



FAQ & Information Sheet

It is great to hear that you are interested in one of our snorkel days for 2021-2022!

Here is a list of frequently asked questions which may help you get ready for our events – Please read these questions and if there is something that isn't answered please feel free to email Sophie on sophie@emr.org.nz with your query.

Q: Who is Experiencing Marine Reserves (EMR)?

A: EMR is a programme of the Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust – our kaupapa (ethos) is to teach kaitiakitanga (guardianship) through experiential learning. In short – we teach communities about the ocean by running free community snorkel events and school programmes. Since 2002 we have taken over 100,000 people snorkeling and have reached over 160,000 kiwis. For more information on us check out our website www.emr.org.nz

Q: Is it free?

A: EMR relies heavily on donations to make our community and school programmes possible. We appreciate donations to make our events possible - whether that be cash or eftpos on the day, [online](#) or a [donation of your time](#) volunteering on future events. An average donation is \$5-10 per participant. A \$10 donation can pay for a replacement snorkel, a \$25 donation can pay for a new set of flippers, a \$50 donation can put a student through a full programme in school and a \$1500 donation can run an entire snorkel day.

Q: Do I need to pre-register for this event?

A: Most EMR events do not require pre-registration. Just show up between the hours stated on the event and register at the tent. The exceptions to this are events running under the COVID traffic light framework, our kayak/SUP events, events which we need to book ferries – such as Motutapu and Rotoroa and our adventure snorkel days to locations like the Poor Knights + Mokohinaus. Please note that there may be a wait if the event is busy. Register when you arrive and bring a picnic blanket to enjoy the beach. Keep an ear out for your name via loud hailer and we will call you when we have a guide free.

Q: How old does my child have to be? Do I have to snorkel with them? Is there a maximum age?

A: EMR has a minimum age of 5 years for snorkeling* and 10 for kayaking/paddleboarding. We prefer that if your child is under 10 that a parent or guardian comes along with us for a snorkel. If your child is from 10-14 you are welcome to observe but please stay nearby. We are not a babysitting service. No maximum age as long as you are fit and healthy for snorkeling.

*Some exceptions for the adventure snorkel days - check the event details

Q: I/my child am/is not a strong swimmer – can I/they participate?

A: No prior swimming/snorkeling ability is required for EMR events. When registering please communicate your ability level and you will be assigned a snorkel guide to suit your ability. All groups will have a body board for floatation, wetsuits and flippers will assist in buoyancy. We have a limited number of snorkeling life jackets but we find they can impede snorkeling. Please note that if you have a group of non swimmers your wait may be slightly longer as we need to get you the most experienced guides.

Q: Will we be snorkeling in deep water? I'm scared of {insert wildlife here}.

A: The snorkel profile will depend on the location. Most sites will start shallow which will allow you to get comfortable with the equipment first before going into deeper water. If you are not comfortable please let your guide know and they will stay in the shallows. Wildlife on our snorkels is the highlight! Your guides will keep you a safe distance.

Q: How big are the groups?

A: On snorkel days we have a group size of 6 participants – with a maximum of 4 children (14 and below). There is the possibility of combining groups to make a group of 8 with two guides. If you are a couple or a group of 3 you will most probably be joint with a group of similar ability to make a group of 6.

Q: How do I hire the gear? Can I bring my own?

A: We have all the equipment – Mask, snorkel, fins and wetsuit available to hire for free (we do appreciate a koha/donation). We have sizes to fit 95% of people but if you have very large feet (15+) it could pay to bring your own. If you want to bring your own gear – great! We just need to check that it is 'fit for purpose' - that it isn't too old or unsafe. **We do not allow the use of Full Face Masks/snorkels as they are a safety hazard.** If you are an experienced freediver/spearo you are welcome to bring your weight belt – your guide reserves the right to drop it if you are in difficulty.

Q: Can I take kina/seafood?

A: EMR runs events in areas that are open to fishing as well as marine reserves. However our kaupapa (ethos) is that while you are participating in the EMR Activity/in our gear it is strictly no take!

Q: Who are the snorkel guides and what is their role? Can I snorkel without one?

