Wilson's Promontory Marine National Park
Victoria’s blue wilderness

Wilson’s Promontory’s striking granite headlands, boulders and islands continue underwater, forming sheer walls, caves and pinnacles. The variety of marine life is impressive – 90% of the plants and animals found here occur nowhere else in the world. Numerous shipwrecks are a lasting record of our maritime history. Offshore islands support colonies of Australian Fur Seals and sea birds and mainland intertidal areas connect walkers and snorkelers to this unique wilderness beneath the waves.

Getting there
Access the marine national park by land or boat. The nearest launching points are Tidal River (key and deposit required), Sandy Point or, for larger vessels, Port Welshpool.

Wilson’s Promontory National Park is approximately 3 hours drive from Melbourne. Follow Monash Freeway (M1) to join South Gippsland Freeway (M420/A440) to Meeniyan. Take Meeniyan-Promontory Road (C444) to Wilsons Promontory entrance.

Tidal River is a further 30 minutes from the entrance. Please drive carefully and look out for wildlife. Avoid driving between dusk and dawn. No fuel at Tidal River. The closest fuel outlet is at Yanakie.

Help us look after this unique marine environment
• Marine pests can wipe out native species by preying upon or out-competing them. Upon entry and exit to any watercourse wash in fresh water and dry all boating, fishing, surfing and swimming equipment, wetsuits, swimwear, towels, footwear and water toys.
• Victoria’s intertidal zone is protected – inside and outside marine national parks. Please do not move rocks or disturb organisms.
• Discarded equipment and rubbish harms birds and marine animals – take your rubbish home. Bottles and other glass vessels are not permitted on beaches within marine protected areas.
• If boating, anchor away from fragile areas such as seagrass meadows and reefs. Keep boat noise and wake low in sensitive areas along the shore and near islands to avoid disturbing wildlife. Maintain safe distances around marine mammals. For more information, visit www.dewl.vic.gov.au.
• You may carry fin-fish on board your boat within the marine national park if you caught the fish outside the park. You may also carry (but not use) a fishing rod. You can have abalone or rock lobster and associated equipment (securely stowed) on board provided you travel straight through the park by the shortest practicable route. Spear guns are not permitted within any of Victoria’s marine protected areas, either in a boat or elsewhere.

In an emergency
If you require emergency assistance phone 000 for Police, Fire or Ambulance Services.

For park related emergencies only (fire, accident/injury, injured wildlife, significant disturbance and critical maintenance issues), contact the Tidal River Duty Officer (24 hours) on 1300 247 594.

Mobile phone coverage cannot be relied upon in the marine environment. Carry a registered distress beacon for safer boating.

Help us look after this unique marine environment

Recreational activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Is it allowed?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Swimming, snorkelling and scuba diving</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surfing, windsurfing, sailing, sea kayaking, boating</td>
<td>☑ 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Filming and photography</td>
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<td>Jet skiing</td>
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</tbody>
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Recreational or commercial fishing and harvesting

All forms of fishing (line, spear, netting, traps, catch & release) and shellfish collection (including abalone and rock lobster).  
Report fishing offences to 13 FISH (13 3474). Penalties apply.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Is it allowed?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bait collection</td>
<td>☒</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marine aquaculture</td>
<td>☒</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other uses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educational excursions and scientific research (permit required)</td>
<td>☑</td>
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<tr>
<td>Licensed tour operators (permit required)</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Removal or disturbance of marine plants or animals</td>
<td>☒</td>
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<tr>
<td>Removal or disturbance of shipwreck artefacts</td>
<td>☒</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activities that disturb the seafloor, eg, dredging &amp; soil dispersal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discharge of waste, ballast, petrol, oil or other pollutants</td>
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1 Restrictions apply. Call 13 1963 for up-to-date information.  
2 Permit required for commercial filming and photography.  
3 The launching, landing, loading, unloading, mooring, anchoring or operating of Personal Water Craft is prohibited in Norman Bay.
Wilson Promontory Marine National Park

Snorkelling
On calm days there are opportunities for shore-based snorkelling along the northern and southern flanks of Norman Bay, the southern flank of Picnic Bay and at Refuge Cove.

Diving
In the right conditions there are numerous excellent diving opportunities from easily accessible shallow reefs to deep sub-tidal reefs, sea grass beds, vertical granite walls, large boulders with swim throughs, caves, soft sediment and extensive pelagic zones. Popular dive sites for experienced and qualified divers are found around the Glennie Group of islands, Anser Group of islands, South East Point, Waterfall Bay, Bare Back Cove and Horn Point. Some commercial operators provide access by boat to the more remote dive locations.

Gulf of Carpentaria, 1885
The British passenger and cargo steamer Gulf of Carpentaria sank within 15 minutes after striking Carpentaria Rock (then uncharted) between Cleft and Anser Islands on 15 September 1885. The wreck was not salvaged and is a fascinating deep-water (50 m) dive site for experienced and qualified divers only.

Cleft Island
This stunning formation rises 113 m out of the sea. It’s granite dome and deep caves carved into its southern flank gave rise to the nickname ‘Skull Rock’.

Kanowa Island
Motorised and non-motorised vessels including sea kayaks are prohibited from within 200 m of Kanowa Is. from November to January (inclusive) and within 50 m of the island at other times of the year.

Seal colony
Kanowa Is. and Anderson Islets support a large breeding population of Australian Fur Seals and a small number of New Zealand Fur Seals. Seals may also be found on Norman Is. These species were once more widely distributed around the Prom and are still recovering from local extinction as a result of the sealing industry of the 1800s.

On the move
A number of threatened transient marine fauna have been recorded in the area including the Southern Right Whale and Leatherback Turtle. Other marine mammals recorded in the area include the Humpback Whale, Andrew’s Beaked Whale, Pilot Whale, Sperm Whale, Goose-beaked Whale, Common Dolphin and Bottlenose Dolphin. Maintain safe distances around marine mammals.

Mapping the sea floor
Parks Victoria and Deakin University are working together to map the entire sea floor of Wilson Promontory Marine National Park using multi-beam sonar mapping technology. The data gathered will inform future research, monitoring and emergency response planning. It will also help to track environmental change and areas vulnerable to particular threats, and identify new areas that are suitable for recreational activities.

So far, discoveries include:
• A 30 metre high underwater sand dune
• An underwater sand spit more than 2 km long
• Holes around 80 to 90 metres deep
• A number of channels on the ocean floor which may have been waterways when the park was part of the land bridge that joined the mainland to Tasmania during the last ice age, around 10,000 years ago.

www.parks.vic.gov.au

Latitudes and Longitudes values are based on WGS84, GPS users must enter data that corresponds for their position as given in the format: degrees, minutes, seconds. Alternative formats are available on Parks Vic, by using 15h 16.20s, these Parks Victoria formats.

Acknowledgements: Deakin University, Western Port Bioregional Ecosystem. The State of Victoria and Department of Sustainability and Environment.

Cartography by Parks Victoria April 2014
For mobile App search for Access PSI Map

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