

Personal safety

Scuba diving should only be undertaken by trained and experienced divers

Beware of sudden changes in weather, especially when boating on open waters

Beware of strong currents and undertows when snorkelling or at the beach

Wear shoes that grip well when walking on rock platforms

When exploring rock pools, to avoid potentially dangerous creatures, never put your hands into areas where you can't see them

Always keep an eye on the ocean when walking on beaches & rock platforms in case of unexpected waves

There is no surf lifesaving service in Twelve Apostles Marine National Park. It is recommended that swimming only occur in patrolled areas and between the flags.

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

Dogs are not permitted in Twelve Apostles Marine National Park.

The intertidal zone in Victoria is protected – both inside and outside marine national parks and sanctuaries. Visit www.depi.vic.gov.au for more information.

Report illegal fishing activities to the Department of Environment and Primary Industries on **13FISH** (133 474).

Victoria's unique coastline

The southern coastline of Australia has been isolated for millions of years from other continents due to ocean currents. This has resulted in our marine life evolving in many different ways. 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 diverse and unique marine ecosystems in the world. For this reason, this significant marine environment is protected for the future.

Protected network

Twelve Apostles Marine National Park and The Arches Marine Sanctuary are part of a system of 13 marine national parks and 11 marine sanctuaries in Victoria. By keeping these areas in a natural state we will protect this unique marine environment into the future.

The establishment of marine protected areas was based on scientific research. It followed ten years of community and industry consultation. An ongoing research and monitoring program forms part of Parks Victoria's management of these areas.

Victoria was the first jurisdiction in the world to create an entire system of fully protected marine national parks at the same time.

Parks Victoria is responsible for the day-to-day management of Victoria's marine national parks and marine sanctuaries.

Marine pests

Marine pests are non-native plants or animals that can have a detrimental impact on native marine ecosystems. They are a significant threat to the health of the marine environment. Marine pests can wipe out native species by preying upon or out-competing them.

Pests can arrive in new areas in a variety of ways, and preventing their spread is one way visitors can help protect the marine environment. Park users should wash down all equipment and dry it thoroughly before changing locations to minimise the risk of spreading these pests.

Please report any suspected marine pests to the Department of Environment and Primary Industries on 136 186. For more information on marine pests, visit www.depi.vic.gov.au/marinepests

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 or other groups visiting Twelve Apostles Marine National Park or The Arches Marine Sanctuary need to register their visit with local rangers on **13 1963**.

Boating

Be sure to check conditions before heading out and adhere to the state's boating regulations. For information on boating around mammals, please see the Department of Environment and Primary Industries guide to boating and swimming around whales, dolphins and seals at www.depi.vic.gov.au

Generally only jet-skis can access the park from the Princetown boat ramp as the access point is via the shallow Gellibrand River mouth when conditions are suitable.

To launch a boat at the Port Campbell jetty, authorised access is required to use the crane facility. Please contact the Port Campbell office on **13 1963** for information on how to gain access.

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, spearing, 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)

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. 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 (securely stowed) on board the boat 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. Parks Victoria is serious about compliance. Offenders will be caught.

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

If you would like further information about Victoria's marine national parks and marine sanctuaries, contact the Parks Victoria Information Centre on

13 1963 or visit the Parks Victoria website at: www.parks.vic.gov.au

parknotes



Twelve Apostles Marine National Park The Arches Marine Sanctuary



The surging waves of the Southern Ocean have helped carve out spectacular scenery both above and below the water in the Twelve Apostles Marine National Park. The crumbling pillars that form the world famous rock stacks the 'Twelve Apostles' continue deep into the ocean below providing habitat for many different species of marine life. Nearby, to the west of Twelve Apostles Marine National Park, off the coast of Port Campbell is The Arches Marine Sanctuary. Protecting an amazing series of underwater canyons, arches and tunnels, it is a popular place to scuba dive.



Coralline Algae

Enjoying the parks

Take in the spectacular views of the marine national park from the numerous lookouts in Port Campbell National Park. Scuba dive, snorkel or sea kayak when conditions are calm or walk along the many beaches at low tide. Explore the intertidal platforms and discover the sea stars, crabs and sea snails that live along the shore. Please remember that all marine life is protected in these areas, therefore fishing and collection of plants and animals is prohibited.

Twelve Apostles Marine National Park

World famous limestone rock stacks tower out of the water in the marine national park. Over time, as the spectacular limestone coastline has eroded, intertidal and subtidal reefs have formed, creating habitat for a range of marine creatures. At 7510ha, it is the second largest of Victoria's marine national parks and is regarded as having the highest diversity of invertebrates on limestone reefs in Victoria.

The Arches Marine Sanctuary

Approximately 700 metres offshore from Port Campbell lies the 48 hectare marine sanctuary. Spectacular limestone formations such as canyons, arches, caverns, ledges and vertical sink holes in 19 to 25m of water make this a popular dive site. The upper reef surfaces of The Arches Marine Sanctuary are covered with brown kelp. The undersides are carpeted with a wide variety of colourful invertebrates and encrusting red coralline algae.



Snorkelling and diving

Scuba diving should only be attempted by qualified divers with local experience due to changing conditions. Local dive shops and operators can provide opportunities to dive on the best sites and wrecks.



Exploring the shoreline

The Great Ocean Walk traverses the cliff top alongside the marine national park. There are many great vantage points to bird watch along these trails - 11 conservation listed birds have been recorded in and around the park. See the Port Campbell National Park and Bay of Islands Coastal Park park note for more information including walking tracks, bird watching, local amenities and other nearby parks.

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. West of the Gellibrand River is Kirrae Whurrong *Country* and to the east is Gadubanud *Country*.

How to get there

Twelve Apostles Marine National Park is approximately 280km west of Melbourne, 8km south-east of Port Campbell and 1km south of Princetown. Pedestrians can access the park at Loch Ard Gorge, and beaches adjacent to the park at Gibson Steps, Clifton Beach, Princetown and Rivernook. Those travelling by four wheel drive can access the park at Rivernook via the Old Coach Road. The closest boat access points are located at Princetown, Port Campbell jetty and Peterborough main beach.

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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

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Twelve Apostles Marine National Park and The Arches Marine Sanctuary