A: Apart from the event leader and a 2IC all the snorkel guides are volunteers. They are from a variety of backgrounds – many are studying marine biology or pursuing careers in

SCUBA diving. All the guides are provided with training and mentorship. If you want to become a snorkel guide you can register here: <http://eepurl.com/dk0rMP>

Snorkel guides will give you a full safety briefing and a run down of how to use the equipment. Please follow their instructions. If you are using our equipment you need to have a guide. If you have your own equipment you are welcome to snorkel as you please as an individual.

On Adventure Snorkel Days we have a rating system which allows participants more freedom to explore. Mako, Haku and Whai.

Q: What safety measures are in place?

A: EMR is Outdoorsmark Accredited. For more information please check out <https://emr.org.nz/index.php/about-emr/health-safety>

Q: Where do the pictures go? I don't want my picture taken.

A: All the images from the day go onto our Facebook Page. When you register to the event you are giving permission to use the images of you/your family. If you don't want to have any images taken please let the tent know when you are registering.

COVID-19 Information

We can't wait to reconnect with you all and to help you explore our big blue backyard. EMR has always strived to be as inclusive as possible with all our events, however we are in unprecedented times, which means the safety of our crew, volunteers and participants is paramount. Vaccination certificates for all those ages 12 and over will be required for all* public events in the COVID Traffic Light framework for the summer of 2021/22 (*unless specified otherwise). Participants under 12 years of age will need to be accompanied by a fully vaccinated parent or guardian. All participants will need to use face coverings and distance where practical. Please bring the QR code for My Vaccine Pass on your phone or printed to be scanned & verified on the event. You will need to bring photo ID. Some events may require your vaccination status to be verified prior to registration.

Please note the following information. If you have any concerns – please contact us.

- Your registration information will be held for contact tracing. We will also have a contact tracing QR code to scan.
- We can take sub groups of up to 6 participants – where possible these will be groups that you have registered with.
- All shared equipment will be sanitised between uses.
- There will be hand sanitiser at the tent for participants and crew to use.
- Groups will be encouraged to space 2m apart whilst registering and snorkeling.

Please refer to our [Covid Safety plan](#) for more information

Advice from Worksafe regarding attending events and gatherings

The following people should avoid attending events of any size:

- anyone who is unwell
- anyone who is a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19
- anyone waiting for a test result for COVID-19
- anyone who is self-isolating. [Read more about self-isolation.](#)

If you are unwell prior to the event please call Sophie to discuss your options.

How to minimise the risk of getting sick at a gathering or event of any size

The most important thing to do is practice good hygiene. This means:

- Keeping 2 metres away from people you don't know
- Covering coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or coughing/sneezing into your elbow
- Disposing of used tissues appropriately in a bin
- Washing hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water and drying them thoroughly, or using hand sanitiser:
 - before eating or handling food
 - after using the toilet
 - after coughing, sneezing, blowing your nose or wiping children's noses
 - after touching public surfaces

Experiencing Marine Reserves (EMR) - Terms and Conditions

- In any adventure activity, there is an element of risk involved. Risks in undertaking this activity include drowning, emotional distress, strain injuries, sun-burn and dehydration, injuries from collisions with vessels, cuts from oysters and other sharp objects, injury on shore and damaging the environment.
- You acknowledge that the activity you are about to embark on may present you a higher level of risk than day to day living. Because this is a dynamic activity, the actions of every participant will have direct and indirect effects on the safety and enjoyment of the whole group.
- The EMR staff take all practicable steps to identify and minimize potential dangers. However, you must follow our instructions (and use the safety equipment provided) at all times. Adults accompanying any person under the age of 18 must ensure that the underage person follows our instructions at all times. You must release or indemnify EMR and our staff against any liability we incur to anyone else, resulting from your failure to follow our instructions or the failure of any person accompanying you under the age of 18 to follow our instructions.
- We reserve the right to withdraw any person who in our opinion is likely to endanger them selves or others.
- We also reserve the right to cancel the snorkel tour if we become concerned for any reason for your safety or that of any other person.
- You accept that EMR will not be liable for any personal or property damage, regardless of how this might occur, and without exception, which could result from your participation in this activity. This exclusion is subject to any rights or remedies you may have under the Consumer Guarantees Act 1993.
- Due to the rugged and remote setting of this activity, access to hospital and medical facilities can be limited. By signing below you are giving consent for the administration of medical treatment by the instructor / guide and medical personnel in an emergency situation. It is important that you provide a complete account of your medical history on the panel above for these reasons.
- That EMR reserves the right to withdraw persons, cancel or modify the trip, as the situation may require, when in our opinion there is a safety issue;

- BY CLICKING I AGREE YOU HEREBY CERTIFY THAT YOU UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO ALL OF THE ABOVE TERMS AND CONDITIONS, AND UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ARE ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY. PLEASE NOTIFY YOUR GUIDE IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS.

