**Snorkeling** ([British and Commonwealth English spelling](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_and_British_English_spelling_differences#Doubled_in_British_English): **snorkelling**) is the practice of [swimming](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_swimming) on or through a body of water while equipped with a [diving mask](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diving_mask), a shaped tube called a **snorkel**, and usually [fins](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swimfins). In cooler waters, a [wetsuit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wetsuit) may also be worn. Use of this equipment allows the snorkeler to observe underwater attractions for extended periods of time with relatively little effort.

Snorkeling is a popular [recreational](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Recreation) activity, particularly at [tropical](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tropics) [resort](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resort) and [scuba diving](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scuba_diving) locations. The primary appeal is the opportunity to observe [underwater life](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marine_biology#Lifeforms) in a natural setting without the complicated equipment and training required for scuba diving. It appeals to all ages because of how little effort there is, and without the exhaled bubbles of scuba-diving equipment. It is the basis of the two surface disciplines of the [underwater sport](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Underwater_sports) of [finswimming](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finswimming).[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snorkeling#cite_note-1)