Water Immersion Visits & Excursions

All visits and excursions offered by Adaptable Travel as part of tour packages are categorised into one of four levels of risk, low, moderate, elevated or water immersion. This page covers visits involving water immersion, and what you need to do on the day.

Water Immersion Risk Definition

Locations or attractions involving water immersion where students take part directly. There are potential risks to students relating to the environment, process, or activity. Students will be directly involved in an activity which may be unfamiliar.

Criteria

- Risks relate to water depth, currents, tides or water quality.
- Students will be directly in or on the water, rather than looking on.
- It isn't a controlled environment, conditions can change quickly.
- The activity may be unfamiliar, and swimming ability will vary across the group.
- Group management is harder when students are spread out in or on the water.
- Health and safety law may not fully cover open water or informal swimming areas.

Water Immersion-Risk Examples

- Spas/lagoons
- Surf lessons
- Swimming pools
- Water parks

Please note this is not an exhaustive list of examples.

Water Immersion Risk Visit and Excursion Management

- We complete a Water Immersion Risk information sheet for the visit and share any risks it identifies with you for your own group management plan.
- We monitor customer and staff feedback on every water immersion-risk venue we offer.
- We monitor accident, incident and near-miss reports and act on any pattern we see.

What you need to do on the day

Risk	Control measure
Drowning, depth and currents	Read the completed Water Immersion Risk Assessment and brief your group on it before anyone enters the water.
Swimming ability	Check students' swimming ability against the activity provider's requirements beforehand.
Supervision and lifeguard cover	Confirm lifeguard or qualified instructor cover is in place before anyone enters the water.
Cold water shock and conditions	Check water and weather conditions on the day and follow the provider's guidance on when to pause or stop.
Fit of safety equipment	Make sure wetsuits, buoyancy aids or other safety equipment fit properly before use.
Group becoming separated	Agree a safe place to meet as a group in case of an emergency.
Behaviour	Apply your school or establishment's code of conduct throughout the visit.
Supervision	Group leaders must always remain with the students, poolside or beachside where they aren't in the water themselves.

Medical needs and allergies	Share relevant medical information with venue or activity staff before you start.

Reporting an incident on a water immersion risk visit

If anything happens that needs reporting, an accident, injury or near miss, call the 24-hour Duty Officer number on your itinerary as soon as it's safe to do so. They're available any time your group is travelling.

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