

HEALTHY HUMPBACKS SCHOOL GROUP



Inclusions:

1. Return transport (Air or Land) from your city to the Moreton Bay Research Station
2. The accommodation will be at [The Moreton Bay Research Station](#), Dunwich, North Stradbroke Island.
3. Boats are managed by [Manta Lodge](#), North Stradbroke Island.

Program:

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Whale populations saw a healthy recovery after whaling was banned in 1979. However there are increasing signs that infection, starvation and boat injuries have put this recovery in jeopardy, with no steady population growth in recent years.

Join scientists collecting data on whales' movement, health and habitat to discover trends in their population health and status. The observations you make and data you collect will contribute to an innovative long-term monitoring program that will educate the community and encourage politicians to protect their ecosystem.

You'll take part in a wide range of activities, including locating and photographing whales, using the Whale Trails app to describe behavior, surveying the number of whales, measuring water properties and assisting with lab work at the research station.

This research will be utilising some exciting new equipment such as the flying drone (colloquially known as "the snotbot"), to collect whale spray as well as GPS loggers, and hydrophones (underwater recorder to track sounds) and surveying equipment.

You may be working from the shore, on our research boat or in the laboratory.

Itinerary:

DAY 1:

Arrival, introductions, research outline and potentially some evening whale sightings.

Day 2 & 3: Daily activities includes:

- Taking fluke ID photos of whales.
- Observing whale characteristics.
- Recording behaviors on iPad.
- Testing water quality.
- Land-based observation activities.
- GPS mappings and marine habitat surveys.

Day 4: Departure

When you arrive, the researchers will provide you with information on studying humpback whale health.

Field work will begin on Day 2, where you will:

Daily Life in the Field: Summary

- **Observe and record whales' behavior:** From the boat, you will take ID photos of the whale's fluke (tail). Plus observe their characteristics using the Whale Trails app.
- **Collect blowhole samples:** Using the "SnotBot" a flying drone you will help scientists using this new technology to collect whale blowhole samples to gather data on whales' health.
- **Measure water quality:** Cast instruments into the water to measure quality.

Undertake surveys from land: Record

In the evenings, you'll assist with lab work at the research station to process the day's samples, followed by time to relax and enjoy the sunsets.

Note: Field conditions and research needs can lead to changes in the itinerary and activities. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding.





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