

Point Nepean National Park



Visitor Guide

Point Nepean is one of Victoria's most beautiful natural landscapes. Its rich history has played an important role in shaping the early settlement, quarantine and defence of Victoria. The park is 560 hectares and located at the very tip of the Mornington Peninsula, with outstanding coastal scenery and panoramic views of Bass Strait, the Rip and Port Phillip. Visitors can explore the military forts and tunnels, discover the historic Quarantine Station, view the memorial where Prime Minister Harold Holt went missing and enjoy the diverse coastal environment.

Exploring the park

Quarantine Station

Discover the historical precinct which has almost 50 heritage listed buildings. The Quarantine Station was established in 1852 and from 1952 the buildings also housed the Army Officer Cadet School. Walkers and cyclists can take Coles Track which links the Quarantine Station to Gunners Cottage and Fort Nepean. A self-guided walk brochure and audio tour is available. Plan your visit at the Point Nepean Information Centre.

Range Area Walk

The 1.8 kilometre walk meanders through coastal scrub, a former Rifle Range and passes Monash Break and Light. Climb the Monash Light tower and take in sweeping views of the park and coastline. The Range Area was used to train cadets in the Army Officer Cadet School; training included firing rifles, grenades and machine guns. The walk links the Quarantine Station and Cheviot Hill, and provides access to Happy Valley Track.

Wilsons Folly Track

This 1.7 kilometre walking track links London Bridge in the Mornington Peninsula National Park with Point Nepean. The track is an extension of the long coastal walk from Cape Schanck and passes through pockets of Coastal Banksia sands, Moonah woodland and native grasslands.

Bay Beach Walk

The 2.8 kilometre walk along Port Phillip Bay Beach can be accessed at the Quarantine Station, Observatory Point and The Bend. Remnants of the former quarantine cattle jetty still exist at Observatory Point, where you can view the southern end of Port Phillip. Hooded Plovers regularly nest along this beach, seasonal management may apply. Swimming is not recommended due to the strong currents, unpredictable waves, and proximity to the Rip.

Gunners Cottage

From here you can visit the historic Point Nepean Cemetery or walk the Walter Pisterman Heritage Walk to the remnants of the former quarantine cattle jetty at Observatory Point. Cyclists and walkers can take Coles Track to the Quarantine Station or Fort Nepean.

Cheviot Hill and Harold Holt Memorial

Cheviot Hill is the park's highest point and contains World War II fortifications. It overlooks Cheviot Beach, the site where former Australian Prime Minister Harold Holt disappeared without a trace in December 1967. A memorial is located about 500 metres further along Defence Road from Cheviot Hill.

Pearce Barracks, Fort Pearce and Eagles Nest

Explore the fortifications and lookouts with stunning views of Bass Strait and Port Phillip. The Pearce Barracks site is where many of the army personnel stationed at Point Nepean lived. Eagles Nest was the site of Australia's largest Disappearing Gun.

Fort Nepean

Discover a series of military fortifications dating back to the 1880s with stunning views of Port Phillip and Bass Strait. Explore the tunnels, forts and gun emplacements from which allied shots were fired for both World War I and II. A self-guided brochure and soundscape is available.

Mornington Peninsula Walk

Experience the diversity of the Southern Peninsula on the Mornington Peninsula Walk. The walk can be completed in sections or as an approximately 100km continuous walk linking Point Nepean with the Bay Trail, Coastal Walk and the Two Bays Walking Track.

Point Nepean Shuttle
info and group bookings
Call **(03) 5986 5666** or visit
venturabus.com.au
rosebudcharter@venturabus.com.au

Bike and audio tour hire
Point Nepean Information
Centre Call **(03) 5984 6014**

Caring for the environment

Help us look after this park by remembering these guidelines:

Please take all rubbish
with you when you leave

Fires and camping
are prohibited

Keep to walking tracks

Access to much of the
coastline is prohibited
for conservation and
safety reasons

Swimming is not advised

Dogs, cats and other
domestic pets
are prohibited

All native plants and
wildlife are protected –
keep a safe distance

Fishing is only permitted from
the Quarantine Station shoreline

Portable gas BBQ's
may be used in the
Quarantine Station only

Use of remote controlled
model planes or
'Drones' is prohibited.

Boat landing is permitted
on the beach at
designated areas near the
Quarantine Station

Please don't throw this
park note away.
Keep it, recycle it or return
it for others to use.

Be FireReady and stay safe

Many parks and forests are
located in high fire risk areas.
On days of forecast Code Red
Fire Danger this park will be
closed for public safety.

