



Schools' Information Pack

Thank you for choosing Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary for your school visit. The Sanctuary has a lot to offer and this information has been designed to answer some of the questions you might have before your visit and to help you with risk assessments. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to call us on 07 5534 0846.

We look forward to welcoming you to Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary.
The Education Team

About your visit:-

Entry

On **arrival** at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, your group leader will need to check in at the Turnstiles Booth at the main entrance, where we will issue any tickets, maps or workbooks that you may need. If you have not paid in advance, **payment** by cash, cheque or credit card can be taken here or (preferably) an invoice can be sent after your visit (please let us know in advance if you wish to be invoiced).

Education Session

From the Main Entrance, you may then venture into the Sanctuary. If you have an education session booked, please make your way to the Education Centre (on the Eastern side of the park) at your set time. School bags and lunches may be left in the Education Centre if required, please ask at Turnstiles when you check in, and they will direct you to the appropriate area.

The Education Session involves your group in their own personal “animal encounter” with live reptiles, birds and mammals. The duration of the show is normally between 35 – 45 minutes depending on group size and ability. Teachers and accompanying adults are asked to assist with maintaining high standards of behaviour during the show to ensure that students and animals remain safe and calm.

The Education Session will be conducted in one of the two theatres in the Education Centre (depending on group size and availability). The Rainforest Room caters for groups of up to 35 students and the Theatrette is suitable for larger group sizes of up to 70 students. For school groups, it is recommended, that large groups be divided into smaller classes of up to 50 students to enhance the experience for all students.

The Sanctuary

Before and after your education session/s, you are invited to enjoy the rest of what Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary has to offer:

- The park covers **27 hectares** of land and there is a lot to see and do. The park is divided into an Eastern Reserve (closest to the entrance and ocean) and Western Reserve (through the Gold Coast Highway tunnel). The majority of the park is located on the Western Reserve and it can take up to 15 minutes to get from one side of the park to the other!

You can spend up to 4 or 5 hours exploring the park and attending other shows. Please see below for an example itinerary:

TYPICAL DAY ITINERARY

10am – Arrive at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary ->Morning tea / toilet break

10.15 – Education Pat and Chat Session

11am – Free Flight Bird Show

11.20 – Tour Wombat, Dingo and Koala Hill

12.00 – Lunch

12.30 – Tour Tassie Devils, Kangaroo paddock, Crocodile Wetlands and Sub-Tropical Aviary

1.30 – Tour Naturally Wild

2pm – Depart with great memories!

(Plus, ride the train, visit the shops, take photos and complete student work books.)

- The **Free Flight Bird Show** is a fantastic opportunity to see a selection of Australia's native birds in full flight. Your school is welcome to attend this show and is asked to follow the instructions of the park's volunteers when seating your group.
- A **Park Train Ride** runs at various intervals throughout the day (normally stopping at stations every 20 minutes). Schools are welcome to use the ride, but only 55 people will fit on the train at one time and please be aware that your school will be riding the train with other members of the public. Please plan your time accordingly and perhaps ride the train when you have divided your classes into smaller groups.

Please be aware that safety on the train is of prime importance to us, please ensure that your students follow the safety rules of the train at all times and listen to the instructions of the train driver. Passengers must not disembark or board the train whilst it is still in motion and all body parts must remain inside the train whilst it is travelling. Please help us to uphold these safety outlines by informing your students before riding the train. Any passengers who are misbehaving / breaking safety rules will be excluded from the train for the remainder of the day.

- The park has four **toilet blocks** –

- 1) upstairs and downstairs in the main entrance building (Eastern Reserve)
- 2) beside the Koala Kiosk (Western Reserve)
- 3) near the Free Flight Bird Show Arena (Western Reserve)
- 4) near the Kangaroo Paddock (Western Reserve)

- Several **picnic areas**, are spread throughout the park, if the weather is bad, please contact a member of staff to enquire about using the education centre / café as a wet weather option.

- Our children's **play area** is located beside the Koala Kiosk and is suitable for children between the ages of 4 and 12 years.

- Food Outlets - during peak times there are three of these in the park, Koala Kiosk, Devil's Diner and Café Sanctuary. All outlets sell hot and cold drinks and snacks and can provide first aid assistance if required.

- The **gift shops** in the main building and the aquarium are open all day. To save time, we can make up goodie bags for schools and groups in advance – please ask for shopping list.

- The **weather**: The vast majority of the park is outdoors. However, if it rains, there are plenty of shelters around, many of which look out onto animal enclosures.

- Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary is very suitable for **disabled visitors**. All the **paths and walkways** in the park are wide and level, so they are easily accessible for **wheelchairs** and **pushchairs**. There are disabled toilets in the toilet block closest to the kangaroo paddock, and wheelchairs are available for loan for the day.

PLEASE NOTE: Although Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary staff will do all they can to assist you on your day out, teachers are still responsible for their students at ALL times. Our free of charge staff ratio policy is quite generous and aims to encourage you to bring adequate staff to supervise your group.

Health and Safety at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary

Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary has a high standard of hygiene and animal welfare in order to keep our animals and visitors healthy and happy. We take precautions to ensure visitor safety throughout the park. Please note:

- When arriving, your group will need to exit your coach in the **car park** or on **Tomewin Street**. Please ensure children stay together, and be aware that there may be moving vehicles in the vicinity.
- **Barriers and fences** are there for a reason, some of our birds and animals can be dangerous so please keep behind them and observe any safety notices in place around aviaries and enclosures.
- It should be stressed to children that they should keep their **fingers out of the aviaries**, particularly those containing parrots and birds of prey.
- If you touch any of the animals, it is highly recommended that you **wash your hands** afterwards. Hand washing facilities are available in all toilet blocks, and gel soap is available at most presentation areas.
- In the summer months, please take precautions in hot weather, for example wearing **sunscreen** and drinking plenty of water. If you have not brought any sunscreen with you and feel you are at risk, please ask at the gift shop. **Drinking water** is available from the bubblers throughout the park, as well as from the food outlets.
- **First Aid** assistance is available throughout the park. Any Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary member of staff will be able to call a trained first aid officer to assist you, or you can head to one of the kiosks or the information desk.
- Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary has full **Public Liability** cover.
- Please refer to the attached **risk register** which may assist you in writing your excursion risk assessments.