

Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary

Visitor Guide



At the water's edge, sloping cliffs of sandstone have been worn down into a series of platforms, sea caves and offshore reefs at Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary, creating a delightful and varied marine environment that is easily accessible to many Melbournians.



Getting there

Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary is in Port Philip Bay just off Beaumaris in Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs.

Things to see and do

Swimming and rock pooling

With great opportunities for safe swimming and delightful rock pool rambles along the shore, Ricketts Point is an ideal place for families, schools and interpretation programs to enjoy and learn more about our fascinating and diverse marine environment.

Snorkelling and diving

This area is deservedly popular for snorkelling and diving, especially exploring the walls along the shoreline and the rubble at the edge of the reef for a wide variety of fish and invertebrate life. There is a wheelchair friendly access ramp for the use of disabled divers. For more information on this contact the Disabled Divers Association.

Bird watching

Bird watching at Ricketts Point is a rewarding pastime with many seabirds gathering to roost on the rocks at low tide or to scavenge along the shoreline. To ensure wildlife safety, dogs should only be in designated dog areas and are not permitted below the high tide mark.

Tom Roberts and Fred McCubbin

Ricketts Point also features paintings by a number of Australia's famous early artists such as Tom Roberts and Fred McCubbin.

The Tom Roberts painting *The Sunny South* was actually painted at Ricketts Point. More information on these paintings is available at sites adjacent to the sanctuary.

Plants and animals

Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary offers a diverse range of habitats. Near the shore, the rocks are covered in red, green and brown algae that shelter a myriad of small marine creatures, including tiny brittle stars, snails and small crustaceans such as sandhoppers and crabs.

Waves refract between the rocks, creating small sandy coves that allow seagrass to grow. Further offshore rock bommies are carpeted in green Caulerpa, or tall brown Sargassum seaweed, which hides numerous animals among its stiff dissected leaves.

The offshore rocks and ledges attract plenty of fish, including large schools of snapper, Australian salmon and mullet. Wrasse and damsel fish can be found under ledges and large rays cruise the sea floor, hunting for prey in the sediment. The marine sanctuary regularly also hosts pods of Bottlenose Dolphins swimming through

the area, the occasional lone Fairy Penguin, and even Humpback Whales have been observed.

Caring for the marine national park

People are encouraged to visit marine national parks and marine sanctuaries; however extractive or damaging activities are prohibited within their boundaries to preserve marine biodiversity and maintain or enhance the condition of these areas.

All methods of fishing are prohibited, including rod fishing, netting, spearing, taking or killing of marine life. The taking or damaging of animals, plants, fossils and objects (artefacts) is also prohibited.

You may carry fin-fish on board your boat within park boundaries if you caught the fish outside the park. You may also carry (but not use) a fishing rod. Spear guns are not permitted within any of Victoria's marine protected areas, either in a boat or elsewhere.

You may also have abalone or rock lobster and associated equipment on board (securely stowed), provided you are travelling straight through the park by the shortest practicable route.

There are strong penalties under the National Parks Act for fishing in marine national parks and marine sanctuaries. To report a fishing offence call Victorian Fisheries Authority on 13 FISH (13 3474).

Marine sanctuary boundary

Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary is located along and offshore from the coastal reserve at Beaumaris.

The sanctuary extends west from Table Rock to Quiet Corner for about 500m offshore, following a line of in-water navigation marks and marine sanctuary boundary piles and buoys.

Be prepared and stay safe

- Practice safe boating, follow all signs and markers correctly, and do not anchor in shipping channels or enter no boating (swimming only) zone.
- Ensure adequate protection from the sun and wind.
- Diving should only be undertaken by trained and experienced divers, or with a licenced tour operator.
- Beware of sudden changes in weather, especially when boating on open water.
- Beware of strong currents and undertows when snorkelling or at the beach.
- Wear shoes that grip well when walking on rock platforms.
- Ensure you can see where you place your hands to avoid potentially dangerous marine creatures.
- Beware of large unexpected waves when walking on shore, especially on rock platforms.
- Stay away from cliff edges and bases.
- Be aware of car parking restrictions.

For emergency assistance call Triple Zero (000).

