

EDUCATIONAL TOURS
(Valid from 1/4/16 to 31/3/17)

Port Stephens 4WD Tours specializes in offering educational charters to groups that want to learn and experience the Stockton beach ecosystem. The ecosystem is the perfect location for your outdoor classroom to suit all group sizes. Port Stephens 4WD Tours offers an educational experience combining theory with practical field studies with soft fun adventure activities. Learn all about:

- How are the dunes formed
- Landscape features
- Threats to the dunes
- Vegetation patterns

Tour includes:

- Beach drive within our scope to access erosion on the front beach, concluding in the high dunes to access the swales and vegetation patterns
- Sand Boarding (optional)
- Pipi release (optional)
- Driver/Guide with extensive knowledge and experience of the Stockton beach ecosystem and sand dunes



'Hi Mark,

I just wanted to say thank you for another great week on the dunes. In particular I would like to commend Dave to you. He has gone out of his way this week to ensure that we met all of our outcomes, balancing both education and fun. He has been flexible, accommodating, informative, patient and incredibly helpful. His experience and his willingness to share his love for the area with the students has been invaluable to us and I have really loved working with him again this year.

Sorry that this is such a brief note, I am heading off on a cruise in a few hours!

Thank you again"

Julie McKim, HSIE Coordinator for Avondale School

Transportation to our departure point and return can be organized by Port Stephens Coaches if your group is in the Port Stephens area, also we can offer transportation services to other operators, extended charters or full day transportation if you wish, please visit www.pscoaches.com.au, email charters@pscoaches.com.au or call (02) 4982 2940 for options.

- Contact our office with dates and we can tailor a tour to your needs
- 4WD Tours depart from the lower car park at the end of James Paterson St, Anna Bay, unless otherwise advised.
- Our FOC (free of charge) policy is teacher/guardians free of charge.
- For cancellations: No charge if more than 48 hours' notice given, 50% charged if 24 to 48 hours' notice given, 100% charged if less than 24 hours' notice given.

SO.....

Why is Stockton Bight an important eco system?

Located between the city of Newcastle, in the South, and Port Stephens, in the North, the Stockton bight sand dunes are an excellent example of an ecosystem negatively at risk. The ecosystem offers a wide variety of significant changes closely related to the subjects of geography, biology, marine studies and history. The area represents one of the most comprehensive and accessible records of coastal environmental change on the New South Wales coast. The sand dune ecosystem is a key field study site and is intensively studied. Stockton Bight is the top beach in New South Wales in terms of:

- Length
- Wave energy
- Size of its barrier and sand dunes
- Age of its backing barriers (the older dune system).



Importance of Coastal Sand Dune Ecosystems

Coastal & dune ecosystems are part of the coastal sediment system of near shore, beach and dunes. Coastal sand dunes are important for the following reasons:

- They are sediment reservoirs and exchange areas in the event of large coastal storms.
- To protect the beach area from high energy waves by acting as a buffer zone for storm damage.
- They support unique plants and animals.
- They contain records of past climatic and sea level changes in their stratigraphic layers
- Their location behind the beach means they are popular areas for coastal development.
- They have recreational value
- They sometimes contain valuable minerals.

Coastal Sand Dune Ecosystems at Risk

There are two types of threats to coastal sand dune ecosystems - natural and human-induced in recent times there has been some overlapping of causes as human activity has led to global warming and changes in sea level. Threats to coastal sand dune ecosystems include:

Natural	Human-Induced
Climatic change	Clearing
Sea level rise/drop	Mining
Storms	Grazing
Cyclones	Introduced species
Fires	Trampling
Droughts	Vehicles
	Building

Port Stephens 4WD Tours have an educational packet that we are happy to provide to clients wishing to take part in our tour and we can adjust our tour to suit your subject curriculum.

SANDBOARDING ADVENTURE

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At Port Stephens 4WD Tours we offer unlimited sand boarding and complimentary water, so prepare yourself for a fun filled trip for all ages. Our friendly and professional staff will take you on an exciting 4WD adventure up into the largest moving coastal sand dunes in the Southern hemisphere in our exclusive air-conditioned off-road 4WD vehicles.

On arrival at our sandboarding location, you will be met by our professional and friendly staff, who will instruct you on how to sand board and answer any questions you may have. Our first priority is your safety and to ensure your sandboarding adventure will be a joyful memory not to be forgotten.

Come and see our team at our bright red trailer and sign up for some serious fun.



Our Sand Boarding Adventure includes:

- Unlimited sand boarding duration
- Supervision and instruction from our trained staff
- Complimentary bottle of water upon arrival
- Return transfers between departure point and sand boarding location
- Sand Board hire
- Fully air-conditioned 4WD off road buses
- All staff have extensive knowledge of the Stockton Beach ecosystem, hold First Aid certificates, Working with Children checks, and drivers hold 4WD Ministry of Transport licenses

“If you have never been sandboarding before, go with these guys and you will have so much fun!” – Facebook Review on 26th September 2015

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Special rates for schools, please contact our office by email at info@portstephens4wd.com.au or by calling (02) 4984 4760 and enquire today

Port Stephens 4WD Tours – “Bringing the Dunes to you”