Personal safety
Diving should only be undertaken by trained and experienced divers.
Beware of sudden changes in weather, especially when boating on open water.
Beware of strong currents and undertows when snorkelling or at the beach.
Watch where your hands are going at all times to avoid potentially dangerous creatures.

These reefs are an important resting habitat for Australian Fur Seals. Australian Fur Seals can be aggressive. Do not approach these animals.

There are no surf lifesaving patrols in Marine National Parks and Sanctuaries.
Parks Victoria recommended that swimming be contained within flagged areas patrolled by surf life saving clubs.

Caring for the marine environment
Discarded gear and rubbish can endanger birds and marine animals – please take your rubbish home.
Always replace any organisms or rocks you may have turned over.

The reefs are an important resting habitat for Australian fur seals. Do not approach these animals.

Enhance your visit by exploring with a licensed tour operator. Visit www.parks.vic.gov.au for a list of operators who run activities in this park.

Victoria’s unique coastline
The southern coastline of Australia has been isolated from ocean currents for millions of years from other continents due to a number of factors. Ninety percent (90%) of all marine life here is found nowhere else. Home to over 12,000 species of plants and animals, it is considered one of the most biodiverse and unique marine ecosystems in the world. For this reason, this significant marine environment is protected for the future.

Education and research
The network of marine national parks and sanctuaries provides excellent sites for research and education opportunities. All research must be approved before commencing. Schools, researchers and other groups visiting Marengo Reefs Marine Sanctuary need to register their visit with local ranger teams.

Restrictions
For the protection of the marine environment, a number of activities are prohibited within the boundaries of Victoria’s marine national parks and marine sanctuaries.

Rangers and Fisheries Officers regularly patrol these areas and enforce regulations.

No fishing, netting, spearling, taking or killing of marine life. All methods of fishing, from the shore or at sea, are prohibited.

No taking or damaging of animals, plants and objects (artefacts).

No entry permitted to the intertidal zone unless the tide is out.

Cultural significance
Marengo Reefs Marine Sanctuary is the smallest marine sanctuary in Victoria. Near Apollo Bay on the Great Ocean Road, the 12.5 hectare area is 150 metres offshore and includes an important haul out site for Australian Fur Seals. To protect the important marine life found here, Marengo was declared a sanctuary in 2002.

The reef system
Most of the sanctuary is less than 15m deep. Both the inner and outer reefs are steep sided. The eastern shore of the outer reef has overhangs and ledges, providing habitat for many marine creatures. The reefs were formed as offshore islands slowly eroded down.

Australian fur Seals
Australian Fur Seals stop in at the reef year-round and can be often seen diving into the water or resting on the rocks. They eat a variety of fish, squid and octopus and can dive to depths of 200m. The outer reef is a site of special scientific and cultural significance. The seals can be aggressive and sometimes bite. Please keep a safe distance from the seals and remember access is restricted on the outer reef to help protect the seals. No anchoring, landing or launching of boats within 20m of the outer reef is permitted. You must keep at least 30m away from seals, whether you are on land or in the water.

Contact the Department of Environment and Primary Industries at 13FISH (133 474) for more information on the laws protecting seals.

Spineless creatures
Marengo is known not only for seals, but also for its invertebrate population living on the reef. Over 108 intertidal animals have been recorded in the sanctuary including warrener snails, predatory whelks and colourful seastars.

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Enjoying the park
Take in views of the Marengo Reefs as you explore the Graham Walker and the beach overlooking the sanctuary. When conditions are calm, visitors can swim, snorkel, scuba dive or kayak out to the reef. Visitors are encouraged to explore the inner reef, however access to the outer reef is restricted.

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For more information call the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963 or visit our website at www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Kayaking and canoeing
Local licensed tour operators regularly run sea kayaking and seal watching tours that allow visitors to view the seals on the outer reef without disturbing them.

Snorkelling and diving
This sanctuary is an excellent site for both scuba diving and snorkelling. Close to shore is a great site for beginner snorkellers if conditions are calm. Further out can be more challenging due to ocean swell and strong currents.

Bird watching
Thirteen conservation listed shorebirds have been sighted in or near the sanctuary, including Pacific Gulls, Black-faced Cormorants and White-fronted Terns. Other birds you will commonly see include Crested Terns, Sooty Oystercatchers, and if lucky Pied Oystercatchers.

Caring for Country
Through their cultural traditions, Aboriginal people maintain their connection to their ancestral lands and waters. Parks Victoria recognises this connection and acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Communities of these areas.

How to get there
Marengo is approximately 220 km south-west of Melbourne and 2.5 km south-west of Apollo Bay. The sanctuary lies approximately 80m offshore from Hayley Point, Marengo. It can be accessed by boat from Apollo Bay Harbour. It can also be accessed by kayak, snorkelling or swimming from Marengo Beach.

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Healthy Parks Healthy People
Marengo Reefs Marine Sanctuary

Fish
Over 56 fish species have been recorded in and around the marine sanctuary. Common fish are Blue-throated Wrasse and Purple Wrasse. Other fish species include Harmonia, Mapgo, Monegon and in low abundance the Horsehoe Leatherjacket.

Hayley Point
An intertidal reef at Hayley Point is a good spot at low tide to discover some interesting marine creatures. Beware of waves and tides when visiting this area. This area is not within the marine sanctuary, however all intertidal areas in Victorian coastal waters are protected. The collection of shellfish such as abalone, snails, limpets and periwinkles is prohibited. Visit www.depi.vic.gov.au for more information on intertidal zone regulations in Victoria.

Shipwrecks
There are two known shipwrecks in the area. The 1858 wooden barque international trader Grange and the wooden ketch coastal trader Woolamai occur in the marine sanctuary. Remains of the Grange hull and Woolamai windlass can be seen underwater in the sanctuary. Removal of any artefacts or objects from these sites is not permitted.

Seaweeds
The most common species of seaweed in the park is Crayweed – identified by its sawtooth-edged fronds and spindle shaped floats. Profuse seaweed ‘gardens’ thrive under the large writhing fronds of Bull Kelp that fringe the islands. The large brown seaweeds grow luxuriantly, interspersed with beds of attractive red and green species.

Special Protection Area - No Access
The outer island is a resting place for the many seals that stop in for a break from hunting in the open ocean. Please do not walk on the outer reef or approach the seals as they are wild animals and can bite or knock a person over.

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