

# Wilsons Promontory Marine National Park



## Victoria's blue wilderness

Wilsons Promontory's striking granite headlands, boulders and islands continue underwater, forming sheer walls, caves and pinnacles — a unique wilderness beneath the waves.

### The Prom's underwater wonders

Wilsons Promontory Marine National Park is the largest marine national park in Victoria, covering almost 16,000 hectares. It is a rare global example of adjoining marine and land parks with protected landscapes from the top of the mountains to the bottom of the sea.

Wilsons Promontory Marine National Park protects a diverse range of habitats including rocky reefs, sandy sea floors, kelp forests, sponge gardens, seagrass meadows and open sea.

Its variety of marine life is impressive, including a wide range of reef and pelagic fish, invertebrates and marine mammals. Rays and harmless sharks cruise above the sandy seabed and giant Maori Octopuses venture out at night. Molluscs such as limpets and snails, anemones, brittlestars and seastars are also common in the intertidal reefs.

Some of Victoria's most magnificent underwater seascapes are found in numerous dive sites around the Prom. Smooth-walled granite cliffs, boulders and caves harbor colourful 'gardens' of huge sponges, fan-shaped Gorgonian corals, sea-lace colonies, sea-tulips and sea whips. Brilliantly coloured fish can be seen, including Red Velvetfish, Wrasse, Eastern Blue Groper, and schools of Berber, Magpie and Butterfly Perch.

There are over 45 shipwrecks in the waters surrounding Wilsons Promontory — a lasting record of our maritime history.

A number of offshore islands support colonies of Australian Fur Seals, as well as sea birds such as White-bellied Sea Eagles, Little Penguins, Short-Tailed Shearwaters, Fairy Prions and Pacific Gulls. Access to the islands is prohibited except for beach areas of Great Glennie and Rabbit Islands.

### Exploring the coast

You don't need to be on or under the water to enjoy the park's diverse marine environment. There are many wonderful coastal settings for bird watching, rock pooling or just walking and relaxing on the beach with friends or family.

The threatened Hooded Plover nests in very exposed beach locations, including Wilsons Promontory. Please take care not to disturb the birds or step on their eggs by walking close to the water's edge, especially between August and April.

### Sea Country

Through their cultural traditions, Aboriginal people maintain their connections to their ancestral lands and waters. Parks Victoria recognises this connection and acknowledges the Boon Wurrung, Bunurong and Gunai Kurnai people, Traditional Owners of Yiruk Wamoon (Wilsons Promontory Marine and National Parks).

### Protecting our marine environment

Over 90% of the plants and animals living in Victoria's southern waters are found nowhere else in the world.

Wilsons Promontory Marine National Park is 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.

For more information on Victoria's marine national parks and marine sanctuaries, contact the Parks Victoria Information Centre on **13 1963** or visit [www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au)

### Help reduce marine pests

Marine pests are non-native animals that cause significant damage to the health of native marine ecosystems. Marine pests can wipe out native species by preying upon or out-competing them.

Visitors can help prevent the spread of marine pests. 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.

Report any suspected marine pests to the Department of Environment and Primary Industries on **13 6186**. For more information on marine pests, visit [www.depi.vic.gov.au](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au)



## For further information

Parks Victoria  
Information Centre  
Call **13 1963**  
or visit our website  
[www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au)

Tidal River Visitor Centre  
(03) 5680 9555  
7 days, 8.30am – 4pm EST  
8.30am – 4.30pm EDST

## Nearby Marine Parks & Reserves

### Wilsons Promontory Marine Park

The coast and nearby waters east and west of the Prom are designated as Marine Park. Fishing is permitted within the marine park, subject to fishers conforming to the Fisheries Act. Diving, wildlife viewing and beach walking are also popular activities.

### Corner Inlet Marine National Park

With the granite peaks of the Prom as a dramatic backdrop, this park protects a variety of sheltered habitats, including intertidal mudflats, channels and seagrass meadows. Refer to *Corner Inlet Marine National Park – Park Note*.