You may not receive a
personal warning that the
park is closed so check the
latest conditions by calling
13 1963 or visit
www.parks.vic.gov.au

History

Indigenous history

Point Nepean is part of Boonwurrung country. The Boonwurrung people lived on and around Point Nepean for thousands of years gathering shellfish and other foods along the coastline. The interaction with early settlers and ceremony make it an important place. Extensive shell middens are reminders of their enduring association.

Early settlement

Point Nepean has evidence of some of the earliest European settlement in Victoria, including pastoral activities and lime burning. Shepherd's Hut, located in the Quarantine Station, is one of the earliest intact limestone buildings in Victoria. Its cellar dates to 1845.

Quarantine Station

Established in 1852, it was the place for quarantine purposes in Victoria until 1979 and closed in 1980. The site later become home to the Army Officer Cadet School (1952–1985) and the School of Army Health (1985–1998). In 1999, selected buildings were used to accommodate Kosovo Refugees. Visitors can see remarkably intact historic buildings with artefacts spanning over 150 years of quarantine and army use.

Defence

The entrance to Port Phillip was the most heavily fortified port in the Southern Hemisphere. There are many Colonial and Commonwealth structures from 1880s–1940s located around the park. Fort Nepean is considered to be one of the best examples in Australia of a major fort complex exhibiting the changes in military engineering over the 19th and 20th centuries.

Flora and fauna

The remnant flora and fauna of Point Nepean is of very high significance. A remote and protected location, it is home to the White-footed Dunnart, Long-nosed Bandicoot, Black Wallaby, Singing Honeyeater, Blue-winged parrot and Hooded Plover. The park also comprises the largest and most intact area of remnant coastal vegetation remaining on the southern Mornington Peninsula. Native plants and vegetation communities include Coastal Moonah Woodland, Coastal Dune Scrub, remnant grasslands and threatened orchids.

The marine life

Surrounding Point Nepean is Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park. The diversity and abundance of marine flora and fauna in these waters are greater than many comparable habitats elsewhere in the world. Its intertidal zone is a habitat for a wide variety of shellfish, marine invertebrates, dramatic underwater gorges, colourful sponge gardens, tall kelp forests and emerald sea-grass beds.

Location and access

How to get there

Point Nepean is located 90km from Melbourne. Visitors can catch a train from Melbourne to Frankston and then a bus to Portsea (stops at park entrance gate) and walk in. The Sorrento to Queenscliff passenger ferry operates on the hour from 7am to 6pm (with extended summer hours).

Getting around the park

Visitors can park at the Quarantine Station and begin their park discovery from here. Alternatively visitors can park at Gunners Cottage and walk or cycle the 2.6 kilometres to Fort Nepean. Bikes can be hired from the Point Nepean Information Centre. An all-terrain beach wheelchair is available for visitors who are frail or have physical disabilities. The chair can be borrowed for free and booked in advance by contacting the Information Centre. Wheelchair access is available in key areas, see map.

A hop on hop off shuttle service operates from 10:30am to 4:00pm daily between the Quarantine Station and Fort Nepean. Timetable information can be obtained from the Point Nepean Information Centre, at designated stops or at www.venturabus.com.au. Tickets can be purchased from the shuttle bus. Group bookings can be arranged by calling (03) 5986 5666 or email rosebudcharter@venturabus.com.au

Self-guided tours

Award winning virtual audio tours offering an insight into the history and cultural significance of the park are available for hire at the Point Nepean Information Centre. The audio guides can also be downloaded for free onto an MP3 player at www.parks.vic.gov.au or to an iPhone through the iTunes store in advance to visiting the park. Self-guided brochures are also available in the park for the Quarantine Station and Fort Nepean areas.

Want to volunteer?

If you are interested in lending a hand there are volunteer groups involved in maintenance, conservation and heritage protection programs, please call 13 1963.

