Personal Safety
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. Diving should only be undertaken by trained and experienced divers. Beware of sudden changes in weather, especially when boating on open water. Beware of strong current and undertows when snorkelling or at the beach. There are no surf lifesavers in Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary. It is recommended that swimming be contained within flagged areas.

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. No Dogs are allowed in Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary. Refer to Shire Regulations for the surrounding areas. 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 13FISH (133 437) and see our parks in safe hands, visit with a licensed tour operator. See www.parks.vic.gov.au for a list of operators who run activities in this park.

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

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 commencement. School, researchers or other groups visiting Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary 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, spear fishing 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 (except supplied on board) 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).

Cuttlebone – the internal shell of a cuttlefish. These are often found washed up on the beaches in Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary.

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

Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary
Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary is a small sea-haven below the lighthouse at Airyes Inlet. Here, two prominent rock formations rise up out of the ocean. Eagle Rock is the higher of the two, and is visible from the Great Ocean Road. The swirling waters around these rocks are home to marine creatures large and small. Local community members were integral in the establishment of this marine sanctuary as it is home to such abundant marine life.

Enjoying the park
The lookouts at the lighthouse are a great place to stop for a photo of Eagle Rock and enjoy some fresh air. Stay a while and explore the rockpools or snorkel the reef, there are many things to see and do. Please take care when you visit to ensure our coast remains in a pristine and natural state.

Eagle Rock
Standing at 20m above sea level, Eagle Rock is a spectacular feature of the Surf Coast. To the west of this stack of volcanic rock capped with limonite is Table Rock, a black basalt platform levelled by constant waves. The structure of these unique rock types has developed over millions of years and is of State Geological Significance.

Rockpools
The rockpools are located on the shelf between the beach and Eagle Rock. The pools are home to a multitude of animals including octopuses, decorator crabs, chiton and seastars. Be aware of incoming tides and breaking waves while visiting the rock platform.

Port Jackson Sharks
You can spot Port Jackson Sharks in this area at some time of the year. If you spot a brown spiralled egg cases washed up on the beach, they can be up to 15cm long and are an interesting find. Remember to leave these where you find them for the next visitor to enjoy.

Snorkelling and diving
The sanctuary is good for diving and snorkelling when conditions are calm. Most of the park is less than 10m deep. The offshore rocks are fringed by swirling Bull Kelp, which thrives in the breaking waves. Colourful sea-turtles and encrusting sponges grow on the rocks, and Blue-throat Wrasses, Herring Cale and Scalyfin are common fish. Watch for Banjo Sharks, Stingarees and other rays resting on the sand.

Coastal walking
Visit the lookout at the lighthouse or stroll along the adjacent Airyes Inlet Reserve for great views along the coast. Take a walk along the beach and explore the sandy stretch under the lighthouse. Be aware of the tides when exploring as some sections can become impossible.

Bird watching
High cliffs make viewing seabirds along the coast easy for any keen bird watcher. You might see Pacific Gulls, Crested and Caspian Terns, Australasian Gannets, Great Egrets, Nankeen Night Herons, Shy Albatross and Pied Cormorants. White-bellied sea-eagles, Brittle-birds and Hooded Plovers have also been seen here.

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.

How to get there
Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary is located in Airyes Inlet, a small coastal town on the Great Ocean Road approximately 125km from Melbourne. Access to the cliff top lookouts at the lighthouse is via Federal Street. Access to the beach is via Inlet Crescent or via stairs leading down the cliff from Federal Street.
Hooded Plovers lay their eggs on sandy beaches along the coastline. To help these rare birds, learn to recognise them and stay well clear of their nests. For more information contact BirdLife Australia.

www.birdlife.org.au

Intertidal rocky reef (West)
The intertidal reef in the west of the marine sanctuary is a flat to gently undulating sandstone and basalt rock platform dominated by basalt boulders. Here, limpets, whelks and a variety of crabs can be found.

Intertidal reef (East)
Beneath the waves the reef extends in patches along the sandy reef floor. It is made up of both basalt and sandstone reef. Some areas are covered with a canopy of Bull Kelp (Durvillaea potatorum), which thrives in the sheltered areas.

Further offshore, the reef becomes lower and more solid, with less steep vertical edges, particularly in the north of the marine sanctuary. The mature beds of Bull Kelp give way to a band of mixed brown algae. Towards the seaward boundary, extensive beds of Sargassum (Phyllospora comosa) grow.

Subtidal rocky reef
Beneath the waves the reef extends in patches along the sandy reef floor. It is made up of both basalt and sandstone reef. Some areas are covered with a canopy of Bull Kelp (Durvillaea potatorum), which thrives in the sheltered areas.

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