for the penguins.
- Approach your viewing position from the land, not by walking along the beach as this blocks the penguins' access to their burrows. Use existing tracks.
- Choose a viewing position which is at least 3 metres from, and does not block, the penguins' access to their burrows. If possible, choose a site which has a dark background to camouflage yourself.
- Do not use torches. Dim torches emitting a gentle red light (red cellophane over the lens is OK) may be used but never shine the torch toward the water or directly at the penguins.
- Do not use flash cameras. Do not use video cameras or mobile phones that emit light.
- Ensure that dogs and cats never accompany you if you visit a colony. They are a major threat to penguins.
- Penguins are protected wildlife. It is illegal to catch, attempt to catch, handle or otherwise harass penguins. Offences are taken seriously and substantial penalties apply. If you see people harassing penguins, or if you see stray dogs or cats near the penguin colony, contact the Marine Hotline: 0427 942 537.

