

Jawbone Marine Sanctuary

A coastal haven close to Melbourne

West of the beach at Williamstown, there is a small promontory known as 'The Jawbone'. Protected from the rest of the world for over one hundred years by the Merritt rifle range, this area is now a haven for coastal and marine life – adjacent to the city of Melbourne.

Within this small area a wide variety of coastal habitats are found. On the west of the promontory, there is an extensive saltmarsh and a stand of White Mangroves. Where the water makes its way between the rocks are sections of sandy beaches and some seagrass beds.

As the tide comes in, water flows over the mangrove roots and allows fish and other animals to move in and feed under the mangroves and amongst the seagrasses.

The eastern side of Jawbone is dominated by basalt boulders, a reminder of the volcanic history of this side of the Bay. From those areas high up on the shore, covered in yellow lichens, to submerged boulders and ledges with encrusting worms and mussels, the Marine Sanctuary is an important refuge for many species. On the shore, the basalt rock has weathered into smaller rocks, creating pools that support a range of intertidal life, a setting that is quite unique in Port Phillip Bay.



White Mangrove

Pretty gardens of green or pink coralline algae adorn the rock pools. Numerous sea-stars and crabs inhabit the crevices, while shrimps and small fish dart amongst the weeds.

Jawbone Marine Sanctuary is part of a system of 13 Marine National Parks and 11 smaller Marine Sanctuaries created by the Victorian Government in November 2002 to ensure that representative samples of Victoria's diverse, distinctive and amazing marine environment are conserved for future generations to enjoy.

These parks and sanctuaries now protect 5.3% of Victoria's coastal waters, safeguarding important marine habitats and species, and complementing our world-class national parks system on land.

By keeping some of these marine areas in a natural and balanced state, free from potentially damaging human activities, we will protect these environments into the future.

Enjoying Jawbone Marine Sanctuary

Because of its long history of protection it is important that recreational activities are conducted in a way which minimises impact on the special values of the park. All visitors should keep to access tracks and pathways and only enter the water from points close to the tracks or outside the reserve.

There are many pleasant ways to enjoy this tranquil sanctuary, such as snorkelling over the wide variety of habitat that includes seagrasses, boulders and local kelp forests.

Take time out to view the rockpools, or watch the tide come in from the boardwalk. Discover from on-site interpretation how the mangroves and saltmarshes survive in this challenging environment.

There are excellent bird watching opportunities from the boardwalk at the Jawbone and nearby hides for a wide range of wader birds including some international migratory waders during the summer months..

For something different, try sea kayaking and canoeing, with access to the area from nearby Beach or Bayview Streets. Please note canoeing or kayaking is not permitted in the nearby wetland lagoons.



Jawbone Marine Sanctuary Area: 30 ha

	Major sealed road		Yellow Triangular boundary marker
	Minor sealed road		In-water boundary marker (Pile or Buoy)
	Walking / Cycling track		Reef
	Boardwalk		Information
	Marine Sanctuary		Bird hide
	Flora & Fauna Reserve		Lookout
	Waterbody		

Map showing Melbourne and Geelong with a scale bar (0-200 METRES) and cartography by Spatial Vision 2004 M/7364.