### Corner Inlet and Nooramunga Marine & Coastal Parks

Protected from the pounding surf of Bass Strait by barrier islands; an intricate network of shallow marine waters, isolated granite islands, intertidal mudflats and over 40 sand barrier islands. Refer to *Corner Inlet and Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Parks – Park Note*.

### Shallow Inlet Marine & Coastal Park

Nestled between Waratah Bay and the majestic peaks of Wilsons Promontory, the park offers a secluded and peaceful setting for a range of water based activities. Boating, fishing, bird watching and picnicking are popular. Refer to the *Shallow Inlet Marine and Coastal Park – Park Note*.

Valid as of June 2014

*Please don't throw this park note away. Keep it, return it for others to use, or recycle it.*

## Healthy Parks Healthy People

Visiting a park can improve your health, mind, body and soul. So, with over four million hectares of parkland available to Victorians, why not escape to a park today!



## What can I do?



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.

Please be aware of the Wilsons Promontory Marine National Park boundaries, which start at the high water mark except where it borders the Marine Reserve surrounding the Glennie Group of Islands.

## Access

The marine national park is accessed by land or via boat. The nearest launching points are in Tidal River (key and deposit required), Sandy Point or for larger vessels from Port Welshpool.

Recreational activities	Is it allowed?
Nature observation and sight seeing	Yes
Snorkelling and scuba diving	Yes
Swimming	Yes
Surfing, windsurfing, sailing, sea kayaking, boating	Yes <sup>1</sup>
Filming and photography	Yes
Jet skiing	No

## Education and research

Educational excursions	Yes
Scientific research (permit required)	Yes

## Recreational fishing and harvesting

All forms of fishing – line, spear, netting, traps and shellfish collection (including abalone and rock lobster)	No
Bait collection	No
Catch and release fishing	No

## Commercial fishing and aquaculture

Abalone and rock lobster fishing	No
Netting, line fishing and trapping	No
Marine aquaculture	No

## Other uses

Licensed tour operators (permit required)	Yes
Commercial filming and photography (permit required)	Yes
Removal or disturbance of plants/animals	No
Removal or disturbance of shipwreck artefacts	No
Dredging and soil dispersal	No
Activities that disturb the seafloor	No
Waste and ballast discharge	No

<sup>1</sup> Restrictions apply. Contact the Tidal River Visitor Centre on (03) 5680 9555 for up-to-date information.

## Restrictions

You may carry fin-fish on board your boat within marine national park boundaries if you caught the fish outside the park, 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. To report a fishing offence call the Department of Environment and Primary Industries on **13 FISH (13 3474)**.

## Caring for the marine environment

- The intertidal zone in Victoria is protected – inside and outside marine protected areas.
- Bottles and other glass vessels are not permitted on beaches within marine protected areas.
- Discarded equipment and rubbish harms birds and marine animals – take your rubbish home.
- Look and don't touch when snorkelling and diving, so future generations can do the same.
- Always replace any organisms or rocks you may have disturbed.
- Shipwrecks and artefacts are protected by law.
- 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.
- Avoid spilling and never pump petrol, oil or other pollutants on land or in the water.
- Maintain safe distances around marine mammals. For more information, visit [www.depi.vic.gov.au](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au).

## Personal safety

- Call **000** for Police, Fire or Ambulance Services.
- For park related emergencies only (fire, accident/injury, injured wildlife, significant campground disturbance or critical maintenance issues), visitors can contact the Duty Ranger (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.
- Check the marine weather report. Beware of sudden changes in weather, especially when boating on open water. Practice safe boating, and follow all signs and markers correctly.
- Wear shoes that grip well when walking on rock platforms. Stay away from cliff edges and bases and beware of large unexpected waves when walking on shore and on rock platforms.
- Never put your hands where you cannot see your fingertips (under seaweed or rocks) to avoid potentially dangerous creatures.
- Be aware of strong currents and undertows when swimming and snorkelling.
- Diving in these waters should only be undertaken by experienced and qualified divers.



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