

Personal safety

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

The conditions in Discovery Bay National Park are often unsuitable for diving and snorkelling due to the exposure of the coastline.

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

Be aware of large unexpected waves when walking on shore, especially on rock platforms

There are no surf lifesaving patrols in Discovery Bay Marine National Park

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 Discovery Bay Marine National Park, unless confined to a vessel.

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.

To report a fishing offence call 13 FISH (133 437)

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 biodiverse and unique marine ecosystems in the world. For this reason, this significant marine environment is protected for the future.



Sponges are common in Discovery Bay Marine National Park

Protected network

Discovery Bay 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.

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.dse.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 Discovery Bay Marine National Park or nearby Discovery Bay Coastal Park need to register their visit with local rangers on 13 1963.

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).



Neptune's Necklace

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

PARK NOTES

Discovery Bay Marine National Park



Discovery Bay Marine National Park protects over 2770 ha of high wave energy ocean near Portland. The park contains important habitat such as basalt and calcarenite reefs, boulder fields and deep water. It is an important feeding ground for many types of whales, sharks and other marine creatures due to high levels of nutrients occurring in the area. Fierce winds buffet the remains of a massive volcano that formed the dramatic coastline around the edge of this wild and untouched park.



Red Velvetfish

Coastal walking

A section of the Great South West Walk traverses the coastline along the Discovery Bay Coastal Park. The walk boasts many viewing platforms and lookouts with views across the marine national park. See www.greatsouthwestwalk.com for more information about the full walk and to register your trip.



Snorkelling and diving

The park is generally unsuitable for snorkelling and diving as conditions can be rough.



Boating

Please be sure to check conditions before setting out and adhere to the state's boating regulations. For information on safe boating procedures, visit www.transportsafety.vic.gov.au



Bird watching

Oceanic seabirds often seen in this area include Australasian Gannets, Pacific Gulls, Common Diving Petrels and Wandering Albatrosses. 15 conservation listed birds have been recorded in or in the immediate surrounds of the park.

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. Aboriginal tradition indicates that the marine national park is part of Gunditjmara Country. Middens dated at up to 11 000BP have survived along the cliff tops at Cape Duquesne.

How to get there

Discovery Bay Marine National Park is approximately 19 km west of Portland and 380 km west of Melbourne. The main access to the marine national park shore is via a short walk from Whites Beach or Blacks Beach. Boat access is from the beach at Bridgewater Bay or Portland Harbour boat ramp.

November 2012

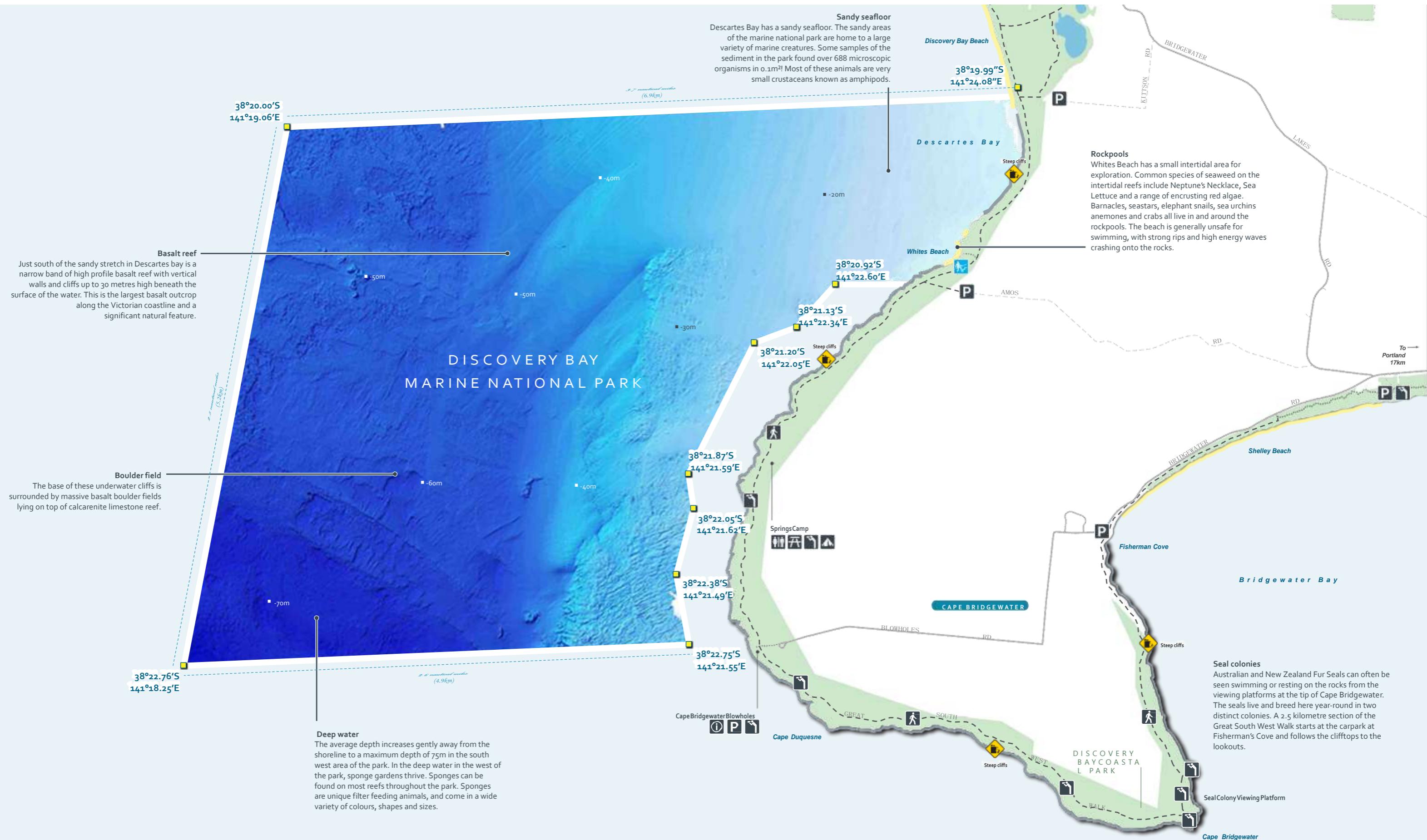
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&OR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE PARKS VICTORIA INFORMATION CENTRE
ON 13 1963 OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.PARKWEB.VIC.GOV.AU

Healthy Parks Healthy People

Parks
VICTORIA

Discovery Bay Marine National Park



0 200 400 800
Metres

Discovery Bay Marine National Park Boundary
The MNP covers 2700 hectares adjacent to Cape Bridgewater along the coast from Blacks Beach to Whites Beach and offshore to three nautical miles, the limit of Victorian waters. Between Whites Beach and Cape Duquesne the park boundary commences 500 m from the coastline. Discovery Bay MNP abuts the Discovery Bay Coastal Park and includes the areas between high and low water mark that were formerly part of the Coastal Park. The park extends 300m beneath the seabed.



Parking

Lookout

Information

Toilets

Beach access

Sealed road

Onshore boundary marker

Unsealed road

Offshore boundary marker (Unmarked in water)

Walking track

Picnic table

Latitude and Longitude values are based on WGS84. GPS users must note that coordinates for boundaries are given in the format degrees : minutes : decimal minutes. Alternate formats are available on Parkweb, by calling 13 1963, or from Parks Victoria offices.

Disclaimer: Parks Victoria does not guarantee that this data is without flaw of any kind and therefore disclaims all liability which may arise from you relying on this information.

Data source acknowledgements: State Digital Mapbase. The State of Victoria and Department of Sustainability and Environment.

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