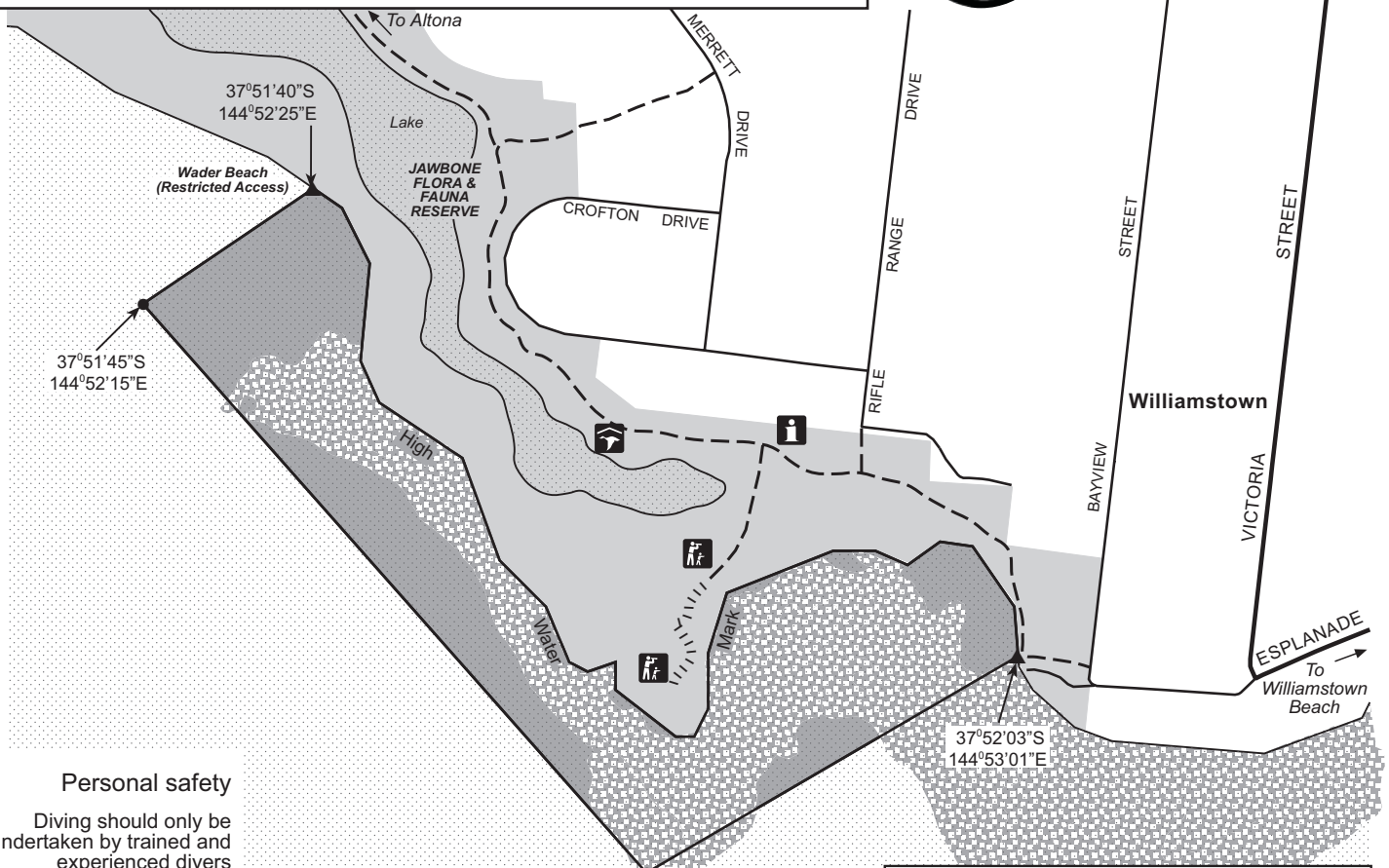
Latitude and Longitude values are based on WGS84. GPS users note that co-ordinates for boundaries are given in the format degrees:minutes:seconds. Alternate formats are available on Parkweb, by calling 13 1963, or from Parks Victoria offices. Location of reefs are for illustrative purposes only and may not indicate true position.



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

No spear fishing

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



Personal safety

- Diving should only be undertaken by trained and experienced divers
- Beware of sudden changes in weather, especially when boating on open water
- Wear shoes that grip well when walking on rock platforms
- Watch where your hands are going at all times to avoid potentially dangerous creatures

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 disturbed
- Keep clear of bird nesting or roosting areas
- Stay on boardwalks or paths to avoid trampling sensitive mangrove and saltmarsh plants

PORT PHILLIP BAY

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.

Dogs are not permitted off-leash on the beach, boardwalk or areas adjacent to the wetlands at any time.

There are strong penalties under the National Parks Act for fishing or interfering with marine life in Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries. These restrictions and penalties apply in Jawbone Marine Sanctuary from 16 November 2002.

You may carry fin-fish on board your boat within park boundaries if you caught the fish outside the parks, and you may also carry (but not use) a fishing rod or a spear gun.

Marine Sanctuary boundaries
Jawbone Marine Sanctuary (30 ha) is located along and offshore from the Jawbone Flora & Fauna Reserve at Williamstown. The park boundary is identified by Shore markers at the east and west boundaries and two In-water navigation markers for the off shore boundaries.

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

To report a fishing offence call the Department of Primary Industries on 13 FISH (133 474).

Parks Victoria is responsible for the day-to-day management of Victoria's Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries. For further information contact the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963 or visit the Parks Victoria website at: www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Parknotes on each of Victoria's Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries, including boundaries and permitted and prohibited activities, have been produced to assist visitors to these areas.