You will also sign a waiver on the day to confirm you understand these terms and conditions

List of all events

2021-22 Events

Experience the wonders of your local marine reserve or marine environment! The EMR programme has planned Community Guided Snorkel & Kayak Days around Aotearoa. We provide free hire of all snorkel equipment and provide experienced snorkel guides to lead your discovery. Koha of cash, online or donations of time volunteering are appreciated for all events.

Northland *

- Reotahi Snorkel - Sun 12th Dec
- Reotahi Snorkel - Sun 8th Jan
- Tapotupotu Snorkel - Tue 11th Jan
- Maitai Bay Snorkel - TBC
- Long Beach Snorkel - Sat 22nd Jan
- Whananaki Snorkel - Sun 23rd Jan
- Reotahi Snorkel - Sat 12th Feb
- Waikaraka Kayak - Sun 20th Feb
- Reotahi Snorkel - Sat 5th Mar
- Maunganui Snorkel - Sun 6th Mar
- Pataua Snorkel - Sat 12th Mar
- Kai Iwi Day Snorkel - Sat 19th Mar
- Kai Iwi Night Snorkel - Sat 19th Mar
- Whananaki Paddle - Sat 2nd April
- Poor Knights Snorkel - Sat 14th May

Auckland *

- Okura Paddle - Sat 11th Dec
- Waiheke Snorkel - Sat 8th Jan
- Te Matuku Paddle - Sun 9th Jan
- Rototoa Kayak/Snorkel - Sat 22th Jan
- Torbay Snorkel - Sun 23rd Jan
- Motutapu Snorkel - Sun 6th Feb
- Shakespear Snorkel - Sat 19th Feb
- Inner Gulf Snorkel - Sun 20th Feb
- Takapuna Snorkel - Sat 26th Feb
- Māngere Kayak - Sat 5th Mar
- Goat Island Snorkel - Sat 12th Mar
- Whangateau Snorkel - Sun 13th Mar
- Papakura Paddle - Sat 19th Mar
- Rotoroa Snorkel - Sat 2nd Apr
- Motu Manawa Kayaks - 9/10th Apr
- Mokohinau Snorkel - Sat 30th Apr
- Tahuna Torea Kayak - Sat 7th May

Taranaki *

- Ngamotu Snorkel - Sat 18th Dec
- Ngamotu Snorkel - Sat 15th Jan
- Waitara Pool - Sat 5th Feb
- Ngamotu Snorkel - Sun 13th Feb
- Todd Energy Pool - Sun 20th Feb
- Hawera Pool - Sat 5th Mar
- Ngamotu Snorkel - Sun 13th Mar

Nelson *

- Cable Bay Snorkel - Sat 5th Mar

Gisborne *

- Te Tapuwae o Rongokako Snorkel - Sat 5th Mar

Wellington *

- Taputeranga Snorkel - Sat 22th Jan
- Taputeranga Snorkel - Sat 29th Feb
- Kapiti Snorkel - Sun 20th Feb
- Titahi Bay Snorkel - Sat 26th Feb
- Whitireia Snorkel - Sat 5th Mar
- Whitireia Snorkel - Sat 12th Mar

* All events are subject to mana whenua/stakeholder consultation, funding approval, date changes and COVID updates

Vaccination certificates for all those age 12 and over will be required for all* public events in the COVID Traffic Light framework for the summer of 2021/22 (*unless specified otherwise). Distancing and face coverings to be worn when practical. Please bring the QR code for My Vaccine Pass on your phone or printed to be scanned & verified on the event. You may need photo ID. Some events may require your vaccination status to be verified prior to registration. For COVID event updates, registrations, weather calls and backup dates visit www.facebook.com/emr.mtsct or www.emr.org.nz or contact info@emr.org.nz