

Creative techniques to engage visitors

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**Choose techniques that engage the whole person on many levels.
Create powerful experiences by eliciting emotions.**

Some techniques for doing this:

1. Change of perspective
 - a. Have visitors lie down on the ground—look at the environment from the perspective of an ant, kiwi, mouse, etc.; or just look up at the clouds and experience a beautiful sky.
 - b. Climb onto a chair, into a tree, onto a rock—look at the environment from the perspective of a falcon, moa, mohua, etc.; or just enjoy the view.
 - c. Crawl through something
 - d. Look at the world upside down
 - e. Bury your visitors in leaves or sand
 - f. Do a solo sit—drop visitors off individually along the track, where they can't see anybody else. Give them a pen and paper and let them sit alone and write whatever they'd like for a while. Regroup and share what they've written.

2. Engage multiple senses
 - a. feely bag—place an object in a cloth bag. Ask visitors to feel it and try to identify it.
 - b. sound shakers—place items into small containers. Ask visitors to shake the containers and guess what's inside. OR make up pairs of containers containing the same thing (enough containers so everyone in the group can have one). Ask visitors to shake their containers and find someone else with the same thing in their container.
 - c. food—provide visitors with something they can taste related to your tour.
 - d. blindfolds—use only once trust has been established in the group. Blindfolds can be used to encourage the use of other senses. Blindfolded visitors can be led to objects to feel, asked to listen to particular sounds, or asked to smell various items.
 - e. Music—sing a song that relates to your tour. Better yet, engage visitors in singing it with you. Include actions with the song.
 - f. Sound map—provide visitors with paper and pencil. Ask them to find a spot alone to sit quietly. Visitors place an X in the centre of their paper, then create a “map” of the sounds they hear around them, marking the location of each sound, and trying to identify what each sound is.

stir it up and pour it back out into the visitors' glasses. Drink a toast to a great tour!

This is only a small selection of the possible techniques for engaging your visitors. Use your creativity, think outside the square, focus on what your visitor is doing (not what you are doing), and create a unique, powerful experience.

Choose techniques that...

- **elicit emotions**
- **are appropriate to your audience**
- **fit your style.**