Parks Victoria

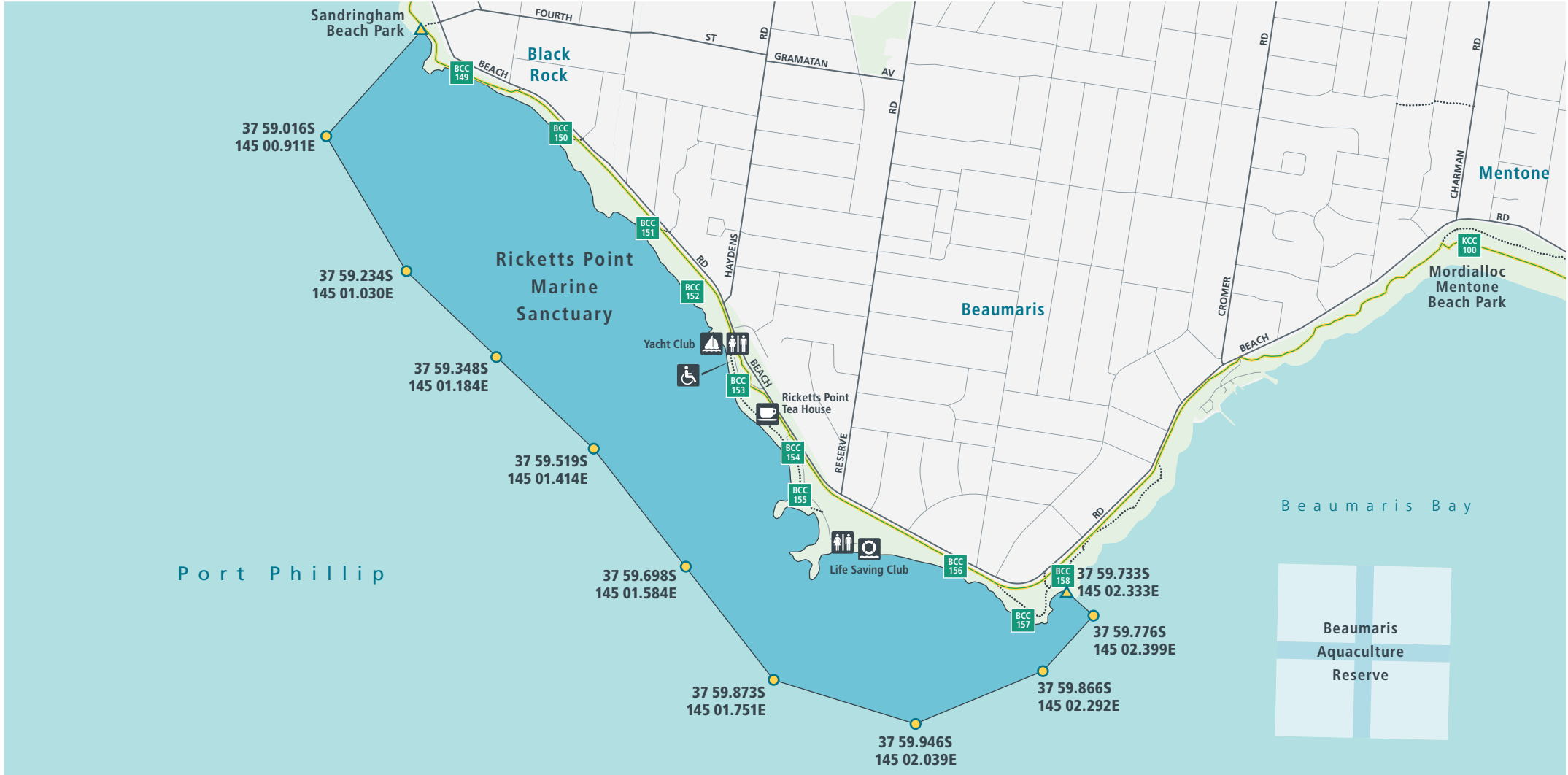
Phone 13 1963
www.parks.vic.gov.au





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Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary



-  Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary
-  Aquaculture Reserve
-  Other Marine Reserve
-  Other Reserve

-  Yellow triangular boundary marker
-  In-water boundary marker (Pile or buoy)

All coordinates displayed in DEGREES, DECIMAL MINUTES format
 00 Degrees 00.000 S/E Dec. min. Latitude/Longitude

-  Toilets
-  Cafe
-  Yacht Club
-  Life Saving Club
-  Wheelchair access ramp to water
-  Emergency Marker
-  Main road
-  Sealed road
-  Walking track
-  Bay Trail / shared path