Point Nepean National Park

Open everyday

End of Point Nepean Road, Portsea

Vehicles can enter the park between
8am–5pm and exit at any time

Point Nepean Information Centre

Open everyday (except Christmas day)
from 10am–5pm

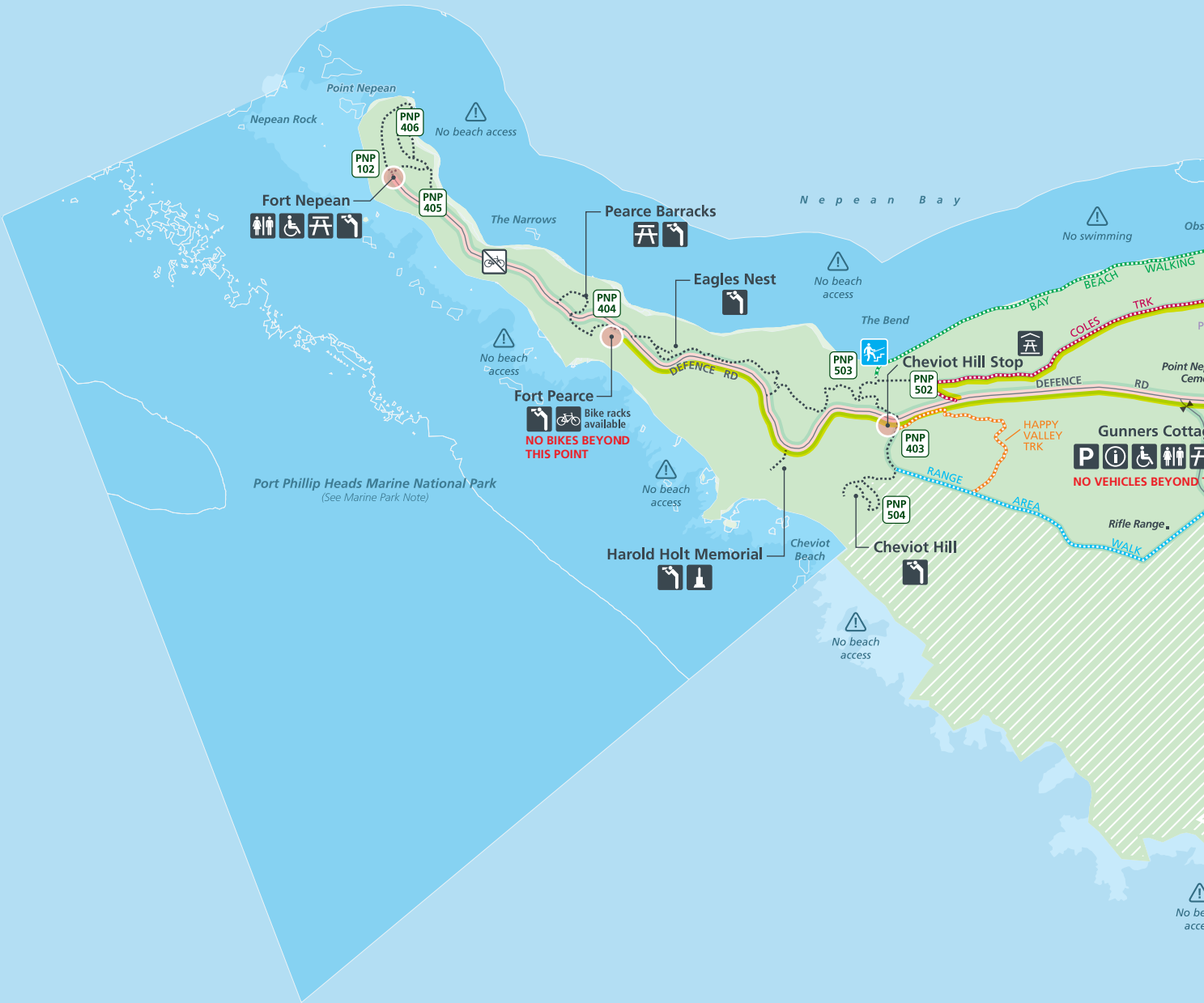
(03) 5984 6014

point.nepean@parks.vic.gov.au

Healthy Parks Healthy People

Visiting a park can improve
your health, mind, body and
soul. So, with over four million
hectares of parkland available
to Victorians, why not escape
to a park today

Point Nepean National Park



B A S S S T R A I T



P Parking

i Information

♿ Disabled access

🚻 Toilets

🏠 Sheltered area

🪵 Picnic table

🔭 Lookout

🚰 Drinking fountain

🗿 Monument

🚲 Cycling

🎣 Fishing

PV Parks Victoria office

🏖️ Beach access

🌿 Bay Beach Walking Track

👤 Walter Pisterman Walk

👤 Wilsons Folly Walking Track

👤 Happy Valley Track

👤 Range Area Walk

👤 Coles Track
(Shared path)

P O R T P H I L L I P



- Main road
- Sealed road
- - - Unsealed road
- - - 4WD
- Walking track
- Point Nepean Shuttle Bus route/stop
- Cycling permitted on these roads, tracks, areas
- Direction of traffic
- Gate (no unauthorised vehicle access)
- Point Nepean National Park
- Other park/reserve
- Restricted area
- Boat landing zone

Emergency marker (ESTA)



Green 'Emergency Marker' signs are located in this park to help pinpoint your exact location in the case of an emergency. Codes are unique to every marker.

In an emergency, call 000 and quote the emergency marker code. Markers are identified on the map with the above symbol.

www.parks.vic.gov.au

Disclaimer: Parks Victoria does not guarantee that this data is without flaw of any kind and therefore disclaims all liability which may arise from you relying on this information.

Data source acknowledgements: State Digital Mapbase, The State of Victoria and Department of Environment and Primary Industries.

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